



Lawrence G. Walters, Esq.

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Overview:

Lawrence G. Walters is an accomplished media lawyer, a respected public speaker, and a widely-published author. His focus has been on the fields of constitutional law, intellectual property, and internet law. His firm's website, www.FirstAmendment.com is a frequently-consulted resource for information on cutting-edge legal issues.

Current Position: Attorney

Owner – [Walters Law Group](#) (1993-pres.)

Current career involves representing clients in a variety of industries involved in novel and often controversial legal issues relating to free expression, emerging technology law, and intellectual property. Cases often involve First Amendment concerns, advertising and trade practices, technology issues, gaming, domain name disputes, defamation defense, copyright and trademark litigation, fair use, publicity, privacy, and white-collar criminal defense. Typical clients include entertainment establishments, non-profit advocacy groups, website operators, hosts, software developers, gaming interests, content creators, online service providers, social networking systems, advertising networks, performers, and trade associations.

Mr. Walters manages a boutique law firm, and oversees several lawyers, paralegals, and staff employees. In addition to maintaining a full caseload, he is responsible for all marketing and promotional activities, as well as firm administration, billing, budgeting and supervision. A significant amount of his time is devoted to academic writing and speaking engagements.

Prior Legal Experience:

After graduating from law school with honors in 1988, Mr. Walters became affiliated with several law firms prior to forming Walters Law Group. He has experience with mid-sized and small firms, and he has worked in a variety of practice areas, including commercial litigation, construction law, banking regulation, insurance defense, intellectual property, criminal defense, administrative law, and contracts. In 1994, he began to concentrate on First Amendment law, particularly as applied to the internet.

Kinsey Vincent Pyle, Daytona Beach, FL (1988-1992) – Senior Associate

Doran, Walters, Rost & Wolfe, Daytona Beach, FL (1992-1998) – Partner

Wasserman & Walters, Winter Park, FL (1998-2001) – Partner

Weston, Garrou, Walters & Mooney, Altamonte Springs, FL (2001-2009) – Partner

Walters Law Group, Longwood, FL (2010 – present) – Owner/President

Education:

Juris Doctor, *with Honors*, Florida State University (1988)

Oxford University, St. Edmunds Hall (Summer Program; 1986)

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, University of Central Florida (1985) (Double Major: Communications & Legal Studies)

Litigation Experience:

Mr. Walters has handled hundreds of state and federal lawsuits during his career, involving both private and governmental entities, and has defended many individuals on a variety of criminal charges focusing on complex white-collar matters. His experience includes trials, appeals, extraordinary writs, and administrative proceedings throughout the country, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He is admitted to all state and federal courts in Florida, the Ninth, Eleventh, and DC Circuit Courts of Appeal, along with the U.S. Claims Court.

Honors & Distinctions

AV-Rating (preeminent) awarded by Martindale Hubble, lawyers.com, (2015-pres.)

Named Superlawyer by superlawyers.com (2020-pres.)

Client Distinction Award by Martindale Hubble, lawyers.com (2015)

First Amendment Lawyer of the Year, Global Law Experts (2018), ACQ5 (2019), Legal 100 (2021)

US Media IP Lawyer of the Year, Corporate Livewire (2016)

Top Expert – Internet Gambling Law – Global Law Experts (2021)

[Professional Achievement Award](#) & Alumni of the Year (2011), University of Central Florida, College of Health and Public Affairs.

10.0 (superb) rating awarded by Avvo.com (2010 – pres.)

Top 10% of the Bar awarded by Orlando Business Journal (2006)

Annual Service Award from the Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection (2005)

Policy Studies Fellowship, Florida State University (1987)

Non-Profit Work:

Assisting non-profit and charitable organizations has been a focus of Mr. Walters' practice for over two decades. He has formed several non-profit groups and has served on the advisory boards of groups such as the Woodhull Freedom Foundation (www.WoodhullFoundation.org), the ACLU (Central Florida Chapter), the Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection (www.asacp.org), the First Amendment Lawyers Association (www.FirstAmendmentLawyers.org) and the Legal Studies Department at the University of Central Florida. He also acts as pro bono General Counsel to the ASACP and Woodhull Freedom Foundation. His pro bono legal service relating to online child protection efforts earned Mr. Walters the [Annual Service Award](#) from the ASACP.

