



REPORTERS COMMITTEE

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

National Support. Local Impact.



REPORT TO DONORS
July 2020 — June 2021

STEERING COMMITTEE

Since 1970, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press has protected the right to gather and report the news; kept the government accountable by ensuring access to public records, meetings, and courtrooms; and preserved the principles of an unfettered free press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment. Our pro bono legal services, including representation in litigation, friend-of-the-court briefs, rapid response legal support, policy analysis, trainings and comprehensive online guides, and pre-publication review are made possible because you invest in our work.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stephen J. Adler, Chairman
Reuters, Ret.

Margaret Low, Vice Chair
WBUR

Massimo Calabresi, Secretary-Treasurer
Time Magazine

David Boardman,
Immediate Past Chairman
Klein College of Media and Communication and Temple University

Manny García
Austin American-Statesman

Laura Handman
Davis Wright Tremaine

Thomas C. Rubin
Stanford Law School

Pierre Thomas
ABC News

MEMBERS

Wolf Blitzer
CNN

Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Emilio Garcia-Ruiz
The San Francisco Chronicle

Josh Gerstein
POLITICO

Alex Gibney
Jigsaw Productions

Susan Goldberg
National Geographic

James Grimaldi
The Wall Street Journal

Diego Ibarguen
Hearst

Jeremy Jojola
9NEWS Colorado

Karen Kaiser
The Associated Press

David Lauter
The Los Angeles Times

Colleen McCain Nelson
The McClatchy Company

Maggie Mulvihill
Boston University

James Neff
Philadelphia Inquirer

Norman Pearlstine
New York, NY

Bruce W. Sanford
BakerHostetler, Ret.

Charlie Savage
The New York Times

Jennifer Sondag
Bloomberg News

Nabiha Syed
The Markup

Adam P. Symson
The E.W. Scripps Company

Matt Thompson
The New York Times

Vickie Walton-James
NPR

Judy Woodruff
PBS/The NewsHour

Susan Zirinsky
CBS News

HONORARY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

J. Scott Applewhite, *The Associated Press*
Chip Bok, *Creators Syndicate*
Dahlia Lithwick, *Slate*
Tony Mauro, *American Lawyer Media*
Jane Mayer, *The New Yorker*
Andrea Mitchell, *NBC News*
Carol Rosenberg, *The New York Times*
Paul Steiger, *ProPublica*
Sandra Torrey, *Freelance*

CONTENT

3 Letter from Leadership • 6 Nationwide Impact • 12 Giving Journalists the Support They Need
18 Local Support • 22 Our Supporters • 30 Financial Health • 31 Our Team

As we reflect on the past year, one thing is clear: Journalism is a cornerstone of democracy.

There have been many significant headlines in the past 12 months: a still-raging COVID-19 pandemic, an uncertain economic recovery, a swell of racial justice protests, a tumultuous election, and a violent uprising at our nation's capital.

Journalists risked their lives to tell these stories — stories that helped us keep our loved ones safe, make sense of the numerous challenges facing our country, and cast informed votes that will shape our future.

Along the way, reporters confronted a wave of threats to press freedom, including physical attacks, arrests, libel lawsuits, and subpoenas.

Journalists fought through these threats in the pursuit of truth — to inform our communities and hold government officials accountable. In small towns and large cities, journalists of all kinds, from local nonprofits to national newspapers, documented history as it unfolded.

They chased down leads, filed public records requests, and analyzed data, digging deeply into important issues such as voting rights, public health, national security, the environment, and social justice, among others.

And in many cases, they did so with the unwavering legal support from attorneys at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

This past year, we responded to journalists' legal needs, quickly and effectively: We published resources and hosted trainings to guide journalists through their coverage of the pandemic; we responded to a record number of hotline requests, offering immediate support to journalists in crisis; we organized large coalitions of news media leaders to defend journalists' newsgathering rights at protests; we successfully advocated for a Justice Department policy that will protect journalists' sources and the free flow of information to the public; and we significantly expanded the legal services we provide to local news organizations. You will read about these accomplishments — and many more — in the pages to come.

There will always be legal threats to press freedom, just as there are always more stories to be told. But with your steadfast commitment to our mission, we will continue to rise to the challenge.



Bruce D. Brown
Executive Director



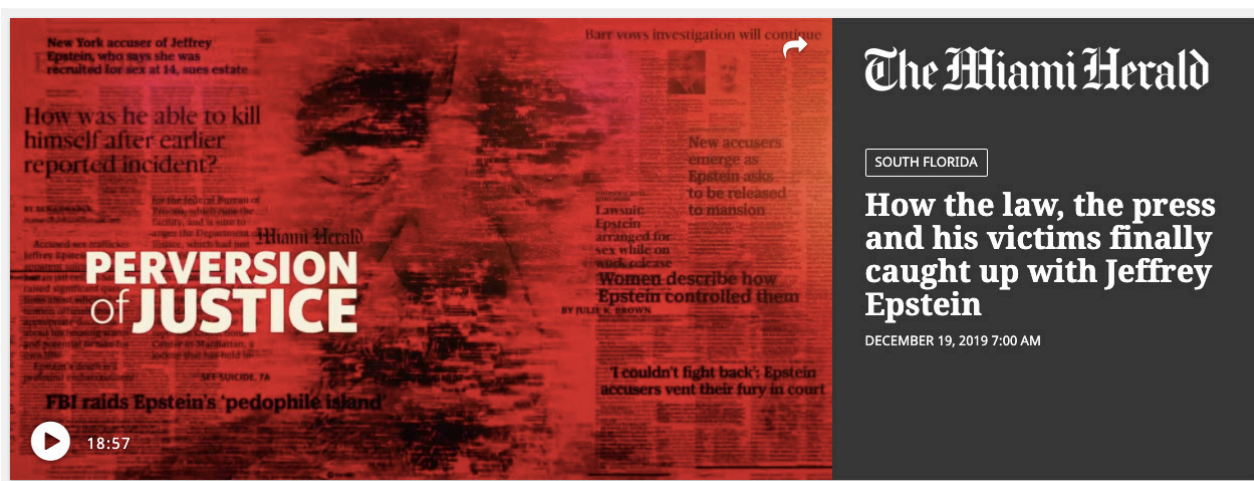
Stephen J. Adler
Steering Committee Chairman
Retired, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters

OUR MISSION

The Reporters Committee was founded in a moment of crisis for journalism.

Today, we've reached a similar flashpoint characterized by government secrecy, subpoenas, and hostility toward journalists. Over the past year, in the face of national protests against systemic racism, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a contentious national election, reporters worked tirelessly to provide their communities with crucial information.

THROUGH ALL OF IT, WITH YOUR HELP, WE HAD THEIR BACKS.



Los Angeles Times

Associated Press sues after FBI impersonates journalist in sting operation

HELPING TELL IMPORTANT STORIES

When the Reporters Committee protects and empowers journalists, we ensure the free flow of information so crucial to the health of a functioning democracy.

Your support protects the free press and ensures that investigative journalists — reporting about our government, about the health of our communities, and more — can gather a complete picture of the story, including through access to requested data and documents.

THE INTERROGATION OF REALITY WINNER



Credit: (Lincoln County Sheriff's Office via AP, File)

In June 2017, Air Force veteran and former intelligence contractor Reality Winner was arrested for leaking classified information to the media. She later pled guilty and received the longest prison sentence ever in a civilian court by a journalistic

source under the Espionage Act.

All too often, the details of investigations into leaks like this — stories with vital national impact — happen behind closed doors, and the details are never revealed to the public. For years, documentarian Sonia Kennebeck and Codebreaker Films fought for access to audio and video recordings of Reality Winner's interrogation. When Reporters Committee attorneys got involved, they refused to take no for an answer.

Reporters Committee attorneys represented the filmmakers in their Freedom of Information Act lawsuit and successfully obtained an order requiring the FBI to produce the requested audio files. The ruling enabled the audio files to be used — and to be heard by the public for the first time — in the documentary film “United States vs. Reality Winner,” which premiered at South by Southwest in March 2021.

PURDUE PHARMA'S ROLE IN THE OPIOID CRISIS

Purdue Pharma, the manufacturer of OxyContin, has been the focus of significant public scrutiny as a result of the opioid crisis. The company has been widely accused of being a driving force behind the public health epidemic that has had devastating consequences for individuals and communities across the country. In 2020, Reporters Committee attorneys represented Dow Jones, the Boston Globe, and Reuters in an effort to unseal thousands of pages of court records filed in bankruptcy proceedings involving Purdue Pharma.

Thanks to these efforts, we now know that members of the Sackler family, who own the company, discussed their potential exposure to lawsuits stemming from Purdue's role in the opioid crisis as far back as 2007. The unsealed records also provided evidence that the company may have unlawfully transferred billions of dollars overseas over nearly a decade to protect their assets in any future litigation.

Our unsealing efforts were credited in “Empire of Pain,” journalist Patrick Radden Keefe's new, best-selling book about the Sackler family.

