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INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE PRESENTATION ON FIRST AMENDMENT & REGULATORY CONCERNS BY FLOYD ABRAMS

HOWARD A. WHITE*

Among our most precious rights are freedom of the press and freedom of speech,¹ and one of the principal guardians of those freedoms is Floyd Abrams, our keynote speaker.

Mr. Abrams graduated from Cornell University and Yale Law School. He is a partner in the law firm of Cahill, Gordon & Reindel. Mr. Abrams has argued perhaps more cases before the Supreme Court regarding freedom of the press than any lawyer in American history. He was co-counsel to the *New York Times* in the Pentagon Papers case² and has represented, among others, ABC, NBC, and *Time Magazine* in various trials and appeals.³

During my former association with National Public Radio, I experienced the advantages of having the support of Mr. Abrams when Nina Totenberg and National Public Radio got involved with the United States Senate and their investigation relating to the Clarence Thomas hearings.⁴ It is extremely comforting to have

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¹ U.S. CONST. amend I. The First Amendment provides: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; . . ." *Id.*

² *New York Times Co. v. United States*, 403 U.S. 713 (1971) (per curiam).

³ See *United States v. Providence Journal Co.*, 485 U.S. 693, 694 (1988) (proceeding to enjoin FBI, newspaper, and television station from revealing information obtained as result of illegal electronic surveillance); see also *Daily Herald Co. v. Munro*, 838 F.2d 380, 382 (9th Cir. 1988) (litigation brought by Secretary of State against NBC, *New York Times*, and *The Daily Herald* to prohibit exit polling in area of polling places on election day).

⁴ Mr. Abrams represented Nina Totenberg and National Public Radio in the 1992 "leak" investigation conducted by the United States Senate arising out of the confirmation hearing of Justice Clarence Thomas.

one of the best Constitutional Law lawyers appearing on your behalf.

Mr. Abrams has received numerous awards for his professional works. In addition, he has published and lectured at both Yale and Columbia Law Schools, is currently the William J. Brennan, Jr. Visiting Professor of Law and Journalism at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and has been active in civic as well as professional organizations.