

Public Abstract

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Title:Examining the Effects of the *Hosty v. Carter* Decision and Prior Restraint on the Collegiate Press: A Qualitative Study

The purpose of this study was to determine what effects, if any, the *Hosty v. Carter* decision has had on the collegiate press in the Seventh Circuit, which includes Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. The researcher examined whether the editors of print student newspapers at public universities in the Seventh Circuit had experienced instances of prior restraint since the *Hosty* decision was handed down in 2005. Prior restraint was defined as any government official, including a university administrator, reviewing a publication prior to it being published; an administrator editing, cutting, or removing articles from a publication prior to it being published is also considered prior restraint. Student editors were asked if they self-censor, refuse to cover certain stories or alter the tone of their writing in order to avoid prior restraint.

Through a series of in-depth interviews with eight student editors, the researcher found that members of the collegiate press in the Seventh Circuit have not experienced any successful instances of prior restraint, and have not been self-censoring. The participants credited their autonomy on the newspaper to the paper's history as an independent publication, its variety of funding sources, its extracurricular nature and its status as a public forum. The participants also claimed that the help of a supportive faculty advisor allowed them to be free from prior restraint.

The research also revealed that members of the collegiate press view prior restraint negatively, and believe the presence of prior restraint negatively impacts the quality of a student newspaper and the quality of a university's journalism curriculum.