PROTECTING JOURNALISTS ONLINE

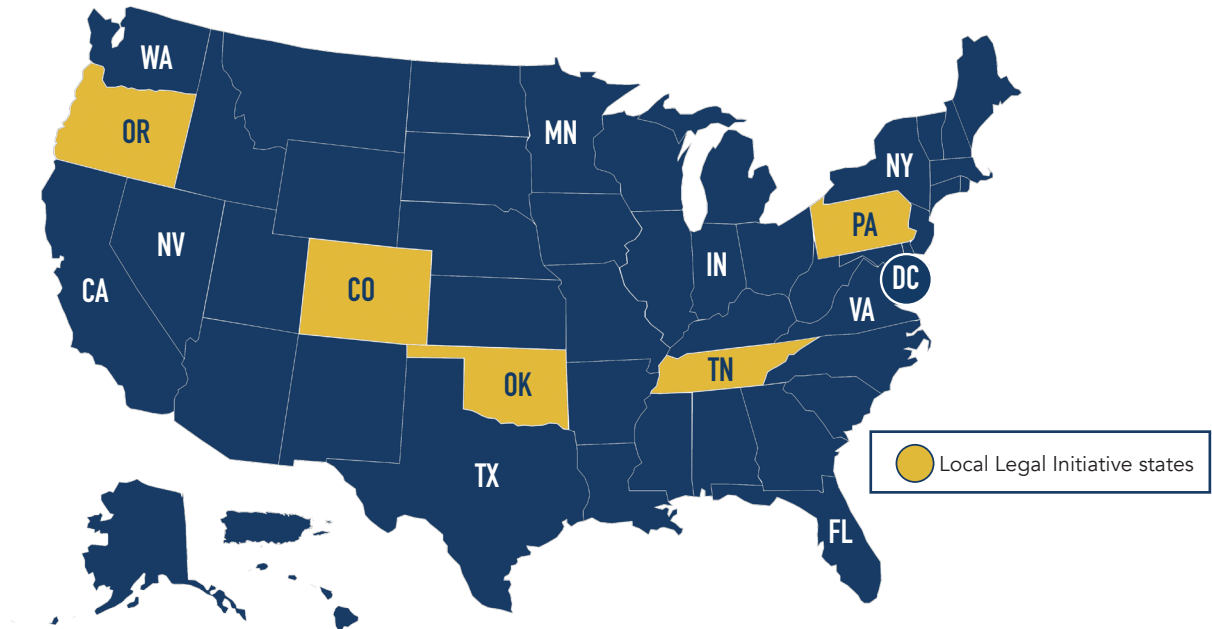
Data journalists — those seeking to report important stories by collecting and analyzing data — provide important coverage of our increasingly digitized society. Unfortunately, their work has been vulnerable to prosecution under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, a sweeping federal hacking law that has serious implications for all journalists. As written, the CFAA could be used to hold members of the press liable for routine acts of data journalism, including the automated collection of public information online.



Credit: (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

In a 2020 landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court narrowed the scope of the CFAA. In doing so, the Court directly cited and credited arguments made in a friend-of-the-court brief by the Reporters Committee and 41 news organizations, arguing that a broad interpretation of the statute would have turned “millions of otherwise law-abiding citizens” into criminals, including by outlawing routine “journalism activity.” The coalition was represented by Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.

OUR NATIONWIDE IMPACT



The Reporters Committee's experienced staff attorneys and legal fellows provide indispensable resources for thousands of journalists and news organizations. We support journalists in communities across the country, including local journalists and newsrooms located in our Local Legal Initiative states of Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

BIG-PICTURE NUMBERS

17

investigative journalism projects supported by pre-publication review

56

active litigation matters as this report goes to print

127

friend-of-the-court briefs and letters submitted

620

requests resolved through the RCFP hotline

6000+

journalists and media lawyers trained

FL

FLORIDA: We led free press advocates in a friend-of-the-court brief urging a federal district court in Florida to block enforcement of the state's "must carry" social media law.

NY

NEW YORK: RCFP authored a letter to NY government officials denouncing arrests and uses of force by law enforcement against journalists during 2020 protests.

OR

OREGON: We filed a friend-of-the-court brief weighing in on legal actions related to police powers directed against journalists at protests.

VA

VIRGINIA: RCFP attorneys serve as adjunct faculty at the University of Virginia First Amendment Clinic.

IN

INDIANA: RCFP attorneys supported news outlet WTHR in a public records case concerning the disciplining of a high school teacher and former football coach.

TX **TEXAS:** The Reporters Committee intervened in a case before the Texas Supreme Court arguing for access to exhibits from a highly publicized trade secrets trial brought by HouseCanary against Title Source, Inc. We were represented by attorneys from Jackson Walker.

CA **CALIFORNIA:** RCFP attorneys and co-counsel at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP are representing IP Video Market Info Inc., a group of journalists who report on surveillance technology who were sued for defamation by technology startup Royal Holdings Technology Corp.

DC **WASHINGTON, D.C.:** RCFP attorneys filed a FOIA lawsuit against the U.S. Labor Department on behalf of the Washington Blade for records related to alleged attempts by Trump administration officials to undermine regulations intended to protect LGBTQ individuals from employment discrimination.

MN **MINNESOTA:** The Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic at UC Berkeley School of Law, representing RCFP, filed a lawsuit asking the MN federal district court to unseal records in an effort to bring greater transparency to government surveillance processes.

NV **NEVADA:** RCFP updated our Election Legal Guide to include information that focuses on the right of the public and press to access information related to elections in multiple battleground states, including Nevada.

WA **WASHINGTON:** RCFP attorneys filed an unsealing matter on behalf of Forbes and one of its reporters seeking access to court records related to All Writs Act orders compelling Sabre, a travel technology company, to engage in real-time monitoring of individuals subject to active arrest warrants.



TN **TENNESSEE:** TN LLI Attorney Paul McAdoo, representing Courthouse News Service, successfully moved to unseal more than 90 court records, including the deposition of former U.S. Sen. David Perdue, in a class action lawsuit that was settled in 2008 related to the sale of Dollar General to a private equity firm.

CO **COLORADO:** CO LLI Attorney Rachael Johnson filed a lawsuit against the Fremont County Coroner on behalf of Denver's KDVR-TV and one of the state's reporters seeking photos included in the autopsy report of an inmate who was allegedly murdered at CO's Supermax facility.

OK **OKLAHOMA:** OK LLI Attorney Kathryn E. Gardner worked with Kassie McClung of The Frontier to gain access to the dates of death for those who succumbed to COVID-19, data that had been previously denied by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

OR **OREGON:** OR LLI Attorney Ellen Osoinach sued a local school board on behalf of the Malheur Enterprise seeking records related to discrimination allegations against several board members.

PA **PENNSYLVANIA:** After the 2020 presidential election, we sent letters urging federal courts to use technology to promote public access to judicial proceedings concerning the Trump campaign's challenge to Pennsylvania's election results.

ADVOCATING FOR TRANSPARENCY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



In 2020, in order to meet an increasing demand for legal support for journalists at the local level, we launched a significant expansion of our work in five states across the country: the Local Legal Initiative.

In rural towns and urban centers alike, government agencies and officials have long shielded records from the public, ignoring journalists' requests for data, documents, and other information, or issuing significantly delayed responses. They've gotten away with it because many local journalists and news organizations lack the legal support to push back.

Thanks to your help, that's beginning to change.

Over the past year, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee have each welcomed a Reporters Committee attorney dedicated to bolstering the local news ecosystem. These are states with challenging laws, promising collaborations, and under-resourced newsrooms where the Reporters Committee can create better legal precedent going forward.

The Local Legal Initiative puts essential legal resources within the reach of the journalists who most need them, at no cost to the journalists or their newsrooms. By supporting newsgathering, our attorneys improve citizens' capacity to engage in a vibrant democracy.

The program was created with a 5-year, \$10 million endowment grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. We are now raising an additional \$10 million to sustain the efforts in each of the five pilot states while planning for future expansion.

COLORADO



Information about law enforcement — how officers are trained, how they are disciplined, and how departments are funded — is of fundamental importance to local communities. Unfortunately, that information is often hard to access.

In recent years, the Colorado Springs newspaper The Gazette and Chicago-based nonprofit newsroom The Invisible Institute filed separate requests seeking similar data from the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. After the POST Board rejected these requests, which sought data regarding the certification, training, and personnel changes of law enforcement officers in Colorado, Reporters Committee attorneys stepped in to argue for transparency. In May 2021, Colorado Local Legal Initiative Attorney Rachael Johnson sued the POST Board on the newsrooms' behalf under Colorado's open records laws.

OKLAHOMA



When a traumatic event rocks a community, the government's response can have a huge impact. The Muskogee Phoenix has provided leading coverage of a high-profile murder case involving the deaths of six community members, including five young children. The newspaper sought access to police body-camera footage and a 911 call that would shed light on the aftermath and investigation of the incident — recordings that the state attempted to block from public access.

Oklahoma Local Legal Initiative Attorney Kathryn E. Gardner intervened in the criminal case on behalf of the Phoenix and successfully secured the release of the 911 call and portions of the body-camera footage, ensuring that the Phoenix had the access they needed to keep Oklahomans informed about this important case.

“Public access to police bodycam footage is a crucial aspect of police accountability.”
— Paul McAdoo, Tennessee Local Legal Initiative Attorney

OREGON



Transparency is essential in local government. But without journalists, that transparency can be nearly impossible to achieve.

In October 2020, the Malheur Enterprise filed a series of public records requests seeking information regarding the tension between the public and private roles of an Oregon state legislator involved in private economic development projects. There were significant concerns regarding his conflict of interest — particularly when it came to a development project that appeared to be subsidized by \$26 million in taxpayer dollars. After the Malheur County Economic Development Department produced unlawfully redacted documents 85 days after the request, the Reporters Committee got involved. Oregon Local Legal Initiative Attorney Ellen Osoinach successfully filed a petition urging the district attorney to immediately release the records.

