

Free Speech, Politics, and Media Censorship

I teach paralegal students and have found that the best way for my students and I to remain up to date on current changes in the law as well as current legal issues is through the internet. I have also found that many stories that I find on the internet come from alternative sources and are not covered by mainstream media newspapers and television. Many of these "normal" channels for disseminating news, are owned by the same large media conglomerates that own the cable and phone companies that want to be able to charge various prices to various service providers, internet service channels and sources. Our mainstream media is already censored by both our government(just view the BBC to see the difference in coverage) and the major news conglomerates. Letting them further censor our access to information is so "1984", former Soviet Union, current day China! This should not be an issue. We should have open and equal access for all information.

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.