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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **WikiLeaks: An Imperfect Shelter for a Perfect Storm**

Todd Gitlin speech highlights Freedom of Information Forum

Todd Gitlin is a writer, sociologist, communications scholar, novelist, poet, and chair of the PhD program at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism <http://todditlin.net/>.

Join us to hear his presentation:

### **WikiLeaks: An Imperfect Shelter for a Perfect Storm**

**Wednesday March 16, 2011 -- noon -2 PM**

**William S. Richardson School of Law, UH Mānoa**

Media Council Hawai'i, the Society of Professional Journalists, Hawai'i Chapter, and the School of Communications, UH Mānoa will cosponsor this annual Freedom of Information Forum. March 16 is James Madison's Birthday (he would be 258). The week of his birth is celebrated as Sunshine Week, in honor of his commitment to a free press and freedom of information.

Todd Gitlin has written several articles for national and international distribution about WikiLeaks. He is one of 19 members of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism who have cosigned a letter to President Obama and Attorney General Holder opposing any prosecution based on WikiLeaks' release of government information.

**Any prosecution of WikiLeaks' staff for receiving, possessing, or publishing classified materials will set a dangerous precedent for reporters in any publication or medium, potentially chilling investigative journalism and other First Amendment-protected activity.** (Letter to Obama and Holder)

The program will also feature a Hawai'i "Sunshine" report on our state's record of open government, transparency, and freedom of information.

Also, MCH will honor its Fletcher Knebel Excellence in Journalism awardee, Rick Daysog of the *Sacramento Bee* (formerly of the *Honolulu Advertiser*). This award honors Mr. Daysog for his use of the Freedom of Information Act in his reporting.

The program is free to the public. For those wishing lunch (veggie options available), there is a \$15 charge. Reservations are necessary. RSVP by email at [info@mediacouncil.org](mailto:info@mediacouncil.org) or by phone at 596-2121.

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