Websites: Mr. Walters has developed and currently operates the following websites related to his practice:

www.FirstAmendment.com [firm site]

www.WebLawNetwork.com [umbrella legal resource site]

www.Quick2257.com [mobile application]

www.QuickDMCA.com [mobile application]

www.DMCANotice.com [copyright enforcement device]

www.Bitcoin-lawfirm.com [virtual currency legal issues]

www.WebCamLaws.com [legal resource for live webcam operators]

www.SweepsLaws.com [legal resource for online sweepstakes operators]

www.GameCensorship.com [devoted to video game censorship issues]

www.OnlineDatingLaw.com [dealing with social networking sites]
www.GamblingLawUpdate.com [regular column re online gambling]
www.AdultIndustryUpdate.com [regular column re erotic entertainment]
www.LawofSex.com [Blog]

Legal Technology: Mr. Walters launched the first mobile application allowing performers and producers of specified material to comply with federal statutes and regulations relating to records keeping and age verification; www.Quick2257.com. He also invented the patented BirthDateVerifier; www.BirthDateVerifier.com, an online age verification system used by numerous websites offering age-restricted products or services. He regularly generates new technological devices to assist his clients with legal compliance obligations, including the automated DMCA Notice generator, found on www.DMCANotice.com, and the associated mobile application; www.QuickDMCA.com.

Other Law-Related Work:

Public relations advisor, inventor, non-profit association consultant, website designer, mobile app developer, media consultant, speaker, author, and university professor.

Media Experience:

Numerous appearances on national news programs, including: ABC: *The View*, *Good Morning America*, *20/20*; NBC: *The Today Show*; CNN: *Paula Zhan Live*; MTV News; *A Thin Line*; CNBC: *On the Money*, *Cold Pizza*, etc; CBS: *48 Hours*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Montel Williams*, *Dr. Phil Show*, etc, PBS: *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*, Court TV: *Nancy Grace Show*, FNC: *The O'Reilly Factor*; *Fox & Friends*, *The Heartland*, *The Big Story*, etc. Print media quotes include several articles in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *St. Petersburg Times*, the *Tampa Tribune*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, *Rolling Stone*, *Playboy*, the *Guardian*, *Politico.com*, *Forbes*, *Business 2.0*, *Wired.com*, the *Wall Street Journal*, etc.

Academic Pursuits:

For over two decades, Mr. Walters has consistently devoted part of his professional career to publishing and academic instruction. He has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Central Florida, in the Law Studies Department, and remains a member of the Department's Advisory Council. Mr. Walters presents continuing legal education courses for lawyers on free speech, internet law, and intellectual property. He regularly publishes articles of interest to the legal community on a wide variety of legal issues including several Law Review articles and book chapters on censorship, advertising law, and gaming regulation. His writings have been published on hundreds of websites, blogs, magazines, newspapers, and print publications. Mr. Walters is frequently invited to speak at industry conferences. He delivered presentations on video game censorship at the Game Developers Conference in 2007, 2008 & 2009, and frequently presents at meeting of the First Amendment Lawyers Association; a group of leading First Amendment practitioners, for which he served as the President in 2008-09. One of his

speeches, involving speech and the War on Terror, was published in the [Representative American Speeches of 2003](#), along with those of George Bush, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and Hillary Clinton. He writes regular columns on internet and gaming law issues, which are widely read in the online entertainment community. His academic prominence on these issues has resulted in his becoming a reliable source of commentary for the mainstream print and television media. A partial list of publications and articles containing quotes can be found here: <http://www.firstamendment.com/publications/>

Representative Media Commentary:

“Lawrence Walters, an authority on First Amendment, Internet and intellectual property law who heads the Walters Law Group in Longwood, Fla.” *Phil Harvey, who battled government over his sex-product business, dies at 83;* [Washington Post](#) (Feb. 4, 2022).

