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Public Interest Journalism, A Case Study: A documentary on the "United States of ALEC"

This event is open to the public with photo ID.

Oct 12, 2012 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
20 Cooper Square, New York, NY | NYU Journalism 7th Floor Commons

On September 30, Public Television stations aired a documentary narrated by Bill Moyers on the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), an organization that, as the facts in the film reveal, has huge influence on our democratic processes by giving American corporations unprecedented power to influence legislative processes in every state in the Country.



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Common Cause, an independent nonprofit that advocates for campaign finance reform, as well as for increased ethics and accountability standards in governance, has filed a complaint with the IRS against ALEC, claiming that they are in fact a lobbying organization and not a not for profit as they claim on their taxes.

This event will treat this documentary as a case study, exploring broader questions about public interest journalism and the universe of advocacy organizations. What is the goal of journalists in producing public interest journalism? What is the role of journalism in informing an electorate? How do journalists effectively translate complex, often dry, issues into stories that resonate with audiences? And how, then, do advocates advance their goals in the public arena through media strategies--both in communicating to journalists--and in utilizing investigative journalism to make their own case?

Join us for a screening of this documentary and a discussion between the filmmakers, Tom Casciato and Kathy Hughes, and Common Cause/NY's Executive Director, Susan Lerner. The discussion will be moderated by documentary producer and NYU Journalism Professor Marcia Rock.

This event is co-sponsored by Common Cause/NY and the NYU Department of Journalism.

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