

**THE MICHAEL HOEFGES GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH FUND**  
*Investing in student research on media law*

In honor of the late Dr. Michael Hoefges, Associate Professor Emeritus from the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, the Law & Policy Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) has established a research fund to support graduate student research on media law.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, up to three awards of \$500 each will be granted.

**Who Can Apply:**

To qualify for this funding a student needs only to demonstrate his/her/their status as a graduate student and provide a brief summary about a research project involving media law, communications law, free speech law, or free press law (see instructions below for the application materials).

**Graduate students of all academic disciplines and research interests are encouraged to apply.** This fund is open to all graduate students (Masters, J.D., and Ph.D.-level) and all research tracks, meaning this fund is not limited to students of media law-specific programs. Additionally, a student does not need to be a member of the AEJMC Law & Policy Division to apply, though all graduate students are strongly encouraged to join the division. An interested student must simply demonstrate how the research project will explore a topic or question related to media law, communications law, free speech law, or free press law.

**How the Funds May Be Used:**

The research funds may be used in any way to aid in completing the project. Examples include using the funds to pay research participants or purchase study incentives, pay for research travel, purchase study texts (e.g., court documents or records), and/or pay for research tools such as computer programs or data analytics.

If selected, a recipient will be given the funds directly and the funds may be spent at the recipient's discretion. By July 1, 2022, a 1-page summary of how the funds were spent and a status update on the funded project must be submitted to the Law & Policy Division Executive Board for review. Further instructions for recipients will follow the awarding of funds. Lastly, recipients of the funds will be strongly encouraged – but not required – to submit the funded research project for consideration of presentation in the Law & Policy Division at the 2022 Annual AEJMC Conference.

**How to Apply:**

Applications must include the following:

1. Current CV
2. A 1-page summary of the research project explaining the nature of the study and its relation to the study of media law, communications law, free speech law, and/or free press law.

- a. The summary should include a brief description of the study's research question(s) and/or hypotheses, research method(s), and overall purpose/contribution to the field.
  - b. Please include the names of the project lead and any co-researchers on the project, including any faculty members working on (not mentoring) the project.
3. A 1-page budget and budget justification showing the anticipated costs and explaining how the funds will be used for those costs.

*Failure to provide any of these materials will automatically disqualify a student from consideration of the funds.*

**Other Important Application Information:**

- The project lead must be a graduate student.
  - Faculty involvement is encouraged, but the faculty member cannot be the project lead on the research project.
  - Faculty member involvement only needs to be included in the summary if that faculty member will serve a significant role in completing the research project. Faculty members serving in a mentorship role are not required to be listed in the summary. Further, faculty mentorship or sponsorship is not required for consideration.
- Only one submission per student is allowed.
  - A student may list him/her/themselves as the project lead for only one application. However, a student is welcome to submit an application in which he/she/they are the project lead and also be listed as a co-researcher (but not the project lead) on another application.

All application materials are due by **December 15, 2021**. Application materials must be emailed to Kyla Garrett Wagner of Syracuse University: [kpwagner@syr.edu](mailto:kpwagner@syr.edu).

**Review Process:**

Applications will be reviewed by the AEJMC Law & Policy Division Executive Board and a representative from the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media. Awardees will be contacted via email by January 15, 2022.

**Contact:**

- For additional information or questions about applying for the research funds, please contact Kyla Garrett Wagner of Syracuse University: [kpwagner@syr.edu](mailto:kpwagner@syr.edu).
- For additional information or questions about the AEJMC Law & Policy Division, please contact the Division Head, Caitlin Carlson of Seattle University: [carlso42@seattleu.edu](mailto:carlso42@seattleu.edu).