



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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LA HOUSE RECEIVES OPEN GOVERNMENT AWARD

The Louisiana House of Representative was honored today with the inaugural Melvin Dakin Open Government Award. The award was presented to the House of Representatives for opening the legislative process for "the average citizen." The award was presented by Common Cause/Louisiana, a statewide organization that actively promotes openness and accountability in government.

In making the presentation in the House Chamber, Common Cause President Dave Zimmerman said, "Common Cause/Louisiana greatly appreciates what the House of Representatives has done to open the legislative process to the average citizen. We recognize the House leadership's commitment of time, energy and money in this effort. Louisiana is well served by having a House of Representatives committed to open meetings, advanced notice of committee schedules on the Internet, and live broadcasts of meetings. We are particularly impressed by the digital recording of committee meetings, and by the archiving of those records. We'd like to make special mention of former Speaker Pro Tempore Emile "Peppi" Bruneau, House and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Charles Lancaster, and former speakers Hunt Downer and Charles DeWitt for their steadfastness in assuring that the House remains committed to open government."

(more)

add one - Open Government Award

The award is named for LSU Law Professor Melvin Dakin who was a charter member and long-term leader of Common Cause/Louisiana. In all his work, he advocated an open government that represents the interests of all citizens. Professor Dakin recently died at age 93.

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