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### **Brechner Center Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Florida FOI Summit**

GAINESVILLE, FLA. – The Brechner Center for Freedom of Information is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a two-day conference providing various sessions educating, training, and advocating freedom of information.

The Florida FOI Summit will allow journalists, media lawyers, government officials, scholars, students and the public to discuss current issues in freedom of information, look back at the contributions of key individuals to the development of FOI law and policy, and look forward to the future of FOI during a time of increased government secrecy and the war on terror.

“For the past 30 years, The Brechner Center has educated and trained journalists, lawyers, government officials, and the public on freedom of information,” said Sandra F. Chance, executive director of the Brechner Center. “The FOI Summit honors that mission and the legacy of its name sake, Joseph L. Brechner.”

The FOI Summit will kick off on Thursday, Sept. 20 , with a panel discussion featuring FOI advice from media lawyers, journalists and public officials. Thursday’s workshop will be followed by a keynote address from *USA Today* editor Ken Paulson.

Sessions continue on Friday, Sept. 21, with topics exploring FOI issues at the state, national, and global levels. Friday’s activities also include the induction of six honorees into the Florida Freedom of Information Hall of Fame and the presentation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Award.

“We hope the FOI Summit will serve to educate and inspire the public as the fight for freedom of information continues,” Chance said. “Given the government’s increased emphasis on secrecy, access to government information laws protect our ability to hold our public officials accountable for their decisions.”

Located at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville, Fla., the Brechner Center exists to educate and promote freedom of information laws and policies. It serves the students of UF, Florida citizens, media lawyers and journalists around the country by providing training sessions, answering queries and conducting scholarly research on First Amendment issues.

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