The UNC Center for Media Law and Policy is an interdisciplinary forum for study and debate about media law and policy issues facing North Carolina, the nation, and the world. The center’s work reflects the tremendous changes in media worldwide – particularly the advent of online and mobile technologies and their effects on traditional and new media operations, as well as their impact on government and business.

The center capitalizes on the extraordinary strengths of UNC-Chapel Hill’s highly regarded law and journalism programs. Center events and projects bring together a diverse group of scholars, media professionals, and practicing attorneys. Faculty and students conduct media law and policy research, host public events, and work to educate North Carolina’s business community about the impact and opportunity associated with rapid media innovation.
EVENTS AND PROJECTS

FIRST AMENDMENT DAY
The center organizes UNC’s annual campus-wide, day-long event to celebrate the First Amendment and explore its role in the lives of Carolina students. Students and university staff read from banned books, sing controversial music, and discuss the importance of each of the rights protected by the First Amendment, the need to be tolerant when others exercise their rights, and the public university’s special role as a marketplace of ideas. This event is truly one of the highlights of the year for the UNC community.

WORKSHOPS, PANELS AND POLICY INITIATIVES
The center brings together lawyers, social scientists, computer and information scientists, communication scholars, government officials, and legal academics to discuss the most pressing media law and policy issues facing North Carolina, the nation, and the world. These interdisciplinary conversations have addressed such topics as the FCC’s media ownership rules, support for local accountability journalism, online piracy, shield laws, and the effects of technological change on society.

LAW SCHOOL FOR DIGITAL JOURNALISTS
Each year, the center partners with the Online News Association to present a “law school for digital journalists.” This practical legal training covers such topics as copyright law, newsgathering, libel, privacy, access law, and forming and running a news business. The first year’s classes were held at Harvard Law School. In subsequent years, the sessions have been held at ONA’s annual conference in San Francisco, Atlanta, and Chicago.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND COLLOQUIA
The center hosts nationally and internationally renowned speakers, including Lawrence Lessig, Furman Professor of Law and Leadership at Harvard Law School; Sir Christopher Meyer, former British ambassador to the U.S. and chair of the Press Complaints Commission in the U.K.; Kevin Martin, former FCC chairman; Ken Paulson, president and CEO of the First Amendment Center; and Noam Chomsky, political commentator and philosopher.

MEDIA LAW AND FIRST AMENDMENT SYMPOSIA
The center sponsors several law review symposia each year, partnering with the North Carolina Law Review, First Amendment Law Review, and NC Journal of Law and Technology. Recent topics have included the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision in New York Times v. Sullivan, student speech rights, social networks and the law, government surveillance, and campaign finance.

INTERDISCIPLINARY FACULTY LUNCHES
The center hosts bimonthly lunches for faculty and graduate students from across the UNC system to discuss media law and policy issues. Past topics have included privacy by design; ownership of research data; patterns of information sharing in social networks; big data and computational politics; the right to be forgotten; and social networks, privacy, and politics.