



NEWS RELEASE

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Washington Coalition for Open Government

6351 Seaview Avenue NW

Seattle, Washington 98107-2664

info@washingtoncog.org

Phone: (206) 782-0393

**WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT
ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 TOP RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Nominations are now open for The Washington Coalition for Open Government's 2018 top annual recognition awards to be presented later this year to individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of open government in Washington.

Named for one of the primary authors of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, **The James Madison Award** honors an individual or organization whose long-term commitment to the First Amendment and to open government has been demonstrated through exemplary words or deeds. It is one of the highest honors WCOG bestows to honor transparency advocates.

The James Andersen Award honors an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Washington Coalition for Open Government. It is named after James Andersen, retired chief justice of the Washington Supreme

Court and a founding member of the coalition.

The Kenneth F. Bunting Award is given to honor journalistic work that uses, discusses, informs, or exposes violations of the state's transparency laws. It is designed to honor journalism that promotes transparency and openness at all levels of government.

The deadline for nominations for the 2018 Madison, Andersen, and Bunting Awards is May 31. Full criteria, nomination forms, and lists of past recipients are available online at www.washingtoncog.org.

The Madison, Andersen, and Bunting Awards will be presented at WCOG's annual Madison Andersen Awards Breakfast on Friday, September 21 at the Washington Athletic Club.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advocates for the people's right to access government information and for the principle that transparency and public participation are building blocks of good government. Membership in the coalition is open to all citizens who want to promote and protect open government.

For more information, contact Washington Coalition for Open Government, 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664 or on the web at www.washingtoncog.org or call (206) 782-0393.