

News Release: American Library Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Monday, December 6, the Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) received the 1976 Harry Kalven Freedom of Expression Award from the Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The Award was accepted by Judith F. Krug, Director of OIF, on behalf of the staff during the Illinois ACLU's Bill of Rights Day Celebration.

The citation reads: "Their dedicated efforts on behalf of freedom of expression and the unfettered flow of ideas have reached across the nation: they continue to provide the First Amendment with the ceaseless, relentless defense it requires."

The award was established by the Board of Directors of the Illinois Division of the ACLU in 1974 to honor Harry Kalven's achievements in the area of First Amendment law and to recognize those who have carried on his work.

Harry Kalven, who died in 1974, was admitted to the bar in 1939 and practiced law with the firm of Frantz and Johnson until 1942 when he joined the Armed Services. In 1945, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School and taught there until his death in 1974. Kalven served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1957 to 1961; was a Guggenheim Fellow from 1970-71; and was appointed Harry A. Bigelow Professor of Law in 1973. A prolific writer, his books and articles covered a wide range of legal and social topics. Kenneth L. Karst, a colleague and professor of law at the University of California, Los Angeles,

add 1. Harry Kalven Freedom of Expression Award

said of him: "Kalven's contributions to the growth of constitutional law are matched by those of only a handful of people outside the Supreme Court."

OIF was established in 1967 and has the responsibility of developing information /education programs in support of the ALA's intellectual freedom position, namely, that it is the responsibility of libraries in the United States to provide materials representing all points of view across the social and political spectrum and to make these materials available to anyone who wants them. The programs of OIF include a nationwide state-based network through which information is disseminated, publication of the bimonthly NEWSLETTER ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM and the monthly MEMORANDUM to state intellectual freedom committee chairpersons, articles on intellectual freedom in library and education journals, and the Freedom to Read Foundation, an independent corporation which functions as the legal defense arm of the ALA intellectual freedom program.

Mrs. Krug has been director of the OIF since its inception in 1967. Other staff members include Roger L. Funk, Assistant Director; Rebecca S. Mueller, Assistant to the Director; Margaret F. Blankley, Administrative Assistant; and Jackilyn T. Jacobson, Secretary.