

RCBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, April 13, 2018 • 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
RCBA Building, John Gabbert Gallery

“An Intersection Between the Economics of the Open Web and the First Amendment”

Guest Speaker:
David Gehring

Please see reverse side (page 2) for Mr. Gehring's bio and more info about this topic.

ATTENDANCE CONFIRMATION

YES, I (we) will be attending the General Membership Meeting on Friday, April 13, at Noon at the RCBA Building, John Gabbert Gallery.

Print Name(s): _____

Firm: _____

Please respond to RCBA office by April 10. The cost* is \$20.00 for RCBA members and \$40 for non-members. Lunch provided; **vegetarian requests must be received by RSVP deadline.** *Walk-ins will be accommodated as space allows and are not guaranteed meal service.*

If paying by credit card (MasterCard / Visa / Discover):

I authorize RCBA to charge \$ _____ to my credit card account.

Cardholder's Name: (print as it appears on card) _____

Account #: _____ Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ Cardholder's Signature: _____

****Payments must be made either in advance or at the door.***

Cancellations must be phoned in 24 hours in advance. No Shows will be billed automatically.

MCLE credit: 0.75 hour General -- RCBA is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider, #521.

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Bio:

David Gehring is an entrepreneur, investor and advisor. He sold his last company to Google in 2017 and is now the CEO of Distributed Media Lab, a technology startup developing the first frictionless open web content distribution platform.

Gehring is also the founder of Project Meridio, a non-profit open source technology platform designed to economically empower quality original news publishers by reforming how user data is leveraged in the digital economy. Project Meridio is sponsored by the World Economic Forum with funding from Craig Newmark, the founder of Craigslist.

With a personal mission to establish a viable economic framework for quality original journalism in the digital economy, Gehring has spent the last several years of his career at the intersection of technology, media, journalism and economics. His experience spans executive roles at YouTube, Google and Guardian News and Media. He has also served as a strategic advisor to various news media industry coalitions in the U.S. and Europe.

The free press is increasingly dependent on the open web as the platform for providing the information we need to be free and self-governing in a liberal, or representative, democracy. Gehring has been focused on ensuring a viable and scalable market opportunity for quality original journalism in the digital economy.

Topic Description:

Recent revelations regarding Russian disinformation operations have illuminated how social networks and digital channels impact our cultural discourse. But information warfare has been around since the beginning of our union and not always attributable to foreign actors.

This time, however, the Russian revelations force us to consider a question concerning our first amendment rights. Namely, how far does the freedom of expression, as the underlying human right, stretch before that freedom has been effectively harnessed to undermine the democratic institutions intended to protect those very rights? In programming language, is freedom of expression a system feature that proves also to be a bug capable of destroying the system?

David Gehring has been engaged in this discussion through his work in the news media industry both here in the U.S. and in Europe. He will bring a perspective to consider as we try to find a path through these times and toward a sustained and vibrant democratic society.

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