



# Access to Information

Uncharted waters. We have heard the phrase repeatedly in recent weeks as government officials rely on “alternative facts” to support provably false statements and attack reporters for doing their jobs.

Journalists today face unprecedented hostility from an administration that openly calls them “enemies of the American people.” Reporting news about government activities has never been more challenging. And it’s difficult to imagine that things will get any easier in the months ahead.

The media and entertainment attorneys at Ballard Spahr are dedicated to helping news organizations uncover information in the public interest. Our team of lawyers in offices across the country will quickly and efficiently help you obtain access to information under the federal Freedom of Information Act, state public records laws, and the First Amendment right of access to court documents and proceedings.

We want to be your trusted partner in telling the stories the public needs to hear. Co-chaired by David J. Bodney and Charles D. Tobin, lawyers in the Media and Entertainment Law Group defend media clients in libel, privacy, and copyright cases throughout the country and safeguard their right to gather, report, and distribute the news. Please contact us to discuss how we can best serve your newsroom’s needs.

## **MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT PRACTICE CO-CHAIRS**



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Charles D. Tobin is a partner in our Washington, D.C., office, a former newspaper reporter, and Past Chair of the ABA’s Forum on Communications Law and the Media Law Committees of the D.C. and Florida Bar Associations. He has defended the media in libel, privacy, and copyright cases in more than half the states in the country and in dozens of federal courts. Before entering private practice, Mr. Tobin spent eight years as in-house counsel at Gannett. Mr. Tobin can be reached at 202.661.2218 or [tobinc@ballardspahr.com](mailto:tobinc@ballardspahr.com).