Les Zaitz, the Enterprise’s editor and publisher, has encouraged smaller newsrooms to take advantage of the Reporters Committee’s support:

“Not only does it make your case stronger, but it also signals to other public officials in your state that, no, the press is not going to back down. We’re not going to take no for an answer. We are going to stand up and safeguard the public’s rights.”

— Les Zaitz, editor and publisher of the Malheur Enterprise

PENNSYLVANIA



Journalists often find themselves in the crosshairs of frivolous lawsuits meant to intimidate them and silence their reporting.

This was the case for The Caucus and two Pennsylvania journalists in August 2020, when they were sued by the political campaign

of Pennsylvania state Sen. Joseph Scarnati. After the journalists requested public records related to the lawmaker’s campaign spending, his campaign committee sued them for over \$5,000 in fees for the work allegedly done to produce the requested records.

Pennsylvania Local Legal Initiative Attorney Paula Knudsen Burke defended the journalists against the campaign’s deliberate attempt to chill newsgathering and obtained a judgment in their favor. Had this lawsuit been successful, it might have established legal precedent that would have made it much easier for political candidates to avoid public scrutiny in the future.

TENNESSEE



When things go wrong during altercations between law enforcement and

the public, oversight is key. In July 2020, journalist Marc Perrusquia submitted a public records request to the city of Memphis seeking body-camera footage from three separate incidents of alleged use of excessive force by a city police officer. The Memphis Police Department had reviewed the video footage while conducting an administrative investigation into the incidents and had concluded that the officer’s use of a taser violated the police department’s excessive force and taser policies. The city denied Perrusquia’s request. Perrusquia, a veteran Memphis journalist whose reporting has examined use of force by MPD officers, challenged the city’s response, asking for a legal basis for the denial. Tennessee Local Legal Initiative Attorney Paul McAdoo sued on Perrusquia’s behalf.

In May 2021, after the city produced the public records at no cost and issued a new written policy concerning the review of use-of-force cases, Perrusquia dismissed the case.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOIA

Access to government records is one of the most crucial legal rights for reporters and investigative journalists. It offers the transparency that we need at all levels of government in order to ensure a healthy democracy.

At the federal level, the Freedom of Information Act, commonly known as FOIA, allows the public to request records from federal executive branch agencies. All 50 states and Washington, D.C., have their own public records laws that apply to local and state government agencies.



Your donations fuel active efforts to protect FOIA and state public records laws from threats and to monitor legislative efforts or agency guidelines that could hinder transparency.

We have a number of resources available for free online to support journalists navigating public records laws — including the FOIA Wiki, our legal hotline, and the Open Government Guide — all of which connect journalists to important information about each federal and state public records and open meetings law. We also provide comprehensive trainings to newsrooms and journalists seeking to understand their rights and gain access to government records.

This work became more urgent over the past year, as many government agencies broadly cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a reason for putting public records requests on the back burner. Over 30 states modified agencies'

obligations to comply with public records laws during the pandemic. We tracked these changes and advocated for proactive release of public records online.

Holding the FBI Accountable

Concern has been growing in recent years that FOIA has tilted so far in favor of government secrecy that it is failing to serve its core purpose of ensuring the public knows what their government is up to. In 2016, Congress added the "foreseeable harm" provision to FOIA, which prohibits agencies from withholding information unless the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by the exemption, or that disclosure is prohibited by law.

A case brought by the Reporters Committee recently resulted in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issuing an opinion with the most expansive and detailed explanation of the foreseeable harm provision to date — an explanation that is sorely needed in order to give the provision teeth and sets a precedent for government transparency.

The case in question is *Reporters Committee v. Federal Bureau of Investigation*, and it began in 2007, when an FBI agent impersonated an AP editor. The Reporters Committee and the AP submitted FOIA requests seeking more information in 2014. After some of the records were withheld, the case continued for another seven years before concluding with this groundbreaking decision from the D.C. Circuit.



GUNITA SINGH

Gunita Singh is a staff attorney at the Reporters Committee. She works on litigation, policy, and amicus work, primarily around state and federal freedom of information laws while also helping reporters and news organizations with records requests.

“Government documents are often crucial components to news stories, documentary films, and other works of members of the news media, yet numerous obstacles can stand in the way of access to such records.

At RCFP, we continually push back against undue delays and unjustified denials of access to information housed by government bodies. I'm glad to be part of a team that helps journalists obtain public records that they can use in their reporting all while helping to uphold and strengthen critical mechanisms for transparency and accountability.”

Journalists' legal needs can arise in any number of places — with a struggle to gain access to records, with confusion regarding their rights at protests, or with a lawsuit that comes after the publication of a story.

One key moment in the journalistic process comes before publication, when journalists may need a lawyer to review their work and help them avoid any legal pitfalls.

Reporters Committee attorneys work closely with journalists to vet stories before they are published to reduce legal risk. This pre-publication review helps give journalists, including documentary filmmakers, confidence to pursue important investigative stories.

Over the past year, our attorneys have reviewed dozens of investigative stories for a wide range of clients, including nonprofit newsrooms, freelance journalists, and independent, investigative filmmakers.



HOW A PLAN TO SAVE THE POWER SYSTEM DISAPPEARED

In an investigation published by The Atlantic and InvestigateWest, Peter Fairley detailed how the Trump administration blocked a federal research lab's plan to modernize the U.S. power grid, which would have reduced reliance on coal and helped slow climate change.

Credit: (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)



PHILLY DA

Filmmakers Ted Passon, Yoni Brook, and Nicole Salazar followed Larry Krasner during his first term as Philadelphia's district attorney. The result was "Philly DA" — an eight-part series exploring Krasner's work for criminal justice system reform that aired on PBS in 2021.

Credit: (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



THE RUBBER INDUSTRY'S TOXIC LEGACY IN AKRON

The Reporters Committee provided pre-publication review for a series of articles by Fund for Investigative Journalism grantee Yanick Rice Lamb. The series, published through a partnership between Belt Magazine and the Center for Public Integrity, explores the toxic environmental and health impacts of the rubber industry in Akron, Ohio.

Credit: (AP Photo/Dake Kang)

GIVING JOURNALISTS THE TOOLS THEY NEED



Credit: (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File)



Credit: (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)



Credit: (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

HOTLINE

The Reporters Committee's free legal hotline is one of the oldest and most immediate forms of support for the free press we offer. Through the hotline, our attorneys provide journalists in need with a uniquely valuable one-stop shop for legal information. The hotline combines our in-house resources with the resources of a growing national network of often pro bono and low bono resources provided by firm attorneys, law schools, and local partners.

This resource was a crucial lifeline for journalists over the past year. The Reporters Committee fielded 620 requests from July 2020 to June 2021 — the largest number of requests to the hotline on record and 60% more than the year before.

Every time the Reporters Committee receives a request through our hotline, we're prepared to go to bat for the free press. Journalists contact our legal hotline with any number of concerns — and while some might have routine newsgathering questions, others might face more complicated media law issues that may require in-depth, long-term support.

- Over the past year, we noticed an increase in the number of calls from journalists facing libel threats, which can chill investigative reporting and cost thousands of dollars in legal fees.
- We fielded a number of calls from Voice of America reporters facing deportation after the then-head of the U.S. Agency for Global Media refused to renew the visa applications of its foreign-born journalists. We connected these callers to attorneys with experience handling complex immigration matters. We also filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of senior officials at USAGM who were suspended by the former CEO in 2020, arguing that their status as federal employees does not stop them from asserting their First Amendment rights.

Our assistance can last for several months after the initial hotline request. Sometimes the caller might become a Reporters Committee client. We also assist journalists by connecting them with law firms and law school legal clinics willing to assist them.



LEGAL GUIDES

Any number of legal issues can stop an investigation in its tracks: inability to gain access to public records, confusion regarding restrictions created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and more. The free legal guides published on the Reporters Committee website ensure that journalists always have resources they can turn to.

Many of our guides are the most comprehensive sources of information available regarding both federal and state laws and policies affecting journalists. These foundational sources of support would not be possible without the help of our wide network of pro bono attorneys — and our dedicated donors.

Over the past year, we updated a number of our most-used guides to better serve journalists across the country working to report in the face of an ongoing pandemic, a national election, large-scale protests, and a growing hostility toward the news media.

- We updated our Press Freedom on Tribal Lands guide, an essential source of legal information regarding press freedom issues on tribal lands located within the United States. We significantly expanded and revised this guide with the support of attorneys with tribal law experience and the Native American Journalists Association, a key partner in our Local Legal Initiative in Oklahoma.
- We updated our Police, Protesters and the Press guide to help journalists avoid arrest and understand their rights when reporting at protests.
- We also updated and expanded our Election Legal Guide to include information that focuses on the right of the public and press to access ballots, voter rolls, and the initial ballot count and recount process in several battleground states.
- We published our Pre-Publication guide, which helps journalists better assess the legal risks they may face when publishing an article or releasing a film.

TRAININGS

The Reporters Committee provides trainings on First Amendment and media law issues for newsrooms, journalists, and media lawyers. Our trainings offer valuable insight into tricky legal issues and help journalists think strategically about how to problem solve in order to get the story. We often give these trainings in partnership with other organizations, and aim to tailor them to our audience in order to provide the best support possible.

