

Christopher Finan

The Authors Guild Foundation Award for Defending Free Speech and Expression



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Chris Finan is executive director of the National Coalition Against Censorship, an alliance of 56 national non-profits that defends free speech. Mr. Finan has been involved in the fight against censorship for over 40 years. He is former president of American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression.

He is the author of *How Free Speech Saved Democracy: The Untold History of How the First Amendment Became an Effective Tool for Securing Liberty and Social Justice* (Steerforth Press), *Dunks: An American History* (in paperback, *Dunks: The Story of Alcoholism and the Birth of Recovery*) (Beacon Press) and *Alfred E. Smith: The Happy Warrior* (Hill and Wang), a biography of the New York governor who was the first Catholic to run for President.

His book, *From the Palmer Raids to the PATRIOT Act: A History of the Fight for Free Speech in America* (Beacon Press), won the American Library Association's Eli M. Oboler Award for the best work on intellectual freedom published in 2006 and 2007.