



*Rethinking the  
playing field for  
corporations,  
people and  
democracy*  
[ruleschange.org](http://ruleschange.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **GMU hosting public summit on ideas to change the playing field for corporations, people and democracy; journalists, authors at March 14-15 “Rules Change” event**

ARLINGTON, Va. – A unique, non-partisan public summit to foster common ground among groups seeking changes in how corporations and government work for the public interest is being hosted March 14-15, 2014 at George Mason University’s Arlington campus.

“It’s time to cross lines, exit silos and listen,” says Bill Densmore, an ex-journalist and researcher who is one of the event’s organizers. “We want to look at how government and business can collaborate to meet the needs of all stakeholders – employees, customers, citizens, communities and the environment – not just stockholders.”

The public is invited to register for “*Rules Change: The DC Gathering*” at <http://www.ruleschange.org>. Special rates and stipends are available for students, groups and people of limited means. The discussion-oriented gathering is for executives, public officials, scholars, researchers, policy activists, students and engaged citizens.

*Rules Change* will feature some presentations, but will emphasize workshops and circle-round discussions across two days. It will close with the first DC-area screening of a new documentary, “*Pay 2 Play: Democracy’s High Stakes*” and a sneak preview of a 20-city effort, “The 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment National Road Show.”

“*Rules Change: The DC Gathering*” speakers include former U.S. Rep. Thomas W. Davis, co-founder of NoLabels.org; political strategist Celinda Lake, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters Hedrick Smith and Steven Pearlstein, a GMU Robinson Professor; author and Investigative Reporters & Editors board chair David Cay Johnston, and Cornell law professor Lynn Stout, author of “The Shareholder Value Myth.”

The discussion-oriented gathering is aimed at promoting cross-silo knowledge, ideas and collaboration on issues like election reform, corporate personhood, success measures and accountability, money and politics, media responsibility and environmental sustainability. Attendees will look at the rules that govern our economic system – from laws and regulations to consumer behavior, participatory government, corporate governance and more.

“The idea is to pause and collaboratively and consider feasible changes in the rules of the game that promote the public interest,” says John Boyer, a former professor and TV documentary producer who is among organizers of the gathering. “How are we going to get America working better for all of us?”

The event is co-convened by the School of Public Policy at George Mason University and the Media Stewards Project, with support from The F.B. Heron Foundation and program advice from the Aspen Institute's Business & Society Program.

"Whether they are worried about the power of government, the power of corporations or diminished public participation in civic affairs, millions of Americans are starting to think the rules of the game need to be reinforced or changed," says Mark J. Rozell, acting dean of George Mason University's School of Public Policy. "This gathering aims to bring together silos of thought in a reflective, collaborative, national timeout for corporations, citizens and democracy."

Friday afternoon, attendees will see the "Civic Stewardship Mapping Project" – a project spearheaded by Murningham Post founder Marcy Murningham. The mapping project is an effort to use technology to show links and collaboration among non-profits and institutions working across silos. "It will be a navigational tool for concerned citizens to find out where and how they can do something," says Murningham.

After "Rules Change: The DC Gathering" wraps up at 4 p.m. on Saturday, the non-partisan [Money Out Voters In \(MOVI\)](#) coalition is staging the first Washington, D.C.-area public screening of the 90-minute documentary, "[Pay 2 Play: Democracy's High Stakes](#)," by director John Ennis and executive producer Holly Mosher. The documentary, which features Robert Reich, John Nichols, Van Jones and Jack Abramoff, poses the question: Could a constitutional amendment reduce the influence of money on U.S. politics?

The film will be followed by a live discussion and sneak preview of a 20-city effort, "[The 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment National Road Show](#)," kicking off in August. Presenting coalition members including the Center for Media and Democracy, the Brennan Center for Justice, Demos, Free Speech for People, People for the American Way, Public Citizens and RootStrikers.

The two-day summit is a learning initiative of the Rules Change Project, an open coalition to spotlight and amplify existing efforts at economic "rules change." More information on the effort is available at [www.ruleschange.org](http://www.ruleschange.org).

-- 30 --

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- <http://ruleschange.eventbrite.com> -- to register
- <http://newshare.com/rc-dc/program.pdf> -- program/schedule details
- <http://ruleschangeblog.wordpress.com/vision> -- The Rules Change vision

For additional information contact:

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