NEWS RELEASE

ACLU of Massachusetts Condemns Comcast in Nolan Firing

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BOSTON -- The ACLU of Massachusetts this week added its voice in support of Barry Nolan, CN8's well respected news host of "BackStage," who was fired recently for expressing his dismay that the Boston chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences had awarded a local Emmy to Fox News' Bill O'Reilly.

"Barry Nolan has been a respected journalist in the Commonwealth with a well-earned reputation for fair and intelligent reporting on a wide range of complex issues," said Jim Wolken, Senior Director of Communications for the ACLU of Massachusetts. "Comcast's decision to terminate Mr. Nolan is most unfortunate, as it suggests that independent journalism is not valued—or perhaps even understood—at Comcast."

Wolken said Comcast's decision reflects an on-going trend by corporate media to punish reporters who dare to speak out against obvious attempts to cloak the news in political ideology. "Bill O'Reilly's struggles with fact-based journalism have been well documented by numerous independent sources, making Mr. Nolan's firing all the more disturbing," said Wolken. "Barry Nolan's value to the public is that his credentials as a reporter cannot be bought or intimidated. By firing him, Comcast injures its own reputation as a reliable source for news."

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