“Larry Walters, a First Amendment specialist...” Should You Worry About the “Parent’s internet Accountability and Child Protection Act?” [Ynot.com](#) (August 14, 2018).

“Lawrence G. Walters, a First Amendment and obscenity lawyer of the first rank.” From the Acknowledgements in the new book by Eric Berkowitz; *The Boundaries of Desire; A Century of Good Sex, Bad Laws, and Changing Identities*

“Larry Walters has undertaken unpopular cases to defend the right to free speech and expression.” Joseph Ditzler, *The Daytona Beach News Journal* (Feb. 16, 1997).

“[F]ree-speech and constitutional-rights specialist...” [Gamespot.com](#), *“The New Face of Game Censorship”* (2009)

“Lawrence Walters, a prominent First Amendment attorney in Florida...” *The New Larry Flint*, Upstart Business Journal (Oct. 1, 2008).

“Lawrence Walters, an ace in censorship law.” *News of the World*, Edinburgh, Scotland (August 19, 2001)

“Endlessly energetic First Amendment Attorney...you probably couldn’t do better than Walters (should you find yourself in court)” R. Gray, *AVN Online*, “Get Walters” (August 2002).

“A lawyer well-known among...website owners and First Amendment advocates.” D. Willhoit, “Lawyer Has Experience With Obscenity Cases” *The Ledger* (Nov. 25, 2005).

“Larry Walters is not one to back down from a fight – especially when the First Amendment is at stake.” *FSU Law Magazine*, “Alumni Focus” (Fall 2006).

“Lawrence Walters...knows his censorship issues.” *Joystiq* (March 27, 2009).

Television Appearances:

Video clips from representative television appearances on national news programs and talk shows can be found here: <http://www.firstamendment.com/television-appearances/>

Professional Accomplishments:

- * Created and Chaired Florida Bar's First Amendment Law Committee
- * Authored and submitted three (3) amicus briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the First Amendment Lawyers Association
- * Delivered over 100 speeches on legal issues. A partial list of presentations can be found here: <http://www.firstamendment.com/seminars/>
- * Launched www.GameCensorship.com, a recognized resource for video game censorship issues
- * Creator of Automated Copyright Enforcement Device: www.DMCANotice.com
- * Creator and developer of 2 mobile applications; [Quick2257](#) and [QuickDMCA](#)
- * Published 100's of articles on free speech, internet law, and gaming law
- * Appointed President of [First Amendment Lawyers Association](#) (2008-2009)
- * Inventor of Patented Online Age Verification System: www.BirthDateVerifier.com

Professional Associations:

Florida Bar Association (1988 – pres.)

United States Supreme Court (2005 – pres.)

United States District Court, Northern, Middle & Southern District of Florida (1991-pres.)

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals (1991 – pres.)

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (2017 – pres.)

D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals (2018 – pres.)

U.S. Claims Court, Wash. D.C. (1989 – pres.)

Federation of Law Societies of Canada (2016 – pres.)

Pro Hac Vice admissions throughout the country (1988 – pres.)

Past-President & National Chairman – First Amendment Lawyers Association (1995 - pres.)

Member – Internet Attorneys Association (2015 – pres.)

Member – Free Speech Coalition (2005 – pres.)

Member - International Game Developers Association (2006 – 2014)

Member - Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2002 – pres.)

Founding Member, International Masters of Gaming Law; (2005-pres.)

Founder & Chair – First Amendment Law Committee, Florida Bar (1997 – 2008)

Founder & General Counsel – Internet Freedom Association, Inc. (2004 – 2007)

Advisor & General Counsel – Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection (2005 – pres.)

