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# Reassessing NEW YORK TIMES CO. V. SULLIVAN: Freedom of the Press, 50 Years Later

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Roger Williams University School of Law presents  
**Reassessing NEW YORK TIMES CO. V. SULLIVAN:  
Freedom of the Press, 50 Years Later**

Friday, February 21, 2014

**"In Memory of Anthony Lewis (1927-2013)"**

Fifty years ago, in a tumultuous period in U.S. history, the Supreme Court of the United States decided *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, granting the press substantial protection from the chilling effect of lawsuits seeking large damage awards for unflattering news reports. This symposium brings together a remarkable collection of law professors, first amendment lawyers, working journalists, and a leading federal judge to assess from various perspectives, both domestic and international, whether 50 years later the Times decision justified the reaction of Professor Harry Kalven at the time, that it was an "occasion for dancing in the streets."

8:30 a.m.

**Registration**

RWU Law – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium  
Coffee/Tea will be available.

9:00 a.m.

**Keynote Address** – Law Room 262

Judge Robert Sack  
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Media law expert

10:00–12:00 p.m.

**Panel - NY Times "in theory"** – Law Room 262

*Panelists include:*

**Professor David Anderson**, media law scholar, University of Texas  
**Professor Lillian BeVier**, constitutional law scholar, University of Virginia  
**Dean Emeritus John Jeffries**, constitutional law scholar, University of Virginia  
**Professor David Partlett**, comparative law scholar, former Dean, Emory University  
**Dr. Melvin Urofsky**, award-winning historian and co-author of *New York Times: Civil Rights, Libel Law, and the Free Press*  
**Jared Goldstein**, constitutional law scholar, Roger Williams University School of Law

12:15 p.m.

**Lunch** – Bay View Room

1:15-3:30 p.m.

**Panel – NY Times "in practice"** – Law Room 262

*Panelists include:*

**Associate Justice William Robinson**, RI Supreme Court, former counsel to various media entities  
**Tracy Breton**, Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist, *Providence Journal*  
**George Freeman**, Jenner and Block, longtime Assistant General Counsel, New York Times Corp.  
**Victor Kovner**, Davis, Wright, Tremaine LLP, storied media law advocate  
**John Schwartz**, national correspondent and former national legal correspondent, *New York Times*  
**Dean David Logan**, media law scholar, Roger Williams University School of Law

On-site registration will be held at RWU Law, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Atrium, Ten Metacom Avenue, Bristol, Rhode Island. Advanced registration is required. Lunch will be provide to registered participants.

This program is approved for six (6) Rhode Island CLE credits with zero ethics credit.