- Over the past year, we offered more than 20 trainings to help reporters understand their legal rights at protests and in connection with government-mandated curfew orders, as well as how to safely interact with police. The trainings, which enrolled more than 700 participants, were hosted by individual newsrooms such as WBUR in Boston, journalism affinity groups such as the Institute for Nonprofit News, Investigative Reporters & Editors, and the Society of Professional Journalists, and state-based broadcasters associations and journalism collectives.
- In June 2021, our Oregon and Colorado Local Legal Initiative attorneys led a practical training with Judith Matloff, journalism professor and media safety advocate at Columbia University. The training, hosted by the Reporters Committee and the DART Center for Journalism and Trauma and sponsored by Society of Professional Journalists in Oregon, covered media safety and resilience in Western rural communities when reporting on issues such as white separatism, militias, and domestic terrorism.
- At the Investigative Reporters & Editors conference in September 2020, Reporters Committee Staff Attorney Gunita Singh joined Mark Walker, the New York Times' Freedom of Information Act coordinator, and Salt Lake Tribune reporter Nate Carlisle, to discuss tips to help journalists overcome agency excuses and obtain public records during the pandemic.
- In June 2021, we received a grant from the Facebook Journalism Project designated for our hotline and the creation of a series of trainings about common legal issues journalists face.

PROTECTING REPORTERS' SOURCES

Protecting sources is integral to a free press. Reporters Committee attorneys have long fought to shield journalists from having to disclose their confidential sources and reporting materials.

By fending off subpoenas, advocating for strong, lasting federal prohibitions against obtaining journalists' communications, and filing briefs in support of journalists' efforts to avoid having to reveal their sources in court, our attorneys help ensure that journalists' confidential sources don't have to fear that they will come under government scrutiny just for speaking to the press. Removing that threat ensures the free flow of information and helps the public hold the government accountable.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

In July 2021, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced a new policy barring the Justice Department from seizing journalists' notes, work product, phone and email records, and other information. This new policy was a direct result of advocacy from the Reporters Committee and news media representatives following reports that the Trump administration had authorized prosecutors to seize phone and email records of reporters at the Washington Post, CNN, and the New York Times. These attempts to obtain journalists' data were a deliberate effort to identify confidential sources — part of a larger trend of seeking to prosecute journalistic sources as spies for disclosing government information to the news media.

This new DOJ policy is an historic win for press freedom. As Reporters Committee Executive Director Bruce D. Brown and Chairman Stephen J. Adler wrote in a guest essay for the New York Times, "It's not an overstatement to say that the new rule will increase transparency about the government's own workings, rather than allow them to be cloaked in secrecy."

The Reporters Committee's advocacy on this issue dates back many years. In 2014, we led a group of media organizations in working with the DOJ to strengthen and preserve the federal guidelines that protect journalists and news outlets from being forced to disclose their confidential sources or other

newsgathering records in the course of leaks probes or other federal investigations. Those efforts prompted then-U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to strengthen the guidelines. More importantly, they laid the foundation for the Reporters Committee's advocacy in 2021, when news broke about the attempted records seizures by the Trump administration.

In statements and op-eds, the Reporters Committee immediately demanded answers and reforms. We mobilized to revive the dialogue group that had previously helped strengthen the news media guidelines years earlier, and we quickly helped organize two high-level meetings with Justice Department officials, including Attorney General Garland, and leaders of major news organizations to discuss the need for strong, lasting rules to ensure that such abuses of power never happen again.

With your generous support, we will continue to work with news leaders and officials as the Justice Department's new policy is drafted into a formal regulation and to urge federal legislators to enshrine the new rule in law.



Credit: (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

“ The goal must be to ensure that such abuses never occur again.”
— Bruce Brown, Executive Director of the Reporters Committee

HELPING LOCAL, FREELANCE JOURNALISTS FEND OFF SUBPOENAS

Government efforts to obtain journalists' sources and records can create a significant challenge for reporters, especially independent journalists and freelancers. The Reporters Committee often provides support to news organizations and reporters struggling to fight back against subpoenas.

In Virginia, Reporters Committee attorneys were successful in quashing a subpoena seeking the confidential sources and work product of freelance journalist Zachary Petrizzo in connection with his reporting on right-wing provocateur Jack Burkman. As our attorneys argued in a motion to quash, the subpoena appeared to have been issued “primarily to burden and harass a non-party journalist who accurately reported on issues of significant public concern.”

Reporters Committee attorneys also helped stop a subpoena threat against Justin Wingerter, a former reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal. The Kansas Attorney General's Office sought several years of records that Wingerter used to report news stories for his former newspaper and for his book published in April 2021, “Four Shots in Oskie.” Reporters Committee Senior Staff Attorney Sarah Matthews agreed to represent Wingerter. But after notice of the subpoena gained publicity, including comments from Wingerter and Matthews, the attorney general's office dropped the demand for the journalist's records.



PROTESTS

There were 438 physical attacks against journalists in 2020, according to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker.

Ninety-one percent of those attacks occurred as journalists covered nationwide protests following George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Law enforcement was responsible for 80% of the assaults at demonstrations, and the majority of journalists attacked appeared to be deliberately targeted by police.



Credit: (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)



Credit: (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

In October 2020, Reporters Committee attorneys Sarah Matthews and Gabe Rottman appeared before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to discuss press freedom in the United States. Sarah testified that while protests are always some of the most dangerous places for journalists, the number of attacks and arrests increased dramatically last year.

The Reporters Committee has worked extensively to respond to the alarming trend of arrests and use of force by law enforcement against journalists during the protests. We authored letters to government officials, organized coalitions of media and press freedom advocates, trained journalists on their legal rights, fielded a record number of hotline calls from journalists facing threats, and updated our comprehensive legal guides to meet the growing demand for support. We also coordinated with local criminal defense attorneys to help expedite the release of journalists arrested while covering the protests.

The Reporters Committee filed several friend-of-the-court briefs in a class-action lawsuit against the city of Portland, Oregon, on behalf of journalists targeted by law enforcement while covering Black Lives Matter protests. We filed one of our briefs to strongly urge U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon not to require journalists to register or obtain a license in order to receive legal protections while covering protests. During a hearing, Judge Simon thanked us for our brief and said he was no longer considering this restriction.

Having led this effort locally, we took our concerns to the national level when we pressed Attorney General Merrick Garland to make legal protection for journalists a part of any Justice Department investigation into policing across the country. Our letter was signed by 90 news organizations and journalism groups, an indication of the extraordinary consensus around this issue.



Reporters Committee attorneys responded swiftly to support journalists as they faced attacks and arrests while covering protests against police brutality and racial injustice.

Reporter Andrea Sahouri from the Des Moines Register was acquitted in March on two charges stemming from her arrest last May while covering a protest. We issued a statement strongly condemning the decision to prosecute her. While we are relieved the jury rightfully found Sahouri not guilty on all charges, we remain concerned for others in similar predicaments.

We also helped support Josie Huang, a journalist for National Public Radio member station KPCC who was violently arrested in September 2020 while reporting on a protest in Los Angeles.

Huang was violently and unlawfully arrested by Los Angeles County deputies after she recorded them tackling a peaceful protester on a public street. She was tackled to the ground, suffering physical injuries, and arrested — despite wearing her credentials and identifying herself as a journalist. She spent five hours in jail before being released.

Following her arrest, LASD officials made several false claims, including that Huang failed to identify herself as a journalist, that she “ran towards the deputies” and “interfered with the arrest,” and that she “ignored repeated commands” to stay back. This led to a flood of racist and misogynistic slurs and violent threats directed at Huang. Substantial video evidence shows that those statements are false, yet LASD has not retracted them. In video recordings of the incident, Huang can be heard clearly and

repeatedly telling the deputies that she was a journalist for KPCC. She was also wearing a visible press badge that identified her as a reporter.

Huang’s charges were dropped after Reporters Committee lawyers, joined by dozens of media companies, wrote a letter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department condemning her arrest.

“ Journalists in Los Angeles County should be able to record police activity in public without fear of retaliation. As the public’s eyes and ears, we must be able to cover protests and document how law enforcement responds to those protests.”

– Josie Huang, reporter for KPCC

THE POWER OF LOCAL SUPPORT

Much of our work helping journalists during protests, including the local coalition letters sent to government officials in Minnesota, New York, Colorado, California, and Washington, D.C., would not have been possible without the support of our local partners and volunteers.



“Over the past year and a half, the treatment of and disdain for journalists has been troubling, to say the least. It’s especially a concern for freelance journalists, who may have neither the name recognition of more established journalists, nor the resources of a large media organization behind them. It’s been an honor to help RCFP support these freelancers and others, all of whom are doing crucial work.”

– Leita Walker
Ballard Spahr attorney

In 2020 and 2021, Minnesota-based media attorney Leita Walker of Ballard Spahr provided indispensable help, frequently agreeing to be available for urgent, after-hours assistance to journalists who called our hotline as they covered protests in Minnesota. Following demonstrations resulting from the fatal police shooting of Daunte Wright in April 2021, she sent a letter to Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and law enforcement officials expressing concern about the mistreatment of journalists during these protests. The letter, which was joined by the Reporters Committee and a coalition of news media organizations, highlighted numerous reports of officers attacking, arresting, dispersing, and detaining journalists despite a court order prohibiting the targeting of journalists at these protests.

Walker also led the dialogue between a media coalition that included the Reporters Committee and 21st Century Policing Solutions, a law enforcement consulting group. This series of meetings and focus groups were designed to inform a report for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety with recommendations on best practices in policing future demonstrations.

Walker, a former journalist herself, co-authors several of the Reporters Committee’s free legal guides, including the Minnesota chapters of our Open Courts Compendium, Open Government Guide, and Privilege Compendium, as well as the Eighth Circuit chapter of our Privilege Compendium. Our guide authors help ensure that our legal guides offer journalists across the country the comprehensive, accurate information they need to gather and report the news in their states.

EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR JOURNALISTS OF COLOR

In 2020, Borealis Philanthropy and the Reporters Committee partnered to expand pro bono legal support for independent journalists and news organizations that produce news for communities of color across the country. Supported by a generous investment of \$100,000 from Borealis Philanthropy's Racial Equity in Journalism Fund, the Reporters Committee welcomed Kamesha Laurry as our first Borealis Racial Equity in Journalism Fund Legal Fellow.

This new legal fellowship was established to better identify, support, and address the legal needs of journalists of color, and newsrooms led by and primarily serving people of color. It was created in direct response to the threats and other legal challenges journalists have faced, including access issues while covering the COVID-19 pandemic, which have disproportionately impacted communities of color.

Kamesha works alongside other Reporters Committee attorneys to provide free legal assistance with cases involving unlawful detention, prior restraint, court access, public records, and other First Amendment issues facing journalists and newsrooms led by and for people of color. She also helps respond to journalists' legal questions and emergencies through the Reporters Committee's hotline.



NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Thanks to an initial \$245,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Reporters Committee is joining forces with Microsoft and Davis Wright Tremaine to develop a national pro bono media law network to further support local journalists. The initiative will seek to expand the Protecting Journalists Pro Bono Program, a pilot program launched last year by Microsoft and Davis Wright Tremaine.

The pilot program created a pool of volunteers, drawn from Davis Wright Tremaine's premiere First Amendment and media law practice and Microsoft's in-house legal department, to work with reporters and small news organizations that are not otherwise able to afford legal support to help them defend their legal rights. As part of our effort to expand the pilot program, our Pro Bono Director, Flavie Fuentes, will survey the legal needs of journalists across the U.S.; work with nonprofit and local newsrooms, law school clinics, and legal services organizations to promote interest in the initiative; and seek additional law firms and corporate legal departments to join the program.

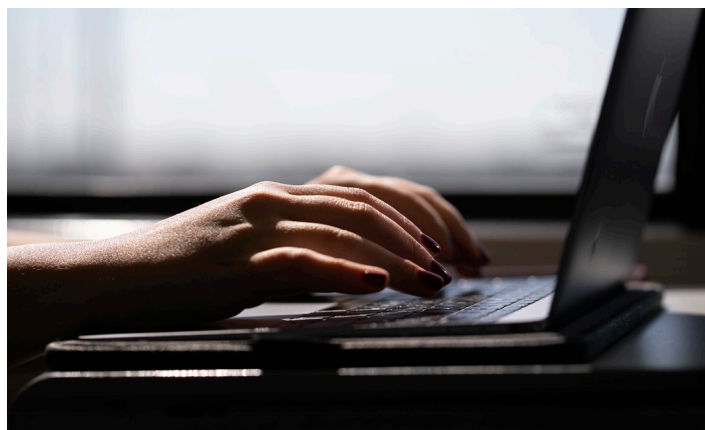
COORDINATING LEGAL CLINIC COLLABORATION

Over the past two years, the Reporters Committee has worked on two fronts to support the education of law students interested in defending the First Amendment.

In 2019, the Reporters Committee and Yale Law School's Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic launched the Free Expression Legal Network, a coalition of law clinics and academics that has grown to more than 30 law schools. We provide the essential staff infrastructure, host the website, manage communications, and support special projects.

We have supported new clinics and connected clinicians working on similar topics for learning and collaboration. In the fall of 2020, FELN launched a joint project to survey police policies that impact the press. Students from FELN-member clinics compiled relevant policies from major police agencies across the country, and the group is now working to analyze those policies, summarize them, and develop recommendations for improvement. The goal is to build a public database so that journalists can benefit from the collective information. Josh Moore of the Reporters Committee and Tyler Valeska formerly of the Cornell First Amendment Clinic coordinate the project and are working closely with the National Press Photographers Association and First Look Media. Josh's work has been generously supported by the Lodestar Foundation and First Look Media's Press Freedom Defense Fund.

Further, Reporters Committee attorneys are now in their third year as adjunct faculty running the First Amendment Clinic at the University of Virginia School of Law. This past fall, supported by a grant from the Legal Clinics Fund, Legal Fellow Ian Kalish joined the Clinic's team to coordinate the daily work of the students and build connections with local journalists who can benefit from the Clinic's assistance. The Legal Clinic Fund, for which the Miami Foundation serves as fiscal sponsor, is generously supported by The Abrams Foundation, Democracy Fund, Heising-Simons Foundation, and The Klarman Family Foundation.



Credit: (AP Photo/Jenny Kane)

50 years A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

When COVID-19 started spreading across the globe in early 2020, we were forced to cancel our May 2020 Freedom of the Press Awards dinner and 50th anniversary celebration. That milestone celebration was rescheduled for September 2021.

The 2021 Awards, which took place online on Sept. 28, 2021, was hosted by Kristen Welker, co-anchor of "Weekend TODAY" and NBC News Chief White House Correspondent.

Freedom of the Press AWARDS 2021

J. Scott Applewhite

Senior Photojournalist
The Associated Press

Theodore J. Boutros, Jr.

Partner
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Julie K. Brown

Investigative Reporter
The Miami Herald

Amal Clooney

Co-Founder and President
Clooney Foundation for Justice

Jane Mayer

Staff Writer and
Chief Washington Correspondent
The New Yorker

RISING STAR AWARD

Laura Moscoso

Centro de Periodismo Investigativo

FRED GRAHAM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Tony Mauro

Contributor
ALM Media Properties, LLC

Saundra Torrey

Retired Member
USA TODAY'S Editorial Board



OUR SUPPORTERS

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press would like to thank the following organizations and individuals who supported our work between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

We are so grateful to our Leadership Circle donors, individuals who gave \$1,000 or more cumulatively in this period.

Stephen J. Adler
Anonymous
J. Scott Applewhite
Elizabeth Bass
Alan Berlow and Susan Blaustein
Frank Blethen
Wolf Blitzer
Theodore and Helen Boutrous
Bruce Brown and Amy Rifkind
William and Debra Bulkeley Fund
Marcia L. Bullard and Thomas J.
McNamara Charitable Gift Fund
Massimo Calabresi and Margaret Emery
John Callery
Chalfont Fund
Charles Hazlehurst Moura Family
Foundation
Ann Chernicoff and Josh Perles
Steven and Leora Copeland
Dan and Nancy Gift Fund
Lauren Davis
Charlie Debevoise
Richard Delay
Karen E. Detlefsen
Lori Droste and Carrie Gray
Ari Epstein
The Roger and Katherine Feintheil
Charitable Fund
Charles and Joan Filson
In memory of co-founder Murray Fromson
by Dodi Fromson and family
Harold Fuson and Pamela Fuson
Manuel Garcia
Emilio Garcia-Ruiz
The Gardenfam Fund of the Jewish
Community Foundation
Alex Gibney and Anne Debevoise
David Giles
Susan Goldberg and Geoffrey Etnire
Golden Family Fund
Peter Gould
Karen Hagberg and Mark Jackson
Laura Handman
John and Patricia Henry
Ann Horowitz
Fawn Horvath and Dimitri Detsaridis
Clark Hoyt and Linda Kauss
Diego Ibargüen

Jensen and Moyer Revocable Trust
Charitable Fund
Mari Jensen
Jacqueline Kinney
Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family
Fund
Brian Krebs
Joel Kurtzberg
Thomas Leatherbury and Patricia Villareal
Nancy Leavens Fund
Jacqueline Lewis
Margaret Low and Kinsey Wilson
Dave Margulius
Chris and Kathleen Matthews
Tony Mauro
Jane Mayer and Bill Hamilton
Mary McCabe and David Peirce
David McCraw
Maggie Mulvihill
David Nell
Colleen McCain Nelson
Kari Palazzari
Norman and Jane Pearlstine
Andrea and Alan Pendleton
Pratt Family Fund of Berkshire Taconic
Community Foundation
Lor and Susannah Randall
Roger Runningen
Nina Russell and Thomas Rubin
Shea/Stokes Family Fund
Rebecca Sherman
Amanda Silver
Jennifer Sondag
Steven P. Starkovich
Paul Steiger and Wendy Brandes
Catherine Sullivan
Michael Sweeney
Sherri and Adam Symson
Sandra Taub
Pierre and Alyson Thomas
Wiebe Tinga and Johannes Eijmberts
Jennifer and Charlie Wood
Robert and Dorothy Wortmann
David Wright
Kenneth and Anna Zankel
Kristin and H. Zisson

THANK YOU

RECURRING DONORS

We also express our deep gratitude to donors who make recurring gifts, whose regular support creates greater financial stability.