Advisor & General Counsel – Woodhull Freedom Foundation (2010 – pres.)

Member – Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (1992-pres.)

Board Member & Chair – Legal Panel, ACLU Central Chapter (2004 – 2006)

Member – Law Related Education Committee, Florida Bar (1992 – 1998)

Member – Small Claims Rules Committee, Florida Bar (1989-1991)

Advisory Board Committee Founding Member – University of Central Florida Legal Studies Program (2004-pres.)

Board Member – Deltona Area Chamber of Commerce (1992-93)

Board Member – Volusia County Bar Association (1991-1993)

Adjunct Professor – University of Central Florida (1989 – 1994)

Publications

A. Law Review Articles

“Shooting the Messenger; An Analysis of Theories of Criminal Liability Used Against Adult-Themed Online Service Providers,” *Stanford Law and Policy Review*, Vol. 23, 171 (2012)

Florida's Internet Cafés: The Future of Gaming or a Vanishing Loophole? *Gaming Law Review and Economics*. Vol. 15, No 7-8 (2011)

“Sweepstakes and Sunshine: A Review of Florida’s Game Promotion Statute,” *Gaming Law Review and Economics*, Vol. 15, No. 5 (2011)

“How to Fix the Sexting Problem – An Analysis of the Legal and Policy Considerations for Sexting Legislation,” *UNC School of Law, First Amendment Law Review* (Fall 2010).

“Investment or Conspiracy? Legal Concerns about Investing in the Online Gambling Industry,” *Gaming Law Review*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (April 2006)

"Obscenity in the Digital Age: The Re-Evaluation of Community Standards," *NEXUS, A Journal of Opinion*, Vol. 10 (2005) (co-authored with Clyde F. DeWitt, Esq.)

“Advertising Online Casinos: An Analysis of the Legal Rights and Risks,” *Gaming Law Review*, Volume 7, Number 2 (April 2003)

B. Book Chapters

“Advertising and the US,” *Internet Gambling Report*, Casino City Press, Editions 7-12 (2003-2011)

“Craigslist Case Implicates Important Legal Issues for User Generated Content Sites,” *User Generated Content: Regulatory Dimensions*, Amicus Books (2009)

“Minors Should Not Be Required to Obtain Parental Consent for Violent Video Games,” *America’s Youth, Opposing Viewpoints*, Greenhaven Press (2008)

“Killing the Messenger: An Analysis of the Legal Issues Associated with Imposing Criminal Liability on Internet Service Providers for Acts of Their Customers,” *The State of Sexual Freedom in the United States*, Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance (September 2011)

“Craigslist Case Implicates Important Legal Issues for User Generated Content Sites,” *User Generated Content: Regulatory Dimensions*, Amicus Books, Hyderabad, India (2009)

C. Supreme Court Amicus Briefs

Scott v. Georgia, Case No.: 16-523 (2017); Brief of First Amendment Lawyers Association, et al., as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Petitioner

Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association, et al., 564 U.S. 786 (2011); Brief of First Amendment Lawyers Association and Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as *Amicus Curiae* in Support of Respondents

U.S. v. Stevens, 559 U.S. 460 (2010); Brief of First Amendment Lawyers Association as *Amicus Curiae* in Support of Respondent

D. Other Publications*

Gambling Law Update, Regular Column, www.GamblingLawUpdate.com, (2002-pres.)

Adult Industry Update, Regular Column, www.AdultIndustryUpdate.com (1996-pres.)

LawofSex.com, Blog Posts (2009-pres.)

