



Charles Overby

Charles L. Overby is the former chairman and CEO of the Freedom Forum, Newseum and Diversity Institute. He currently serves as chairman of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics. He also is an adjunct instructor in Journalism at the University of Mississippi.

For 22 years Charles was chief executive officer of the Freedom Forum, a non-partisan foundation that educates people about the press and the First Amendment. He was CEO of the Newseum from 1997 to 2011 and supervised the building of the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Charles has traveled to six continents speaking about media issues and promoting First Amendment freedoms.

Before joining the Freedom Forum, Charles was a reporter and editor for 17 years. As a reporter, he covered Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the White House and presidential campaigns for Gannett, the nation's largest newspaper company. Charles was the top editor at Florida Today in Melbourne, Fla., and the executive editor of The Clarion-Ledger and Jackson Daily News in Jackson, Mississippi. He supervised the news and editorial coverage that led to the Clarion-Ledger winning the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Distinguished Public Service in 1983. Charles also served as vice president of news and communications for Gannett and was a member of the management committees of Gannett and USA TODAY.

He served two brief stints in government, as press assistant to Senator John Stennis, D-Miss., and special assistant for administration to Governor Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

Charles has served on several boards relating to education. He was a regent for Baylor University; a member of the board of visitors of Duke Divinity School; a member of the NCAA Foundation Board; and a member of the foundation board of the University of Mississippi, his alma mater. He was a member of the board of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished

Americans, which gives more than two million annually in college scholarships to underprivileged students. He is a member of the board of directors of the Andrew Jackson Foundation and serves on the Board of Visitors for the Meek School of Journalism and New Media.

Charles and his wife, Andrea, live in Franklin, Tennessee and Oxford, Mississippi, and have three children and three grandchildren.