Javiera Alarcon
Jacob Albertson
Merv Arnold
Tresa Baldas Elrick and
Michael Elrick
Ryan Baldwin
Elizabeth Bass
Matthew and Amanda
Beddingfield
PJ Bednarski
Alice Bender
Kristin Bergman
Bernard Birnbaum
David and Barbara Boardman
James Bollinger
Jeremy Borden
David Brown
Matthew Cameron
Patrick Carome
Julio-Cesar Chavez
Mary Clark
Jonathan Comack
Brittany Coombs
Aida Molina Cooper
Janet Cooper
Andrew Craig
Stephen Cummings
Benjamin Cush
Carol Daniels
Katharine Dickson
Jennifer Dimond
Lorenzo Di Silvio
Alice Dreger
Sarah Earl-Anderson
Casi Finstad
Emily Fischvogt
Madeline Fishburn
Mary Jo Fishburn
Helen French
Manny Garcia
Allison and Daniel Gardenswartz

Judy Gayer
Sidney Gibson
John Goodgame
Joseph Green
Suzanne Griffith
Frederick Hall
Linda Handelsman
Anna Haugen
Pamela Herzenberg
Stephanie Hogan
Fawn Horvath
Kate Kelly
Diane Kennedy
Laura King
Olga Kreimer
Lila LaHood
John Lammers
Joyce Landes
Katharine Larsen
Michelle Laubin
Elaine LaVelle
Kaytie Lee and Michael Smith
Melissa Leedle
Kevin Lerner
Charles R.E. Lewis
Daniel Lyons
Cathy Machado
Linda Mains
David Martens
Sarah and Michael Matthews
Colleen McCain Nelson
Steven McGarrity
Fielding M. McGehee III
Christopher and Rebecca
Middendorf
Robyn Mohr
Maggie Mulvihill
Sean Oberle
Michael Oskin
Jesse Oxeld
Kari Palazzari

Jennifer Pelton
Kirsten Poole
Sandra Quinn
Kristen Rasmussen
Alexis Raymond
Thomas Rezanka
Frances Robles
Danny Rodriguez
Rachel Rosenberg
Linsay Rousseau Burnett
Amy Saltzman
Cheryl Sattler
Paula Seligson
Nathan Siegel
Chas Sisk
Philip Snead
John Stange
Steven P. Starkovich
Juliana Staveley-O'Carroll
Reuben Stern
Edward Stumpf
Anne Supplee
Sara Thierman
Paul Voosen
Al Wasser
Jacob Wilson
Stephanie Wong
Wood Family Charitable
Gift Fund
Sun Ah Young
Kristin and H. A. Zisson

“Thank you, thank you, thank you ... I appreciate all of your work, always, but especially now when journalism is one of the most important efforts to save our country. I am not overstating this. What you do is crucial and important.”

— Karlene Goller, The Law Office of Karlene Goller and Of Counsel Jassy Vick Carolan

DONORS

\$600,000 and Above

The John S. and
James L. Knight Foundation

\$200,000 to \$599,999

Anonymous
Democracy Fund
Ford Foundation
John D. and Catherine T.
MacArthur Foundation
Craig Newmark Philanthropies

\$100,000 to \$199,999

Abrams Foundation
Chan Soon-Shiong
Family Foundation
Facebook Journalism Project
Heising-Simons
Family Foundation
Inasmuch Foundation
The Klarman Family Foundation
Legal Clinic Fund with the
Miami Foundation
Robert R. McCormick Foundation
The E.W. Scripps Company

\$50,000 to \$99,999

The Morton K. and Jane
Blaustein Foundation
Borealis Racial Equity in
Journalism Fund
The Dow Jones Foundation
Hollywood Foreign Press
Association
Rockefeller Philanthropy
Advisors/Present
Progressive Fund
Stanton Foundation
TEGNA Inc.

\$25,000 to \$49,999

The Associated Press
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Lodestar Foundation
Press Freedom Defense Fund

\$10,000 to \$24,999

ABC News
Borger Family Foundation
Cable News Network, Inc.
Charina Endowment Fund
Discovery, Inc.
Dow Jones & Company, Inc. Fox
News Network LLC

David & Katherine Moore
Family Foundation
News Media Alliance
Scripps Howard Foundation
The Snider Foundation
Bernard and Anne Spitzer
Charitable Trust
Sustainable Grantmaking
Partners Fund
TIME USA, LLC
Williams & Connolly LLP

\$5,000 to \$9,999

America's Charities
The Diamonstein-Spielvogel
Foundation
Gartner, Inc.
Gannett Foundation
George Kaiser Family Foundation
National Press Photographers
Association
Real World Media

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Anonymous
BuzzFeed
CCS Fundraising
DJR Trust Foundation
Forbes, Inc.
Edward E. Haddock, Jr.
Family Foundation
The Petchers Foundation
Rachel Brown Fund

\$500 to \$999

Anonymous
Anne K. Sawyer Atkisson
Terry Atlas
Karen and Grant Bogle
Mark Bollinger and
Margaret Ackerley
Steve Boms
Margaret Carter
The Caterpillar Foundation
Craig Etlin and Leslie Gordon
Lee Crain
Jennifer Dervin
Monica Dias
E.J. Dionne
Eli Dickinson and Kat Zambon
Laura Dunphy and
Michael Erlinger
Monica Brand Engel
David Firestone

Patricia Fluhrer
Beth Frerking
Mary Gilmer
Linda Greenhouse and
Eugene R. Fidell
Karen Hansen
Rebecca Schulman Havemeyer
Sidney and Carole Hurlburt
Kimberly B. Jaske
David Johnson
The June Shih Charitable Fund
on behalf of Josh Gerstein
Karen Kaiser
Julia Kazaks and Judd Volino
John Kennedy
Kenneth Vittor and Judith Aisen
Charitable Fund
Robert and Hale Krasne
Vinca LaFleur
Richard Landesberg
Larry Cooper and
Becky Copeland Charitable Fund
Laura Siegel Larson
David Lauter
Elizabeth Layne
Herbert Finlay Lewis and
Wilda E. Lewis
Chris Lhamon
John and Martha Lubell
Jesse Manocherian
William McDonald
John O. Membrino
Robin Metalitz
Robert and Sheila Mitchell
Kevin and Patricia Murphy
Danielle Murr-Pinsker
Andre Needham
James Neff
Lida Orzeck
Pignatello Family Fund
Sarah Rabil
Gregg Ramshaw
Louise Reynolds and
James Kuhnenn
Nina Reznick
Carol Rosenberg
Tonda Rush and Nereide Ellis
Kelli Sager and
Steven Rosenwasser
Ilene Stahl
Eliza Sweren-Becker
Nabiha Syed and Nana Ayensu
Richard Tofel



Barbara Wall
Jon Weist
Casey Wright
Lance Brendan Young
Zocalo Media

\$100 to \$499


Steven J. and Barbara Andrist
Boon Ang
Anonymous
Robert Armstrong
Association for Education
in Journalism & Mass
Communication (AEJMC)
Charles R. Babcock
Ann Baker
Barbara Baker
Ian Banta
Rick Beaudette
Virginia Belloni
John and Valerie Bender
Patricia Bennis
Gary and Lynn Benton
Nathaniel Bergson-Michelson
Gail Berney
Fabio Bertoni
Scott Bittle
Malcolm A. Borg
Linda Bowen
Andrew Boyko
Julie Bram
Steven Brenner
John Brewer
Matthew Budman
Cecily Burleson
Arthur Bushkin
Tim Callahan
Peter Canfield
Richard and Susan Carelli
John Carlin
Elliot Carlson
Case
Jamie Chabinsky
Irwin and Arlene Chapman
Jeremy Chase
Christopher Cherry

Holly Cimo
Alexandra Clifford
Douglas and Margaret Clifton
Caroline Corbin
Dena Cornett
Jennifer Costa
Barbara Croll Fought
Philip Currie
Sandra Dauenhauer
John Daugherty
Lillian Davidson
Natalie Deffenbaugh
Tom Del Savio
Nimish Desai
Grace Dietzman
Franklin Dillman
Lynne Dobson
Walter Donaldson
Kelly Douglas
Miriam Droller
Liisa Ecola
Karin Endy
Jordan Engel
Kathleen Enright
Priscilla Eshelman
Evan Evanson
Sally and Craig Falkenhagen
Myron and Sabine Farber
Mark Feldstein
Linda Fibich
Ken Fireman
Kris Fischer
William Fish
Paul Fontelo
Kelsey Fraser
Ira Friedrich
David Fuchs
Anne Gavin
Gregory Geissman
Sarah Gibor
Drake Gibson
Sidney Gibson
Kristina Gilbertson and
Munro Meyersburg
Barbara and Stephen Gillers
Michael Giudicessi

Andrew and Eleanor Glass
Olivia Golden
Daniel and Nina Goodman
Kathy and David Gordon
Sue Graham
Meg Grant
Lloyd Green
Harry Greenwald
Paul Gretch
Alan Grinberg
Joe and Cathie Hajdu
Jon Hart and Meg Stevens
Robb Harvey
Beth Haverkamp
Christopher Hollon
Robert Homan
C. Douglas Howard and
Andrea Chase Fund
Nancy Hoyt
The Huckins Family Fund
Susan Israel
Todd Johnson
Alan Johnson and Carol Falk
Grant Jones
Burt and Michele Kaliski
Donald Kaplan
Samuel Kaplan
Joshua Karlin-Resnick
Matthew Kauffman
David Kaufman
Thomas Kelley
Saundra Keyes
Gideon Killion
Peter Kissel
Alice Kleeman
Lorinda Klein
Daniel Kleinman
Donna Koch
David Koskoff
Jennifer Krazit
Otto and Tina Kreisher
Robert Kunzendorf and
Elizabeth Ritvo
Barbara Helene Lafer and
Deborah Scher
Wells Lawson

“ I am a full-time investigative reporter covering US law enforcement and crime, as well as transportation safety. I believe in RCFP’s mission because I believe in mine, and RCFP’s mission supports my work.”


