

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2011

WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR  
MADISON AND ANDERSEN AWARDS

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government is accepting nominations for the 2011 James Madison and James Andersen Awards, designed to recognize individuals and organizations that support government transparency.

WCOG is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and defending the People's right to know in matters of public interest and in the conduct of the public's business.

The Madison Award honors an individual or organization whose long-term commitment to the First Amendment and the cause of open government has been demonstrated through exemplary words or deeds. The award is named after James Madison, fourth president of the United States and one of the primary authors of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The Andersen Award honors an individual or organization that has done something extraordinary to advance the efforts of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. The award is named after James Andersen, retired Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice and a founding member of WCOG.

The deadline for nominations is June 30. Nomination forms are available online at [www.washingtoncoq.org](http://www.washingtoncoq.org).

Previous winners of the Madison Award are:

- Frank Blethen (2010), publisher of The Seattle Times;
- Stan Marshburn and Denny Heck (2009), founders of TVW, Washington's pioneering public affairs network;
- Jolene Unsoeld (2008), former member of the Washington State Legislature and U.S. House of Representatives;
- Paul Wright (2007), editor and co-founder of the Prison Legal News;
- Rowland Thompson (2006), executive director of Allied Daily Newspapers,
- James Andersen (2005), retired Washington Supreme Court Chief Justice and a founding member of WCOG.

Previous winners of the Andersen Award are:

- Duane Swinton (2010), partner at Witherspoon, Kelley, Davenport & Toole, P.S. law firm in Spokane;
- Brian Sonntag (2009), Washington State Auditor;

- Kris Passey (2008), retired publisher of the Marysville Globe and Arlington Times and founding member of WCOG.
- Frank Garred (2007), retired editor and owner of community newspapers on the Olympic Peninsula and executive director of WCOG from its creation in 2002 until June 2004.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government was founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and backgrounds, all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels.

For more information, contact Washington Coalition for Open Government, 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664 or on the web at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org) or call (206) 782-0393.