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# Autonomy and Free Speech

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## Symposium

### INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY AND FREE SPEECH

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

This symposium grew out of a free speech theory discussion group organized in 2007 by C. Edwin Baker (who died in December 2009) and James Weinstein. In addition to Baker and Weinstein, the group consists of Vincent Blasi, Robert C. Post, Thomas M. Scanlon, Jr., Seana V. Shiffrin, Steven H. Shiffrin, Eugene Volokh, and Susan H. Williams. The group was formed to critically examine in written discussion two leading theories of contemporary free speech doctrine, one based on participatory democracy and the other based on individual autonomy. The discussion began in the *Virginia Law Review* with Robert Post and James Weinstein each writing essays defending their separate conceptions of participatory democracy as the best overall theory of free speech, responses from the other members of the group, and replies from Post and Weinstein. See 97 *Va. L. Rev.* 477–679 (2011). In this issue of *Constitutional Commentary*, Ed Baker and Seana Shiffrin defend their separate visions of autonomy as the basis of American free speech protection, other participants respond, and Shiffrin replies to criticisms.