Ex-Globe editor Baron to receive First Amendment Award in Boston

Ford Hall Forum, the nation's oldest continuously operating free public lecture series, will honor current Washington Post executive editor and former Boston Globe editor Marty Baron with its First Amendment Award on May 1 at Suffolk University.

Following a cocktail reception, Baron will join Meghna Chakrabarti, the host of NPR's "On Point," for a 90-minute forum.

Ford Hall Forum created the First Amendment Award in 1981 "to honor those individuals and organizations that demonstrate extraordinary commitment to promoting and facilitating the thoughtful exercise of our right to freedom of expression," according to the forum's website.

During Baron's 11½ years at the Globe, the newspaper won six Pulitzer Prizes, including the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for its Spotlight team's investigation into the coverup of clergy sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. That investigation was later chronicled in the 2015 film "Spotlight," which took home the Academy Award for best picture.

In total, newsrooms under Baron have won 14 Pulitzer Prizes.

"The Forum honors Baron for his powerful and fearless defense of the First Amendment," the forum wrote on its website. "His relentless pursuit of the truth over his storied career, and his steadfast defense of journalists, especially in these harrowing times for the Fourth Estate, have resulted in impactful and important journalism, with implications for years to come."