

Howard Fineman to speak at First Amendment Event

MANCHESTER – Award-winning national columnist and network television commentator Howard Fineman headlines the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications First Amendment dinner November 20.

The 6th annual event honors the First Amendment and New Hampshire residents who strive to exercise and protect the essential rights of free speech and free press.

Fineman is Newsweek's senior Washington correspondent and columnist, senior editor and deputy Washington bureau chief. He also is an NBC News Analyst, contributing reports to the network and its cable affiliates.

Fineman has written scores of Newsweek cover stories and has interviewed every major presidential candidate since 1984. After beginning his journalism career at The Louisville Courier-Journal, Fineman joined the paper's Washington bureau in 1978. He moved to Newsweek two years later, was named chief political correspondent in 1984, deputy Washington bureau chief in 1993 and senior editor in 1995.

Fineman's remarks will precede presentation of the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment honors recognizing New Hampshire residents and organizations who exemplify and guard free press and free speech. A panel of distinguished judges chooses honorees based on public nominations. This year's panel includes: Rod Doherty, executive editor, Foster's Daily Democrat; former N.H. First Lady Kathy Gregg; John Howe, executive editor, The Citizen; former Gov. Stephen Merrill; Charles Perkins III, vice president of new media, Union Leader Corp.; David Scott, Dover city councilor and 2007 First Amendment Award recipient; Attorney Gregory Sullivan, trustee and founding member, Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications.

Other past recipients were former Attorney General Philip McLaughlin, former Keene Sentinel Editor Thomas Kearney, legislator Daniel Hughes and The Citizen of Laconia.

Led by presenting sponsor Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., the event is backed by a wide variety of business, civic and media leaders. Other major supporters include: PSNH; Bank of America; FairPoint Communications; FPL Energy, Seabrook Station; TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation; Judd and Kathy Gregg; Sen. John Sununu and Kitty Sununu; Business NH Magazine; The Dupont Group; National Grid; BAE Systems; JW Tumbles; Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

The 2008 dinner committee includes Mark Bodi, NH State Liquor Commissioner; Gray Chynoweth, Dynamic Network Services, Inc.; Clark Dumont, BAE Systems; Ed Dupont, The Dupont Group; Attorney Ovide Lamontagne of Devine, Millimet & Branch, Professional Association; Joel Maiola, Granite Edge Consulting; Katie McQuaid of NewHampshire.com; Signe McQuaid; Liz Murphy of Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group; William Sirak, Citizens Investment Management Services; and Michael Whitney.

The late Nackey S. Loeb, president and publisher of the New Hampshire Union Leader, founded the nonprofit school in 1999 to promote understanding and appreciation of the First Amendment and to foster interest, integrity and excellence in journalism and other forms of communication.

The dinner is a major fundraiser that enables the school to offer free classes on topics including the First Amendment, journalism, sports writing, editorial writing, political writing, editorial cartoons, photography and broadcasting.

More than 2,500 students of all ages from throughout the state have participated in the school's classes and workshops.

Individual tickets to this event are \$100. Tables of eight are \$800.

For tickets, call 627-0005, or complete the registration and send it, with your check made payable to: Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications.