



NACKEY S. LOEB
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS

Columnist, commentator Kathleen Parker highlights Nackey S. Loeb School's First Amendment Event

MANCHESTER - Award-winning national newspaper columnist and broadcast commentator Kathleen Parker headlines the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications First Amendment Awards on Nov. 12.

The 7th 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.

Parker started writing a column in 1987 at The Orlando Sentinel. Now her syndicated, twice-weekly column appears in more than 350 newspapers. She joined The Washington Post Writers Group in 2006 and is a regular guest on "The Chris Matthews Show" on NBC.

"I never set out to become a commentator – and do continue to resist the label 'pundit' – but I found that keeping my opinion out of my writing was impossible," says Parker. "One can only stand watching from the sidelines for so long without finally having to say, 'Um, excuse me, but you people are nuts.'"

Parker's remarks will precede presentation of the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment award recognizing a New Hampshire resident who exemplifies and guards free press and free speech.

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 awards event at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester 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. Nearly 4,000 people state have participated in classes, workshops and other school-sponsored events.

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, NextEra Energy Seabrook Station, TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation, Fred Tausch, John Sununu and Kitty Sununu, Mosse & Mosse Associates, BAE Systems, Catholic Medical Center, Lincoln Financial Group, SilverTech, Fidelity Investments and JW Tumblers.

Individual tickets are \$50. Tables of eight are \$500. Tickets are available at www.loebschool.org or by calling 627-0005.