

*In Celebration of its 50th Volume, Vermont Law Review Presents*

# FREE SPEECH ON TRIAL:

## Resisting Censorship in 2025

**Friday,  
October 3**

3:30 to 7:30 p.m. ET

**Saturday,  
October 4**

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET

*Chase Community Center  
164 Chelsea Street  
South Royalton, VT  
and Virtual*

**Keynote  
Speaker**

**Professor  
Rod Smolla**



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**VERMONT**  
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# Symposium Agenda

*All times are listed below in Eastern time (ET).*

## Friday, October 3

### 3:30 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ OPENING REMARKS

**Katie Scott JD'26**, *Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review*

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Rod Smolla**, *Professor, Vermont Law and Graduate School*

### 4 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ BREAK

### 4:05 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Panel One

#### EXECUTIVE POWER AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

##### MODERATOR

**Siu Tip Lam**, *Interim Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Vermont Law and Graduate School*

##### PANELISTS

**Sam Abel-Palmer**, *Executive Director, Legal Services Vermont*

**Michael Hurley**, *Government Affairs Counsel, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)*

**Ryan Kane JD'13**, *Deputy Solicitor General, VT Attorney General's Office*

**Apratim Vidyarthi**, *Litigation Associate, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher*

### 5:20 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ BREAK

### 5:30 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Panel Two

#### PICO V. ISLAND AND BOOK BANS

##### MODERATOR

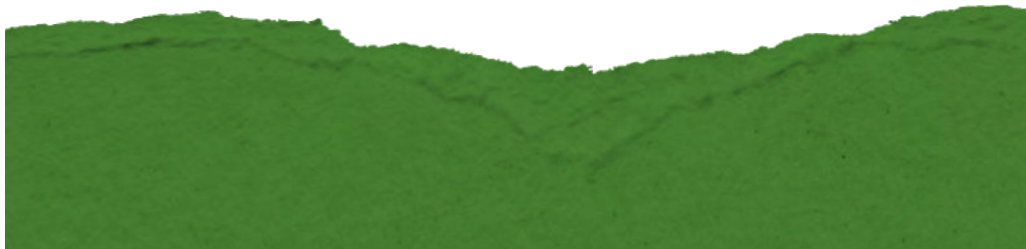
**Anna Connolly**, *Associate Professor, Vermont Law and Graduate School*

##### PANELISTS

**Rhiannon Hamam**, *Supervising Attorney, Mithoff Pro Bono Program, University of Texas School of Law, and Co-host, 5-4 Podcast*

**Michael Liroff**, *Creator and Co-host, 5-4 Podcast*

### 6:45 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL HOUR



# Saturday, October 4

**8:30 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK IN AND BREAKFAST**

**9 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ OPENING REMARKS**

**Ilinca Johnson JD'26**, *Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review*

**9:05 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Panel Three**

## **AFRICAN ARTISTIC FREEDOM AND CENSORSHIP**

### **MODERATOR**

**Emily Gould**, *Lawyer, Mediator, and Executive Coach*

### **PANELISTS**

**Sam Brakarsh**, *Chair, Pan-African Network for Artistic Freedom Summit*

**Adaobi Egboka**, *Director, Africa Initiatives, Human Rights and Access to Justice Program, Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice*

**Muleta Kapatiso**, *Activist, Lawyer, and Development Practitioner*

**Lisa Sidambe**, *Independent Human Rights and Development Consultant*

**10:20 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ BREAK**

**10:25 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Panel Four**

## **AI AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

### **MODERATOR**

**Benjamin Varadi**, *Associate Professor, Vermont Law and Graduate School*

### **PANELISTS**

**Esha Bhandari**, *Deputy Director, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project*

**John Coleman**, *Legislative Counsel, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE)*

**Ilan Kogan**, *Associate, Litigation, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz*

**Josephine Wolff**, *Professor of Cybersecurity, The Fletcher School, Tufts University*

**11:45 A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSING REMARKS**

**Ilinca Johnson JD'26**, *Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review*

**Katie Scott JD'26**, *Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review*



**Click the QR Code to Learn More  
About Our Guest Speakers**



## A Note of Thanks

On behalf of the *Vermont Law Review*, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our speakers, panelists, and guests for joining us in this symposium, “Free Speech on Trial: Resisting Censorship in 2025.” Your insights and participation make this important conversation possible. As we celebrate our 50th volume, we are reminded of the power of scholarship and dialogue in shaping the defense of expression. A special thanks goes to our symposium editors, Katie Scott and Ilinca Johnson, and administrative editor, Emily Dwight, whose vision and dedication brought this event to life.

— Kelli Cigelnik JD/MCEP’26, *Editor-in-Chief*



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