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The committee is also working on two pending projects regarding Occupations and Public Figure Status and the Official Report Privilege (anticipated publication in Q1 2015).

### **State Legislative Affairs Committee**

*Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Allen and Robin Luce Herrmann*

The MLRC State Legislative Committee is now in its fourth year of existence. During the last year, the State Legislative Committee continued to work with more than thirty-five of the nation's lead government relations attorneys who represent the First Amendment interests in more than half of the jurisdictions in the United States. We have updated Committee membership by ensuring states are typically only represented by a single member and recruiting for unrepresented states and interested stakeholders (e.g., magazine publishers). We have identified and tracked legislative trends impacting the media and have exchanged ideas for how to most effectively combat legislative attempts to encroach upon the First Amendment and how to most persuasively get new legislation adopted to expand upon First Amendment protections. We are also maintaining the Committee's website page and enhanced it in the last year.

Some of the areas of legislation we are working on include: "paparazzi", drone, "ag-gag", anti-SLAPP, open government, public notice, right of publicity, and more. Our committee has set up a webpage on the MLRC's website with draft legislation, current model bills, existing statutes, talking points and articles to assist the entire MLRC membership.

We typically meet once a month during the legislative session and recess for the summer. This summer was so busy, however, that we convened a special call in August. On our monthly calls, we keep each other informed on what is going on in the various states. Between monthly meetings, we exchange emails with inquiries, draft legislation and calls to action. This year we have begun a monthly update on the status of previously discussed legislation. Our goals for the upcoming year include soliciting members from the government relations departments of more on-line organizations as well as some of the more strategic states that are not currently represented on the committee. In addition, we will be naming a Vice-Chair this upcoming year. We will also continue to work on expanding First Amendment protections through adopting and broadening anti-SLAPP and retraction legislation and preventing encroachment of First Amendment protections through expanding open government laws and preserving public notice.

The last committee meeting was a great, and fairly typical of the variety of issues we discuss every month. We covered anti-Slapp, paparazzi, stalking, "revenge porn" and drone bills pending in various states. We are continually seeking ways to build coalitions and identify persuasive arguments to legislatures.