“Moving Upstream,” *XBiz World* (April 2011)

“App Law Issues,” *XBiz World* (December 2011)

“Sex, Lies & Children,” *SexGenderBody.com* (September 16, 2009)

“5 Things Every Internet Novelty Retailer Should Do: Protect your online empire with a few smart steps,” *AVN Novelty* (Jan/Feb 2009)

“Obscenity Cases Face New Frontiers: ‘As a Whole’ Requirements Changing with Technology,” *XBiz World* (September 2008)

“Obscenity Trial?” *New Statesmen* (July 7, 2008)

“Three Alternate Futures: Evaluating the state of the adult industry under each presidential candidate,” *Xbiz World* (June 2008)

“The Long Arm of the Law,” *Canadian Gaming Lawyer Magazine* (May 2008)

“More on Tube Sites’ Risks,” *Xbiz World* (April 2008)

“Government-Sanctioned Copyright Infringement?” *Xbiz.com*, (August 2, 2007)

“BetonSports: effect on First Amendment arguments,” *World Online Gambling Law Report*, (May 2007)

“BetonSports Ruling Signals Disaster for Continued Viability of *In Re Mastercard* and First Amendment Arguments,” *igamingnews.com* (May 8, 2007)

“A Pound of Flesh,” *Xbiz.com* (April 23, 2007)

“Attorney General Gonzales Questioned About Internet Gambling Regulations,” *Gambling911.com* (April 20, 2007)

“Deep Throat in Court,” *Xbiz.com* (February 2, 2007)

“Talk About Something Worth Celebrating” (Letter to the Editor), *The Orlando Sentinel*, (10/17/06)

“Sex, Lies and Videogames: 2,” *XBiz.com* (August 29, 2006)

“Sex, Lies and Videogames: 1,” *XBiz.com* (August 28, 2006)

“The Truth About Obscenity Law,” *YNot.com* (August 21, 2006)

“A Disturbing ‘State’ of Affairs - Evaluating the New Wave of State-Level Online Gambling Laws,” *Lottery Insights*, July 2006. Vol. 7, Issue 7

“The End of the Age of Innocence (and the Beginning of Responsible Age Verification), *AVN Online* (February 2006)

Benefits of Online Age Verification for Online Gambling, www.igamingnews.com (2004)

“The Mercurial Rise of the Free Speech Coalition” *XBiz World* (November 2005)

“The Silver Lining?” *Xbiz.com* (September 8, 2005)

“The WTO Ruling – A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing” *IGamingNews.com* (April 15, 2005)

“The Realities and Dilemmas of Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Obscenity Prosecutions” *Klixxx Magazine*, V 6.4 (April 2005)

“Commentary for Congress” *XBiz.com* (March 17, 2005)

“What is a Website Review?” *YNot.com* (March 11, 2005)

“Gambling Law Update: January 2005” *Lottery Insights* (March 2005, Volume 6, Issue 3)

Get Into Jail Free Cards – Reevaluating Free Websites in the Current Legal Climate, *Klixxx Magazine* (Cybernet Expo 2004 Special Edition)

“Online Dating Site Laws: 2” *XBiz.com* (December 16, 2004)

“Online Dating Site Laws: 1” *XBiz.com* (December 15, 2004)

“Benefits of Online Age Verification for Online Gambling, igamingnews.com (2004)

“The Science Behind Porn Addiction: Senate Counter-Arguments” *AVN Online* (December 2, 2004)

“A Breakdown of the California Gambling Advertising Suit” *IGamingnews.com* (August 16, 2004)

“Anatomy of an Obscenity Prosecution: The Tammy Robinson Case Study” *Klixxx Magazine* (August 2004)

Copyright Enforcement Made Easy, www.Ynot.com; (2004)

Can (You) Spam Under the CAN SPAM Act? *Klixxx Magazine* (2004)

“Supreme Court Rules Against COPA . . . For Now” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (June 29, 2004)

“Insights: Post-Gruender Speculation” *IGamingNews.com* (June 22, 2004)

“Sentencing Issues for Adult Webmasters” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (May 7, 2004)

“Legal Issues Associated with Online Pharmacies” *Klixxx Magazine* Vol. 5 (April 2004)

“Legal Issues Associated with Online Pharmacies: Part 1 of 2” *YNot News* (March 4, 2004)

“Prognostications” *IGaming Business* (February 2004)

