



## Digital Freedom Bill of Rights

*Preamble:* The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees our right to communicate. New technologies—from the printing press to the Internet—have driven our economy, empowered our citizens, leveraged our creativity and improved our lives. Because of technology, America now stands as the global leader in innovation, ingenuity, and creativity.

The right to obtain a copyright is also protected by the Constitution. A balanced copyright law rewards the creators of new works and ideas, and encourages individuals to enjoy, manage and expand upon lawfully-acquired creative works.

The Supreme Court reaffirmed this balance in its *Betamax* ruling recognizing that recording lawfully acquired content for later enjoyment is a legal consumer activity.

The historic balance struck in the Constitution is now under fierce attack by a handful of big record labels and movie studios. To preserve historic business models, they are trying to shift this balance to large copyright owners and away from consumers, innovators, and independent artists.

If we are to continue building a society of richer experiences, greater creativity, and ubiquitous communication and knowledge, the rights of consumers, artists, and innovators to create and use digital technology must be reaffirmed.

- 1) All Americans have the right to become artists, innovators, and creators, and to use digital technology to do so;
- 2) All Americans have the right to develop and use digital technology without unreasonable restrictions;
- 3) All Americans should be confident and secure that they will not face legal threats or lawsuits because they are lawfully enjoying the benefits of digital technology in their homes, cars and on the go;
- 4) Congress must respect the spirit of the Constitution and resist imposing government mandates that limit the use of digital technology; and,
- 5) Congress must recognize that creativity and innovation should be nurtured, and not restricted for the benefit of big record labels and movie studios.

For more information please visit <http://www.digitalfreedom.org>



## *Digital Freedom Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is the Digital Freedom Campaign all about?**

The Digital Freedom Campaign was launched to protect the rights of individuals, including artists, innovators, and consumers, to use digital technology free of unreasonable government restrictions or the threat of costly lawsuits. Digital technology enables anyone and everyone to be an artist and an innovator - to produce music, to create cutting edge films and videos, and to reach new audiences. It allows individuals to enjoy these new works when they want, where they want, how they want and to participate in the process. These are basic freedoms that must be protected and nurtured.

### **What is Digital Technology?**

Digital technologies provide a way for users to utilize and enjoy the benefits of innovation and creativity. They include devices and services used to create or listen to music, view and generate videos, play games, distribute content, and time-shift entertainment or information.

### **Are New Digital Technologies Under Attack?**

Yes! Some major content companies view digital technology as a threat to their established business models and their historic control over the creation and distribution of music, videos, film, and other works. They have resorted to costly lawsuits against new digital technologies and backroom legislative maneuvers to roll back the rights of consumers, artists, innovators, producers, and creators to use digital technology when, where, and how they choose.

### **How Real Is This Threat?**

The threat is very real. The primary targets are devices or services that allow individuals to time-shift or place-shift legitimately acquired content. In the last year alone, Google and XM Satellite radio and numerous smaller companies have been the targets of massive lawsuits. Recently a major content company attacked the Slingbox and threatened to sue – just because the device allows you to watch YOUR TV in a different location.

### **Is this a New Problem?**

NO. Major content interests have attacked virtually every new consumer technology, from the player piano to the radio, from the VCR to the MP3 player. This is true even though these new technologies have consistently opened up new revenue and distribution channels for copyright owners. It is time for artists, innovators and consumers to join together and say “enough is enough.”

**Is this about Digital Piracy?**

No. Some big content companies always claim that any new technology that requires them to change their business model is “piracy”. The Digital Freedom Campaign stands strongly against commercial piracy and believes artists deserve to be fairly compensated for their works. But it is wrong to call consumers “pirates” just because they want to enjoy their lawfully acquired content where, when, and how they want.

**What Can I Do To Help?**

Join the Digital Freedom Campaign. You can send a letter to your Member of Congress and Senators. E-mail your friends for them to join. Sign a petition supporting the Campaign. Host a banner on your Web site, blog, or My Space page. Help us get more members for the Campaign. Support the bands listed on our site because they support your digital rights.

# digital freedom



## Digital Freedom Spokesperson



Maura Colleton Corbett is a partner at Qorvis Communications with nearly 20 years of communications, public affairs and coalition building experience. Corbett provides strategic counsel to clients faced with complicated issues affecting the high-technology industry, including competitive telecommunications, wireless technologies including unlicensed spectrum applications, broadband deployment, and content-related policy issues including privacy, security and copyright.

Corbett has represented clients before the U.S. Congress, Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Department of Commerce/National Telecommunications Information Administration, and extensively with members of the press. In addition, she brings unique and deep-rooted experience in industry coalition building for a number of high-technology matters, most recently, Net Neutrality and copyright reform for the digital age. Corbett is a frequent speaker on Internet public policy issues.

Prior to joining Qorvis, Corbett served as Senior Adviser with MCI WorldCom's Law and Public Policy Group, developing and advocating Internet public policy positions to policymakers and the press for the company's Internet and data markets, including broadband deployment, implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, wireless broadband technologies, and network liability issues such as privacy, security and law enforcement. She also served as Vice President for the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), representing the interests of competitive telecommunications, private networks, and Internet Service Providers before the Federal Communications Commission, Capitol Hill, state regulatory agencies and the press. Corbett was also a Senior Adviser to the Commercial Internet Exchange and the U.S. Internet Service Providers Alliance, providing legislative, regulatory and public relations counsel on issues affecting Internet service providers and the Internet industry, and a telecommunications analyst for The Dun and Bradstreet Corporation, representing the company's directory publishing, information and media services division.

Corbett graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in English.

*Here is a representative group of organizations who have partnered with the Digital Freedom Campaign:*



The Electronic Frontier Foundation

