



ACLU-TN Launches Statewide dotRights Campaign Protecting Online Privacy and Cyberspeech

Forum Taking Place in Memphis on Wednesday, November 9

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NASHVILLE – The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee (ACLU-TN) today launched a dotRights campaign focused on updating and expanding privacy laws to include new developments in technology, so that the government has the same restrictions on access to American’s private, personal information online as they do offline.

Companies can and do use our online research, chat histories, viewing habits, photos and friend lists to build detailed profiles of who individuals are, where they go and what they do. Once these profiles are created they can end up being shared with other companies for targeted advertising, sold to databrokers, or handed over to the government.

“We are spending more and more time online these days and the laws that protect the privacy of our electronic communications have not kept pace with evolutions in technology,” said Hedy Weinberg, ACLU-TN Executive Director. “From warrantless wiretapping to children on the ‘no fly’ list to activists branded as terrorists, the government has been able to leverage these outdated privacy laws to gather information about innocent individuals that would otherwise be protected by the Fourth Amendment and require a warrant.”

ACLU-TN’s dotRights campaign seeks to raise awareness about online privacy and speech and to lobby lawmakers for updates to relevant laws. The Campaign includes a [statewide speaking tour](#) and [Internet resource center](#) to educate the public about the risks to privacy involved with using search engines, webmail, social networking, photo sites, media sites, cloud computing and location-tracking devices. The web center also includes a call to action to urge Congress to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act which has not been updated since 1986.

Memphis’ dotRights forum will be held on Wednesday, November 9th at 3:30 p.m. at the University of Memphis, Manning Hall, Room 332, 3744 Alumni Avenue.

The forum will feature Allie Bohm, National ACLU Policy and Advocacy Strategist, whose expertise is in speech, privacy, and technology. The panel will also include Professor Kris M. Markman of the University of Memphis’ Department of Communications. Markman teaches a

variety of courses in traditional and new media, including cyberethics, Internet research methods, and media 2.0, and her research focuses on people's everyday uses of new technologies. Brian S. Faughnan, ACLU-TN board member and an attorney with Thomason, Hendrix, Harvey, Johnson & Mitchell PLLC, will moderate.

The discussion, sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee and the University of Memphis' Department of Communications, will focus on government access to online information, how to protect your privacy in the digital age, and a discussion of laws that impede free speech on the Internet, including Tennessee's recently enacted "Offensive Images" law, Public Chapter 362, which makes it a crime to post any image online that causes "emotional distress" to any individual.

In addition to Memphis, events are taking place in Knoxville and Nashville. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, please call the ACLU-TN office at 615-320-7142 or email aclutn@aclu-tn.org.

More information about the dotRights campaign can be found online at www.aclu-tn.org/dotRights.html.

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