



COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION  
Brechner Center for Freedom of Information

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Brechner Center for Freedom of Information

### **Brechner Center Inducts Second Class of Honorees Into Freedom of Information Hall of Fame**

GAINESVILLE, FLA. – In commemoration of its 30th anniversary, the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information will induct a class of six honorees into its Freedom of Information Hall of Fame.

The 2007 hall of fame inductees are: James C. Adkins Jr., Marion B. Brechner, Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte, H.G. “Buddy” Davis, Jr., Louis Michael “Skip” Perez, and Gregg D. Thomas.

The Freedom of Information Hall of Fame is designed to honor Floridians who played a significant role in developing and defending government-in-the-sunshine laws.

“We’re honoring people who have been the leaders in the freedom of information movement in Florida,” said Sandra F. Chance, executive director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information. “Whether writing, defending, or advocating freedom of information, these inductees have contributed to Florida’s reputation as being one of the strongest FOI states in the country.”

The inductees will be honored at the Brechner Center’s FOI Summit luncheon on Friday, Sept. 21 at noon.

The late James C. Adkins Jr. (1915-1994) was the 58th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, where he earned the nickname “Justice Sunshine” for his interpretations of Florida’s fledgling Open Meetings Law in favor of the public.

Marion B. Brechner has continued the legacy of her late husband, Joseph L. Brechner, and his commitment to defending Florida’s freedom of information laws by funding various projects and endowments, including the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information.

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberte is President Emeritus of The Florida State University and a past president of the American Bar Association. In recent years, D’Alemberte has taken important open government cases before the courts on a pro bono basis.

Buddy Davis, Jr., was a longtime journalism professor at the University of Florida, a Pulitzer-Prize winning editorialist, and helped draft Florida’s Open Meetings Law.

Skip Perez has been part of *The Ledger* (Lakeland) team for more than three decades, during which time Perez has consistently fought for the right to government information, and the resulting stories have earned *The Ledger* numerous awards.

Gregg D. Thomas, a graduate of UF's law school and an attorney with the law firm Thomas & LoCicero in Tampa, has argued media matters over the past 30 years. In his work, Thomas has helped shape Florida's modern freedom of information laws.

In 1997, the Brechner Center established the Freedom of Information Hall of Fame to honor individuals who helped develop and defend Florida's government-in-the-sunshine laws.

In its inaugural class, the Brechner Center honored 11 inductees: Joseph L. Brechner, J. Emory "Red" Cross, Gov. Lawton Chiles, Paul Hogan, Ralph Lowenstein, Barry S. Richard, Robert L. Shevin, Jo Anne Smith, Parker D. Thomson, Harold B. Wahl and Pete Weitzel.

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 journalists, public officials, attorneys and citizens around the country by providing training sessions, answering queries and conducting scholarly research on First Amendment and freedom of information issues.