

NAME OF EVENT: **ACS Bay Area: Section 230: What's Next for Free Speech on the Internet**

DATE | TIME | LOCATION: September 14, 2021 | 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. PT | Online

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The debate around the future of free speech and content moderation is at a crucial moment. For decades, internet service providers and social media platforms have been protected from liability for user-generated content by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996. Proponents contend Section 230 has enabled the internet and content creation to flourish, while also providing an opportunity for ordinary citizens to speak truth to power. Critics say that Big Tech is simply too big and powerful and amendment or repeal of Section 230 is needed. The debate about the repeal or amendment of Section 230 is often perceived as a debate between censorship and free speech, and who should be making decisions about content: private companies, the government, or the courts?

Join the Bay Area Chapter of the American Constitution Society and the Harvard Law School Alumni Association of Northern California for a timely discussion about Section 230 and the future of free speech on the internet.

Featuring:

Holly Hogan, General Counsel, Automattic/[WordPress.com](https://www.wordpress.com)

Paul Alsdorf, Director of Litigation, Impossible Foods

Kate Ruane, Senior Legislative Counsel for the First Amendment, ACLU

Moderated by:

Ben Berkowitz, Partner, Keeker Van Nest & Peters LLP

AGENDA OF PROGRAM:

Introductory Remarks (5 minutes)

Panel Discussion (40 minutes)

Audience questions (10 minutes)

Closing Remarks (5 minutes)

MATERIALS FOR CALL:

[Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act](#), US Congress

[Section 230: An Overview](#), Congressional Research Service (Apr. 7, 2021).

[Section 230 as First Amendment Rule](#), Harvard Law Review (May 10, 2018).

Eric Goldman, [*How Section 230 Enhances the First Amendment*](#), ACS Issue Brief (July, 2020).