“Gambling Law Update” *Gambling Online Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2004)

“What to Do About the Gambling Advertising Crisis” *Gaming Business* (January 2004)

“Lou Frey Symposium” *The Reference Shelf, Representative American Speeches 2002-2003*, Vol. 75, No. 7 (2003)

“First Amendment Protections for Employees Involved in the Adult Industry,” *Ynotmaster.com* (December 2003)

“Gambling convictions step up the pressure,” *World Online Gambling Law Report*, Vol 2, Issue 9 (September 2003)

“The First Amendment and commercial speech,” *World Online Gambling Law Report*, Vol. 2, Issue 7 (July 2003)

“Advertising Online Casinos: An Analysis of the Legal Rights and Risks,” *Gaming Law Review*, Volume 7, Number 2 (April 2003)

“Avoiding the Legal Trap,” *ExoticNites.com Publications 2003 Yearly Issue*, Vol. 5 (2003).

“Breaking Down the Conyers Bill,” *Gambling Online Magazine* (March/April 2003)

“The Perfect Host: Refining Legal Compliance for Adult Hosting Companies,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 4 (February 2003); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*.

“Records Keeping Compliance Checklist for European Content Producers,” *TheAmateurVoice.com*, (January 2003)

Keeping Children Away from Adult Material – Time for an Innovative Solution, *AINNews.com* (2003)

A Chokehold on the Gatekeepers, *AVN Online* (2002)

“Equating Sex and Gambling in The Eyes of The Law,” *Gambling Online Magazine* (November/December 2002); *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (December 2002).

“Advertising Online Casinos, Part Three,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (November 2002); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*

“Advertising Online Casinos, Part Two,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (October 2002); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*

“Advertising Online Casinos, Part One,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (September 2002); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*

“The Supreme Court Weighs in on COPA – What it Means for Adult Webmasters,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (August 2002); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com* and *YnotMasters.com*

Celebrity Fakes – Just a Joke, or Real Trouble? *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 3 (July 2002); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*.

“What the Supreme Court’s Virtual Porn Decision Means to the Adult Dancing Industry,” *Exotic Dancer* (June 2002)

“Obscenity Update: Putting the Government on the Spot,” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (June 2002).

“How the Supreme Court’s Virtual Porn Decision Affects Adult Webmasters,” *The Adult Webmaster Magazine*, (April 2002), also appearing on *YnotMasters.com* & *TheAmateurVoice.com*

“Adult Webmasters: Fair Weather Friends,” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (March 2002)

“Online Casino Gambling, A Safe Bet, Or Risky Business?” *Klixxx Magazine* Vol. 3 (January 2002); also appearing on *OnlineCasinoNews.com*, *TheAdultWebmaster.com* & *TheAmateurVoice.com*

“No Place to Hide,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 2 (November 2001); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*

“Linking Adult Sites and Terrorism,” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (November 2001)

“Cross Examining Your Counsel,” *Klixxx Magazine*, Vol. 2 (October 2001); *ExoticNites.com Publications 2003 Yearly Issue*, Vol.5 (Yearly Edition 2003); also appearing on *TheAdultWebmaster.com*.

“Top Five Reasons Why Obscenity Laws are Inappropriate in the Digital Age,” *YnotMasters.com*, *TheAdultWebmaster.com*, *Klixxx Magazine* & *TheAmateurVoice.com*, (August 2001).

“Video Game Industry Takes Aim at Censorship,” *Gamers.com* & *ActionTrip.com* (May 2001).

“Recommendations for Survival in the Bush Administration,” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (April 2001).

“Personal Jurisdiction and Commercial Law of the Internet,” *Internet Law in Florida*, NBI (2000)

“Free Speech and the Internet,” *First Amendment Lawyers Association Handbook* (Summer & Winter Meetings, 2000 – 2009)

“Legal Issues Affecting Adult Webmasters,” *TheAdultWebmaster.com* (1999)

*Partial List - Copies of Publications Available on Request