

PRESS

(*Presse / Prensa*)

Reporter/Photographer/Videographer Credentials

This certifies that as of _____

is a Reporter/Photographer/Videographer and a member in good standing with the Constitution First Amendment Press Association. (CFAPA.org)

Do not hinder, exclude, or block the view of this journalist in the exercise of the long-established and court-recognized 1st Amendment right to be present at and to photograph or film any event **in any public place**. See: *Perry Education Association v. Perry Local Educators' Association*. (1983)

1st Amendment: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” (Enacted by Congress on December 15, 1791.)

Any officer or public official who deprives another of their 1st Amendment rights is personally and departmentally subject to suit for **civil damages** for deprivation of rights. Per 42 U.S.C. § 1983, "every person" who under color of law deprives another person of his civil rights is liable for civil damages.) See: *Pierson v. Ray*, 386 U.S. 547 (1967) – a U.S. Supreme Court case. Also see: *Monell v. Department of Social Services*, wherein the U.S. Supreme Court held that municipalities and local governments can be sued if the action was attributable to an official policy. Law enforcement officers, public officials, and public employees **do not** enjoy absolute immunity.

Furthermore, Section 1988 of Title 42 of the United States Code provides for reimbursement of attorneys' fees to plaintiffs who prevail under Section 1983. See: *Hughes v. Rowe*, 449 U.S. 5, 14 (1980)

For further legal citations on journalism law, see: www.rcfp.org

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