

Robert Belair, National Privacy Expert, to Receive 2022 Hawkins Award

SEARCH is pleased to announce that Mr. **Robert R. Belair**, an internationally recognized data privacy expert, will receive the organization's highest honor, the 2022 *O.J. Hawkins Award*.

Mr. Belair is Senior Counsel at Arnall Golden Gregory, a Washington, D.C.-based law firm, serving in its Data Privacy practice. He also served as SEARCH General Counsel for more than 30 years and was responsible for authoring many of SEARCH's foundational reports in criminal justice information law and policy.

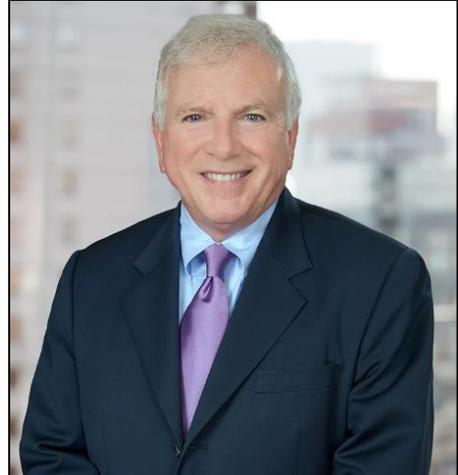
At its March 17 meeting, the SEARCH Board of Directors unanimously selected Mr. Belair for the honor to formally recognize his outstanding contributions to improve the justice system's ability to develop and use information through public safety communications, criminal justice information systems, and policy development.

"In a career that spans nearly five decades, Mr. Belair's efforts have had a profound impact on the development of policy and practices to protect the privacy and security of criminal history records throughout the country and on SEARCH as an organization and," said Board Chair Ms. **Leslie Moore**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

"Bob has long championed the value of strong privacy protections for these records – protections which are enshrined in both Federal and State regulations and law."

The SEARCH Board specifically cited the following in selecting Mr. Belair for the honor:

- As SEARCH General Counsel, he participated in SEARCH's privacy and security programs and was the principal author of numerous reports from the 1970s to early 2000s. These reports helped establish landmark standards for the security and privacy of criminal history record information (CHRI), examined juvenile justice record privacy, and explored the



O.J. Hawkins Award for Innovative Leadership and Outstanding Contributions in Criminal Justice Information Systems, Policy, and Statistics in the United States

Recognizes: Extraordinary leadership that improves the criminal justice community's ability to develop and use criminal justice information

Named for: Orville J. (Bud) Hawkins, SEARCH's first Chair and Executive Director

Given since 1985, the Hawkins Award is the only nationally recognized honor for leadership in the field of criminal justice information management

Past Recipients: Then-U.S. Sen. (now President) Joe Biden, D-DE; members of Congress; agency directors (FBI, U.S. DOJ); and national and state justice system leaders

policy implications of public access to CHRI, the data quality of criminal history records, and the use and management of CHRI – among other topics.

- As Chair of the SEARCH/Bureau of Justice Statistics National Task Force on Privacy, Technology and Criminal Justice Information, he led an effort to explore the challenges of privacy in the 21st century. This resulted in a 2001 report, [Report of the National Task Force on Privacy, Technology, and Criminal Justice Information](#), that analyzed existing law and policy involving the collection, use and dissemination of criminal justice record information; identified change drivers affecting the criminal justice privacy environment; and issued recommendations in three broad areas: privacy protections, data quality and security, and data integration/amalgamation.
- Mr. Belair co-authored an *amicus curiae* brief filed by SEARCH in the landmark [U.S. Department of Justice v. Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press](#) case, which was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1989. The Court ruled that the electronic compilation of otherwise publicly available but difficult to obtain records alters the privacy interest implicated by disclosure of that compilation. The court held that there is a difference between public records found at the source and a comprehensive, computerized summary located in a single clearinghouse of information.
- Mr. Belair served as Deputy General Counsel to the White House Privacy Committee in the Ford Administration and on the Judiciary Committee Advisory Committee for then-Chairman Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE) and as an advisor to then-Sen. Bob Bennett's (R-UT) Health Privacy Task Force. He served as General Counsel to the National Commission on the Privacy of Health Records and consulted for numerous Federal agencies and commissions on information policy and law.
- As a [privacy lawyer](#) with over 45 years of experience, Mr. Belair has represented companies in privacy and data breach investigations, and has focused on all aspects of privacy and information law involving administrative, legislative, and litigation activity.
- Mr. Belair regularly engaged Capitol Hill and agency staff in the development of privacy policy, and has worked with numerous government entities on privacy matters, including the National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, the Department of Transportation, and the Social Security Administration.
- Together with data privacy pioneer Alan Westin, Mr. Belair was the editor for over a decade of a preeminent privacy periodical for the business community, *Privacy & American Business*.

SEARCH will formally recognize Mr. Belair at an awards ceremony Tuesday, July 19, being held in conjunction with the SEARCH 2022 [Annual Membership Group Meeting](#) at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Denver, CO. In addition to recognizing Mr. Belair as the 2022 recipient of the O.J. Hawkins Award, the ceremony will also recognize noted criminologist Dr. Alfred Blumstein as the 2021 recipient of award.