— Jay Horowitz, Reporters Committee donor and producer of Real World Police



Virginia Leech
Lepage O'Connor Family Fund
Warren Lerude
Ben Leubsdorf
Jeremy Levine
Lee Levine
Mark Lewin
David Lewis
Charles R.E. Lewis
George Lewis
William Lewis
Patrick Liddiard
Sheryl Lincoln
Mark Looker
Neil Mackenzie
Ruth MacNaughton
Anne H. Magoun Fund
Terry Maguire
Deborah Mandell
Robert and Dolores Maney
Jean Manning
Glynn Mapes
Alexis Marion
Robert Markowitz
Susan Marlow
Maris and David Mazie
Paul McAdoo
Ryan McCarthy
Jack McDonald
James McLaughlin
Maggie McLetchie
Frank McPherson
Betty Medsger
Seema Lal Meehan
Aviva Meyer
Eugene L. Meyer
Alan Miller
David Miller
Floyd Miller and Jane Broendel
Daniel Mintz
Philip Moody
Steven Morstad
Roger Mudd
Judy Muller
Linda Museum
Kedar Narayan
Robert and Freddie Nelon
David Nelson
Jeff and Anchsah Nesmith
Keith Nokes and
Nuria Gine-Nokes
Darlene Nolin
Kandis Nunn

Olivia Nyhan
Saniya O'Brien
Rik O'Neal
Karen E. O'Neil
Philip Obbard
Henry Oden
Mary Olson
Carol Ostrom
Patsy Palmer
Theda Parrish
Grant Penrod
Erika Petersen
The Phyllis and
Barry Cytron Fund
Mark Popovich
Jeffrey Portnoy
Elaine Povich
Evan Pulvers
Laura Quigg and Bjorn Flesaker
Joe Quintana and Joann Hamick
Arthur Ravenel
Sean Reilly
Marcia Rhoads
Stuart Richter
Margaret Rigg
Barbara Rissman
Robert Wood Johnson
Foundation
Lawrence Roberts and
Nancy Walz
Jennifer and Diane Rohan
Bruce Rosen
Marcus Rosenbaum and
Lyn Ingersoll
Robert and Faye Rosenblatt
Seth Rosenfeld
Robert C. Rothhouse
Roger and Marsha Runningen
S. L. Safferstone
Elizabeth Sammis
Charlie Savage
Rosa Schechter
Tom Scheck
Peter Scheer
Mark and Diane Schleifstein
Stanley and Kay Schlozman
Steven Schlozman
Russ Schriefer
Henry Schuster
Bruce Schwartz
Nora Schweizer
Richard Sedano
Andy Segal

Charles Sennet
Nancy Shuman
David Simpson
Jeffrey Smith
Hedrick Smith
Joshua Smith and
Katherine Seeburger
The Sonja West and
Robert Fezekas Family Fund
at the Athens Area Community
Foundation
South Dakota Newspaper
Association
Emily Spivack
Carol B. Stapp, PhD
Cliff Stein
Margaret Stern
Roger and Florence Stone
Hans Thomas
Mary Anne Tillona
Cotten Timberlake
Rachel Tobin
Nina Totenberg and
H. David Reines
Zachary Tracer
Julie Lou Tripp
Jan Tuckwood
Lorna Veraldi and
Michael Van Dyk
Ron Victor
Jeff and Kathy Vlaming
Valerie Wales
Robert K. Warner
Elizabeth Webster
Ann Weinhardt
Betsy Weis
Stephen Wermiel
Larry White
Lisa Whiting
Steven Wilker
Kyle Willett
Rebecca Wilsker
Scott Wilson
Ron Winslow
Jenifer Winter
Elida Witthoef
David Wood
Paul Woody
Lorna Wright
Clara Wu
David Yanofsky and Kate Pynoos
Thomas Zabriskie
Rich Zahradnik




Donald Zancanella
Bradley Zeve
Cynthia Zoll
Sarah Zollman
William F. Zorzi

\$1 to \$99

The Aerospace Corporation
Andrea Alday
Bruce Alpert
Candy Altman
Jill Anderson
Barbra Apfelbaum
Patricia Aronsson
Cesar Arredondo
Cheryl Arutt
Cheryl Arvidson
Paul Baltes
Dena Barisano
Deborah Barnett
Janice Baroway
Geoffrey Baum
Mina Bee
Beer
Haim Beliak
Amye Bensenhaver
Kathleen Benson
Roger Bernstein
Kerry Black
Blackbaud Giving Fund
Brad Blackman
Carrie Blazina
Virginia Bleyer
James Blitz
Vanessa Blum
Laurence and Laurel Blumberg
Kevin Bohn
Courtney Bond
Walter Borges
Alisa Bralove-Scherr
Jean and Joel Bratt
Jess Bravin
Lylle Breier
Wendy Brennan
Norman and Judy Brewer
Oliver Brewer
Jane Briggs-Bunting
Olivia Bruce
Karen Brumer
Debra Bruno
Marjorie Burchett
Marian Burros
Deborah Burstein

Sandra and Jeffrey Burt
Kylie Callan
Billy Calzada
Debra Camden
Mary Carey
Robin and Carl Carlson
Tara Carruth
Molly Carson
Jeff Carter
Laura Castro
Yvonne Chang
Marc D. Charney
Pamela Chassin
Margie Chodorow
Kimberly Chow
Frank Cipolla
City News Service -
CNS Press, LLC
Alexandra Coburn
Doris Cohen
Beverly Colbert
Don and Nell Colburn
Jeanne C. Conerly
Sarah Connell
Kim Cook
Courtney Cooperman
Alfredo Corchado
Carla Cox
Andrew Craig
Claiborn Crain
William Creeley
Jacqueline Curtin
Barry Cutler
Marc Danielian
Robert Dato
Dawson Ryan Associates
Anthony Dean
Robert Decker
Richard Del Rio
Leah Deskins
Linda Deutsch
Virginia Dorell
Allison Douglas
Barbara Douglas
Collin Douglas
William Downing
Laure and Richard Drake
Karen Drygas
Adelaide Duckett
Sharon Duckman
Thomas Duddleston
Douglas Eby
Robert Egelko


Jane Eisenberg
Joseph Esposito
Sarah Evans
Carlos Ezquerro
Christopher Faille
Rachael Feigenbaum
Stephanie Feinerman
Nina Feldman
Margaret Feldmeier
Donna Ferullo
Prentiss Findlay
Juliet Fine
Susan and Marty Fino
Beth Fouhy
Fox Corporation
Richard Freedman
Samuel Freedman
Carole Fuller
James Gerstenzang
Todd Gillman
Mark Godfrey
Deborah Goldsmith
Seth Goldstein
Becky Gonzalez
John Gravois
Joe Grebmeier
Brenda Gregory
Gregory Guise
Narendra Gupta
Jessica Hahn
Marc Halberstadt
Jakob Halpern
Leora Harpaz
Peter Harris
Patricia Hart
Casey Harwood
Brendan Healey
Andrew Hedges
Spencer and Wendy Heinz
Ray Helmers
Adelia Henderson
John Herde
Flory Herman
Robin Herrmann
Robert Hershey
Tina Hester
David Hill
Kirsten Hill
Sam Hodges
Marcia and David Hoexter
Keith Hoffman
John Holbrooke
Fred Holden



Tara Holt
Christy Hoppe
Kelly Horein
Cynthia Huffman
Sam Hyman
International Monetary Fund
Aaron Inver
Lisa Jackman
William Jacober
Laura Jacobus
Sharon Jayson
Camilla Johnson
Timothy Johnson
Kathryn Jones
Caitlyn Jordan
Laurie Joseph
Lynne Joyrich
Carol Kaplan
Frank Kauffman
Mary Kay and John Keegan
Abe Kenmore
Tom Kessler
Benjamin Kimmel
Margaret Klancnik
Katherine Kleeman
Frederick Klein
Kay Knowles
Barbara Kohn
Barbara Kommer and
Kurt Koenig
Richard Krainin
Frances Kramer-Sulyok
Victoria Kupetz
Alison LaBarge
Kenn Lamson
Joyce Landes
Josh Lappen
Ginny LaRoe
Keith Lau
Michelle Laubin
Jeremiah Laughlin
Elaine LaVelle
Patricia Leary
Heather Lee
Althea Legaspi
Kate Lenz
Daniel Lepage
David Levine
Connie Lewin
Jan Liff
Sharon Lightner
Elizabeth Lindqwister
Benjamin A. Lipman

Randy Loftis
Debbie Logsdon
Andrea Lundy
Mary Lyons
Dean Mair
Michael Maness
Margaret Manning
Elisa Mantey
David and Linda Maraniss
Jeremy Margolis
Mia Massicotte
Martha W. Mast
Martha Mast
Pamela Matheson
Kevin Mathieu
Bill McCloskey
Ann McDonald
Jennifer McLaughlin
Steve McMahon
Sean McMinn
Ben Medina
Michael Mellick
Ana Mendez
Arthur Meyer
William Miller
Priya Miller
Richard Millstein
Morton Mintz
Kim Mondelli
John Monk and Jennifer Amor
Marc Montoya
J.C. Moore
Lisa Robin Morales
Kristin Moran
Mo Mozuch
Elizabeth Murphy
Paul Murray
Cynthia Myers
Phyllis Naef
Chris Nardi
The Neiers Family Fund
Mya Nelson
Robert Neuhaus
Diane Newman
Thomas O'Donnell
Kevin O'Shaughnessy
Sarah Ortlip-Sommers
Rudolf Owens
Michael Palmer
Juan Palomo
Benjamin Palumbo
Jim Parsons
Janice Patterson

