Brennan Eberwine shares his experiences and advice for up-and-coming student leaders

This past summer, 19 student leaders participated in the Student Press Law Center’s New Voices Student Leaders Institute — a free online program for students to improve their leadership and organizing skills, develop their role as leaders within the New Voices movement, and identify a strategy that could be instrumental in their state’s New Voices efforts.

Brennan Eberwine, editor-in-chief of his student newspaper, The Manual RedEye, said the Institute not only gave him a support system and advocacy strategies to take home to Kentucky, it helped him realize he had been censored by his school.

"I was like, oh my God that was not supposed to happen. They took advantage of us."

Eberwine took what he learned at the Institute and put it into action as he continues to fight for New Voices legislation in Kentucky. Eberwine said although getting started in advocacy work can pose some challenges for student leaders, "you are not alone" in the fight for student press freedom.

"If you want to get involved, speak up."

Read the Full Interview

New Voices is a student-powered nonpartisan grassroots movement of state-based activists who seek to protect student press freedom with state laws. Learn more about how you can get involved with New Voices to help us restore and protect student press freedom.
Can you protect against a libel suit by labeling a statement “opinion”?

Not necessarily. A pure opinion — “The coach should be replaced” — cannot be the basis of a libel claim. But if the opinion implies a fact that proves to be false — “In my opinion, the coach should be replaced because he bought his college degree on eBay” — then the “opinion” label is no insulation.

If you have specific questions about libel, or other student media law-related questions, contact the SPLC’s free legal hotline for support.

We can’t wait to see you in DC!

MediaFest 2022 is right around the corner, and we’re so excited to see everyone for an exciting week celebrating student journalism. Check out any of our 12 sessions throughout the convention (including our pre-convention session on Wednesday), and make sure to stop by our table and say hello!

Support SPLC

Your donation helps us defend the rights of student journalists and their advisers across the country. High school and college news organizations can show their support for SPLC’s legal hotline and other core services by becoming a member.

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