

# **Spirit & Place: Let's talk about freedoms without freaking out**

*Thought-provoking series in the wake of RFRA kicks off this summer*

INDIANAPOLIS – Spirit & Place invites the community to connect with legal scholars and others this summer who will explore which freedoms the First Amendment does – and does not – protect, information needed to understand how to discuss one's rights.

“Talking About Freedoms Without Freaking Out,” the IUPUI discussion series powered by Spirit & Place with support from the IUPUI Office of Community Engagement, Indiana Humanities, IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Center for Interfaith Cooperation and The Center for Civic Literacy, kicks off on June 19.

According to Spirit & Place, the First Amendment safeguards many important freedoms, yet sometimes the boundaries of what's protected and what isn't are fuzzy. Where do individual rights begin and end? Which religious liberties are protected by the Constitution? Who decides what is “right” when ideals about religious freedom, freedom of speech and freedom from discrimination clash? In post-RFRA Indiana, Hoosiers are discussing these and other First Amendment questions in their workplaces, congregations and households.

## **The discussion series schedule, venue and information is as follows:**

Friday, June 19 from 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Hate Speech and the First Amendment: Values in Conflict

Scottish Rite Cathedral

FREE

At what point, if at all, should so-called "hate speech" become illegal? During the monthly luncheon of the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis, hear attorney and civic leader Don Knebel discuss hate speech and the First Amendment.

Wednesday, June 24 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (reception to follow)

Can We Talk about RFRA Without Talking Past One Another?

IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law Wynne Courtroom

FREE

It's fair to say that the controversy over RFRA raised more heat than light. This panel aims to model thoughtful conversation on the constitutional and philosophical questions raised by the RFRA debate. Hear from executive director of the ACLU of Indiana Jane Henegar, IU McKinney Professor of Law John Hill and attorney and IBJ columnist Peter Rusthoven. Moderated by IU McKinney Professor of Law Rob Katz.

Monday, July 13 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Trivia Night

Sun King Brewery

FREE

We're redefining the meaning of "bar exam" with a night of First Amendment trivia and conversation at Sun King. Grab a beer and your thinking cap and join Indiana Humanities and Spirit & Place for quiz night! Open to anyone 21+, there will be prizes for the night's sharpest legal eagles.

**About Spirit & Place:**

Spirit & Place catalyzes civic engagement and enduring change through creative collaborations among the arts, religion and humanities. Spirit & Place is a collaborative community project managed by The Polis Center, part of IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Major financial contributors include Lilly Endowment Inc., Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation Inc., Bohlsen Group, The Indianapolis Foundation, IUPUI, IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, University of Indianapolis as well as more than 200 other community partners and donors. The 2015 Spirit & Place Festival takes place from Nov. 6-15, 2015, marking its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

For more information, visit <http://spiritandplace.org>.

###

For interview requests, images or more information, contact:

Courtney Stiehl | Bohlsen Group

[cstiehl@bohlsengroup.com](mailto:cstiehl@bohlsengroup.com)

317-602-7137