Kim Perales
Aaron Petty
Alexa Philippou
Craig Phillips
Nancy Picker
Avery Pierce
Sophia Pintar
Katelyn Polantz
Barbara Porebska
Stella Porto
Wayne M. Powell
Joyce Power
Carmen Ramirez
Suzanne Ravenel
Leslie Ray
David Redic
Matthew Reese
Marya Repko
Damaso Reyes
Kevin Riley
Peter Roof
Melissa Root
James Rubin and Adell Crowe
Linda Ruffa
Nicole Russo
Salesforce
Heather Samuels
Jan Sarvis
Ellen and Robert Scalett
Stanley Scheinman
Doug Seserman
Jeannette Shawl
Mark Sherman
Maria Short
Franklin Siegle
Sikorovsky Family Fund
Harvey Silverglate
Janet Silverman
Margot Sims
SiriusXM
Charles Sisk
John Michael Slocum
Morgan Snook
Jan Sonnenmair
Michael Soraghan
Ram Srinivasan
Barbara Stark
Ada Statler
Teresa Statler
Kara Stein
Janet Stemwedel
Carl Stern
Reuben Stern



Ruth Sternglantz
Kaitlyn Strycker
Sophie Stuber
Lea Stublarec
Hema Subramanian
Michael and Lori Sullivan
Dawn Szerszen
Ed Taylor
Betty Teller
Emily Thomas
David Thompson
TJ and Kathy Thompson
Tom and Susan Thoren
Zoe Tillman
Jerianne Timmerman
Tisbest Philanthropy
Susan Topor
Hector Torres
Alan Trivette
Alexandra Tsai
Karen Tumulty
Patricia and James Turner
Owen Ullmann

United Health Group
Marilyn Urwitz
Nuri Valbona
Vanguard Charitable
Ann Veneman
Peeranut Visetsuth
Claire Vogel
Lindsay Vogelsang
Sharon Wagner
Bill Walker
Mary Walsh
Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.
June Watzman
Carl Wedoff
Kathryn Wehr
Norman Weinfeld
Jordan Weir
Deb Wenzel
Abigail White
Mary Wicks
Karen Wilber
Robert Wildau
Kay Williams

Roslyn Williams
Michelle Windmueller
John Wood
Kristina Wroblewski
Randall Wynn
Norah Xu
Peggy Xu
Martin Yant
Michelle Yerger
Bernice Yeung
Sydney Yockey
Chris Young
Mara Zimmerman
Gabi Zolla
Michael Zuercher

ENDOWMENT

We also express our deep gratitude to donors who make recurring gifts, whose regular support creates greater financial stability.

Stephen J. Adler
J. Scott Applewhite
Martin Baron
Wolf Blitzer
David and Barbara Boardman
Richard Boehne
Theodore and Helen Boutrous
Bruce Brown and Amy Rifkind
Massimo Calabresi and
Margaret Emery
Manuel Garcia
Josh Gerstein and June Shih
Alex Gibney and
Anne Debevoise
James Grimaldi
Laura Handman

Diego Ibarguen
Jeremy Jojola
David Lauter
Margaret Low and Kinsey Wilson
Colleen McCain Nelson
Maggie Mulvihill
James Neff
News Corp
Norman and Jane Pearlstine
Robert and Arlene Rifkind
Rifkind Family Foundation
Thomas Rubin and Nina Russell
Bruce and Marilou Sanford
Charlie Savage
Scripps Howard Foundation
Jennifer Sondag

Paul Steiger
Adam and Sherri Symsom
Pierre Thomas
Matthew Thompson
Saundra and Jack Torry
Vickie Walton-James
Ted and Sheila Weschler
Judy Woodruff and Al Hunt
Susan Zirinsky

“I am proud to say that I was one of the first paid employees of the Reporters Committee, back in 1973 ... I am happy to be a contributor to a group that gave *me* so much as a 20-something.”

— Fielding M. McGehee III, Reporters Committee donor and former staff member

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The following information is from the Reporters Committee's Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year spanning Jan. 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020. Our operating budget for 2020 was \$4,370,898.

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, ACCRUAL BASIS



Legal Defense and Research	\$2,645,964
Fundraising	\$818,859
Management and General	\$906,075

REVENUE



Contributions and Grants	\$4,509,489
Interest and Dividends	\$222,885
Program Services	\$50,073
Other Income	\$6,931

ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES, ACCRUAL BASIS

Current Assets

Cash and equivalents	\$ 2,546,057
Contributions and grants receivable	\$ 1,116,231
Prepaid expenses	\$ 113,573
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 3,775,861

Other Assets

Grants and contributions receivable-long term, net of discount	\$ 507,000
Investments	\$13,396,942
Property and equipment, net	\$ 532,072
Security deposits	\$ 36,595
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	\$14,472,609

TOTAL \$18,248,470

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 51,260
Accrued expenses	\$ 127,898
Deferred contributions revenue	\$ 318,337
Deferred rent, current portion	\$ 27,298
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 524,793

Other Liabilities

PPP loan	\$ 464,400
Deferred rent, net of current portion	\$ 617,408

TOTAL \$ 1,606,601

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions

Undesignated	\$ 7,940,437
Board designated long term capital requirements	\$ 1,096,518
TOTAL NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 9,036,955

With donor restrictions	\$ 7,604,914
-------------------------	--------------

TOTAL \$16,641,869

Throughout 2020, the Reporters Committee provided important pro bono legal support to journalists as they worked to produce the news in the face of seismic changes around the globe. Our work over the past 12 months would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors.

2020 saw many shifts at the Reporters Committee — an adjustment to remote work and virtual support of journalists; the addition of several new fellowship positions; and the full launch of the Local Legal Initiative, the most significant expansion in our history. All of this work was accomplished while sustaining the docket of comprehensive legal services that we have provided for over 50 years.

As COVID-19 continued to spread internationally in 2020, the resulting economic changes impacted our fundraising efforts. The Reporters Committee applied for and received two loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (one, in May of 2020, for \$464,400; and one, in February of 2021, for \$553,005) to enable us to continue to meet journalists' need for legal support. Thanks to your generous support in previous years, as well as your continued support in 2021, we remain on strong financial footing.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Copies of current financial statements are available on our website at <https://www.rcfp.org/annual-report/>. You can also receive them upon request by contacting the Reporters Committee at 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 1020, Washington, D.C., 20005 or by telephone at 202-795-9300.

OUR TEAM

STAFF

Anna Gutierrez Bahn
Digital Communications Associate

Bruce D. Brown
Executive Director

Emily Brown
Litigation Legal Fellow
2020-2021

Grayson Clary
Stanton Foundation National
Security/Free Press Fellow
2020-2022

Sasha Dudding
E.W. Scripps Legal Fellow
2021-2023

Samantha Espinosa
Finance and Operations Manager

Mailyn Fidler
Technology and Press Freedom
Legal Fellow
2020-2021

Madeline Fishburn
Grants and Special Projects
Coordinator

Flavie Fuentes
Pro Bono Director

Kathryn Elizabeth Gardner
Local Legal Initiative Attorney -
Oklahoma

Emily Gayton
Audience Engagement Fellow

Verna Gibson
Development Coordinator

Audrey Greene
Inasmuch Foundation Legal Fellow
2020-2021

Charlie Hogle
Media Litigation Fellow
2021-2023

Shannon Jankowski
Senior Legal Fellow
2021-2022

Rachael Johnson
Local Legal Initiative Attorney -
Colorado

Ian Kalish
Legal Fellow
2020-2022

Annie Kapnick
Legal Fellow

Paula Knudsen Burke
Local Legal Initiative Attorney -
Pennsylvania

Madeline Lamo
Media Litigation Fellow
2019-2021

Kamesha Laurry
Borealis Racial Equity in
Journalism Fund Legal Fellow
2020-2022

Brittany Lower
Data Specialist

Adam Marshall
Senior Staff Attorney

Sarah Matthews
Senior Staff Attorney
2017-2021

Paul McAdoo
Local Legal Initiative Attorney -
Tennessee

Mohsin Mirza
Inasmuch Foundation Legal Fellow
2021-2022

Linda Moon
Stanton Foundation National
Security/Free Press Fellow
2018-2020

Josh Moore
Strategic Initiatives Manager

Jordan Murov-Goodman
Columbia Law School Public
Interest Fellow
2019-2020

Jennifer Nelson
Senior Staff Attorney

Amelia Nitz
Deputy Communications Manager
2017-2021

Ellen Osoinach
Local Legal Initiative Attorney -
Oregon

Demetri Papageorgiou
Senior Litigation Paralegal

Jennifer K. Pelton
Director of Development

Kirsten Poole
Director of Business Operations

Gabriel Rottman
Director of the Technology and
Press Freedom Project

Gunita Singh
Staff Attorney

Jenn Topper
Communications Director

Katie Townsend
Legal Director

Chris Vachon
Lead Campaign and Major Gifts
Manager

Gillian Vernick
Technology and Press Freedom
Project Fellow
2021-2022

Caitlin Vogus
Senior Staff Attorney
2015-2021

Lyndsey Wajert
Technology and Press Freedom
Legal Fellow
2019-2020

Melissa Wasser
Policy Analyst
2018-2020

Lin Weeks
Staff Attorney

Tiffany Wong
Jack Nelson/Dow Jones Foundation
Legal Fellow
2021-2022

Christopher Young
Editorial Coordinator

Lisa Zycherman
Deputy Legal Director and Policy
Counsel

Special thanks to all of the interns
and volunteers who worked with us.

PRESORT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT No. 972



REPORTERS COMMITTEE

FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

1156 15th Street NW, Suite 1020
Washington, DC 20005

202-795-9300 • 800-336-4243

RCFP.ORG