

Press Release

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1991 Freedom of Information Award to Popovich

Retired Chief Justice **Peter S. Popovich** is the 1991 recipient of the **John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award**.

The Minnesota Coalition on Government Information sponsors the award annually to honor a Minnesotan who works to create a climate of access through policies and practices that reflect a commitment to freedom of information.

The award is named for John R. Finnegan, former senior vice president and assistant publisher of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, for his dedication to openness in government and work on behalf of the people's right to know. Finnegan will present the award to Popovich personally at the award ceremony in the **Capitol Rotunda at noon, Friday March 15, 1991**. The event is free and open to the public.

Freedom of Information Day is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the birth of James A. Madison, fourth president of the United States and main author of the Bill of Rights.

Ryan A. LaHurd, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Augsburg College, will deliver remarks entitled "**The Information Gulf: Freedom of Information and the Middle East**".

This is the third annual presentation of the John R. Finnegan Freedom of Information Award. Previous recipients were Sue Holbert, State Archivist, Minnesota Historical Society (1990) and Mary Alice Harvey, Director of the Grand Marais Public Library (1989).

The **Minnesota Coalition on Government Information** is a network of individuals and organizations concerned with access to information and the role that the State plays in ensuring that access. The Minnesota Coalition is based on a National Coalition of organizations concerned with stemming the trend toward less public access to government information.