

Freedom of thought is the foundation of a free society. Isn't that worth defending?

CCLE: Protecting the Limitless Potential of the Human Mind

THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO LIBERTY, AUTONOMY, AND PRIVACY OVER HIS OR HER OWN INTELLECT is situated at the core of what it means to be a free person. This principle is what gives life to some of our most well-established and cherished rights. Today, new drugs and other technologies are being developed for augmenting, monitoring, and manipulating mental processes. Individual and collective freedom is threatened when these technologies are applied or regulated without clear guiding principles that guarantee cognitive privacy, autonomy, and choice.

The Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics (CCLE) is a nonprofit law and policy institute working to advance sustainable social policies that protect freedom of thought. We work to promote public awareness and legal recognition of cognitive liberty – the right of each individual to think independently, to have decision-making authority over matters affecting his or her mind, and to engage in the full spectrum of possible thought.

Cognitive Liberty Guiding Principles

Privacy: What and how you think should be private unless you choose to share it. The use of technologies such as brain imaging and scanning must remain consensual and any information so revealed should remain confidential. The right to privacy must be found to encompass the inner domain of thought.

Autonomy: Self-determination over one's own cognition is central to free will. School boards, for example, should not be permitted to condition a child's right to public education on taking a psychoactive drug such as Ritalin. Decisions concerning whether or how to change a person's thought processes must remain the province of the individual as opposed to government or industry.

Choice: The capabilities of the human mind should not be limited. So long as people do not directly harm others, governments should not criminally prohibit cognitive enhancement or the experience of any mental state.

Analysis The CCLE monitors developments in neurotechnology, cognitive sciences and the law, to identify and offer guidance concerning those developments with a potential to significantly impact freedom of thought. We produce reports and professional testimony on complex freedom of thought issues currently facing policy makers, industry, and the general public.

Advocacy The CCLE engages in litigation that has the potential to broadly advance cognitive liberty. We facilitate networks of lawyers, legal scholars, ethicists and multidisciplinary scientists all of whom have an expertise in freedom of thought. We have filed legal briefs on the topic of cognitive liberty in federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Education By raising awareness of emerging cognitive liberty issues, our outreach and education campaigns empower people to meaningfully participate in public discourse and the democratic process. We provide course content to universities and professional schools in order to accelerate scholarly discussion of cognitive liberty across a wide range of disciplines.

Join us

The CCLE's work is funded by tax-deductible donations and grants.

You can play a major role in helping to advance and protect cognitive liberty by becoming a Friend of the CCLE.

All members receive our newsletter and reports, as well as discounts on books and events.

Visit www.cognitiveliberty.org or call 1-888-950-MIND for more information.

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CENTER FOR COGNITIVE LIBERTY & ETHICS

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