

Steven Holmes on Rights and Responsibilities

Codes of ethics. You know, every profession should have a code of ethics. These aren't laws, these are not something that's handed down by government, but these are things that a profession and certainly a profession like journalism really needs to work very hard to try and live by. We're given particular rights under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the First Amendment, which means that we have the ability to do things that other people cannot do. But with that right comes responsibility, and one of the things that we have to make sure that we're responsible for is to do things in a way that generates trust in what we do. This is really especially true these days when you got people saying that we're dishonest, we're fake news or biased. The main thing that we have to try and maintain is a level of trust with the public and the way we can do that, probably the only way we can do that, is living by a specific code of ethics.