

TIMELINE: Free Flow of Information Acts in the U.S.

- 1722 **Benjamin Franklin's older brother James is jailed for refusing to reveal the source of a story he published in his newspaper.**
- 1848 *Ex Parte Nugent*, 18 F. Cas. 471, Cir. Ct. D.C.
A reporter is jailed for contempt of the U.S. Senate for refusing to disclose who had given him a copy of the secret proposed treaty to end the Mexican-American War.
- 1896 **Maryland adopts first U.S. FFOIA: A *Baltimore Sun* reporter, John Morris, refused to identify to a grand jury his sources for a story about bribery of public officials. Morris spent two days in jail, which spurred the Maryland Legislature to pass the first state law barring subpoenas for reporters' confidential sources.**
- 1927 Michigan adopts FFOIA
- 1933 New Jersey adopts FFOIA
- 1935 Alabama adopts FFOIA
California adopts FFOIA
- 1936 Kentucky adopts FFOIA
Arkansas adopts FFOIA
- 1937 Pennsylvania adopts FFOIA
Arizona adopts FFOIA
- 1941 Indiana adopts FFOIA
- 1943 Montana adopts FFOIA
- 1953 Delaware adopts FFOIA
- 1964 Louisiana adopts FFOIA
- 1967 New Mexico adopts FFOIA
Alaska adopts FFOIA
- 1969 Nevada adopts FFOIA
- 1970 **U.S. Attorney General announces guidelines for issuance of subpoenas to the media. Leads to creation of the DOJ guidelines for same.**
New York adopts FFOIA
- 1971 Rhode Island adopts FFOIA
- 1972 ***Branzburg v. Hayes*
United States Supreme Court**
- 1973 Minnesota adopts FFOIA
North Dakota adopts FFOIA
Nebraska adopts FFOIA
Oregon adopts FFOIA
- 1974 Tennessee adopts FFOIA
Oklahoma adopts FFOIA
- 1977 Ohio adopts FFOIA
- 1982 Illinois adopts FFOIA
- 1984 ***Ex Parte Grothe*
Texas Ct. of Criminal Appeals**
- 1987 ***Channel Two Television Co. v. Dickerson*
Tx. App. - Hou. [1st Dist.]**
- 1990 Georgia adopts FFOIA
Colorado adopts FFOIA
- 1992 District of Columbia adopts FFOIA
- 1993 ***Healey v. McMeans*
Texas Ct. of Criminal Appeals
South Carolina adopts FFOIA**
- 1998 Florida adopts FFOIA
- 1999 North Carolina adopts FFOIA
- 2006 Connecticut adopts FFOIA
- 2007 Washington adopts FFOIA
- 2008 Utah adopts FFOIA
Maine adopts FFOIA
Hawaii adopts FFOIA
- 2009 **Texas enacts FFOIA on May 13, 2009. First successful use of the new law takes place in Nueces Co. on May 26, 2009. State District Judge Sandra Watts quashed a subpoena for testimony from KIII-TV reporter Katy Kiser in Corpus Christi.**