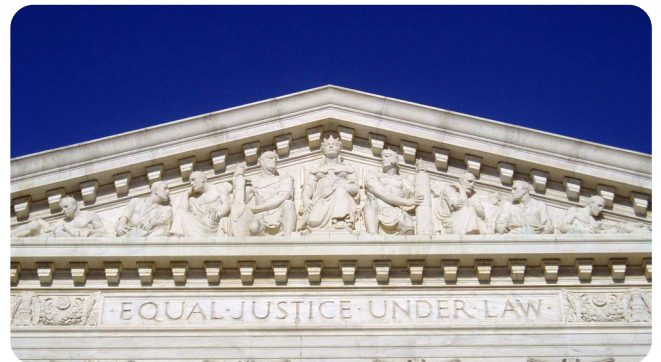


### PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES; BUILDING CAPACITY

In 2024, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press expanded our rapid-response capacity, laying the groundwork and positioning ourselves to counter to attacks on First Amendment freedoms and newsgathering rights. We're more prepared than ever to defend America's free press at the local, state, and national level — *all without charging a penny to the journalists and newsrooms we serve.*

### ADVOCATING FOR THE FREE PRESS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Last year, Reporters Committee attorneys defended journalists against subpoenas for their sources, protected newsrooms facing retaliation and threats for their reporting, and pushed back on government interference in the very newsgathering activities that keep our communities informed.



- In more than 60 matters across state and federal courts, our attorneys filed new lawsuits against city officials, state agencies, the Pentagon, and more, challenging everything from the sealing of a prison contractor's wrongful-death settlements to county officials' refusal to disclose police misconduct records.
- The free legal support Reporters Committee attorneys provided to journalists and news organizations fueled important investigative reporting — stories that revealed new details about the police killing of Tyré Nichols in Tennessee, exposed oversight problems in Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program, and provided a fresh perspective on the origins of the Iraq War, through the eyes of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.
- The Reporters Committee's work in 2024 extended beyond the cases our attorneys directly litigated on behalf of journalists and newsrooms. The Reporters Committee also filed more than 35 friend-of-the-court briefs championing the cause of press freedom, often joined by large media coalitions.
- In state courts, we repeatedly fought for greater government transparency, including the release of police body-worn camera footage. In federal appeals courts, we challenged warrantless cellphone searches at the border and highlighted threats to the editorial independence of the news media. And in the U.S. Supreme Court, we urged the justices to affirm the U.S. Constitution's most basic guarantee of a free press: the right to ask questions of government officials.

### PREPARING FOR THE 2024 U.S. ELECTION

To stand up for their rights, journalists must know their rights. In 2024, with elections on the horizon, we launched our Election Legal Guide (available in English and Spanish) to address top-of-mind questions for journalists covering races up and down the ballot throughout the country. Our attorneys trained more than 2,400 journalists, media attorneys, students, and others on First Amendment and media law issues, including with partners like the International Women's Media Foundation and the National Press Photographers Association.



We also readied our response to potential press freedom threats that could arise during the election and beyond, hiring a full-time staff attorney to oversee our free Legal Hotline and handle journalists' increasing demands for urgent legal support.

**SAFEGUARDING AGAINST EMERGING THREATS**

After the polls closed, the Reporters Committee shifted our focus to emerging legal needs, including threats journalists face when covering mass demonstrations. Press freedom violations often occur during protests, where journalists can face assaults or arrests that interfere with their ability to gather and report the news. To better protect reporters in those situations, we trained both law enforcement and journalists in best practices for police-press interactions at demonstrations, based on recommendations we helped secure from the U.S. Justice Department.



The DOJ recommends journalists display credentials, but for many small nonprofit and startup news organizations, cost was an obstacle. So we partnered with the Institute for Nonprofit News to provide press credentials to newsrooms in its network. The credentials give journalists, especially those from small and nonprofit newsrooms, an easy and direct way to identify themselves as members of the media when interacting with law enforcement. The Reporters Committee's free Legal Hotline number is printed on the back to ensure that reporters can get immediate legal help in the event of an emergency.

Finally, as newsgathering needs and legal risks have evolved, we are updating and adding to our extensive collection of free reporting resources. We published a comprehensive legal guide to reporting on immigration and deportations, (in English and Spanish), and created a specific tipsheet to help journalists access public records while reporting on immigration. Through training and consultations, we are also helping nonprofit newsrooms better understand how to protect themselves in the face of increasing threats to their nonprofit status.

**MEETING THE LOCAL NEED**

Through our expanding Local Legal Initiative and ProJourn network, the Reporters Committee provides local journalists and newsrooms with the dedicated free legal support they need to keep their communities informed in the face of a growing culture of government secrecy. This legal support ensures transparency in local government and fuels hard-hitting investigative reporting.



Our Local Legal Initiative program expanded to Indiana in 2024, and it continues to transform the local news landscapes in Colorado, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

- With free legal support from our Colorado attorney, The Sentinel Colorado successfully challenged the city of Aurora in court over violations of the state's Open Meetings Law for the second time, setting an important precedent for transparency across the state.

- Our Tennessee attorney helped The Daily Memphian secure surveillance footage showing correctional officers physically assaulting inmates at a local jail.
- In Pennsylvania, our local attorney helped journalist Brittany Hailer reach a historic settlement with Allegheny County that forced officials to revise several policies that barred jail employees from speaking with news media.
- And our Indiana attorney represented a newspaper in an open meetings lawsuit that prompted a local school board to adopt new transparency reforms.

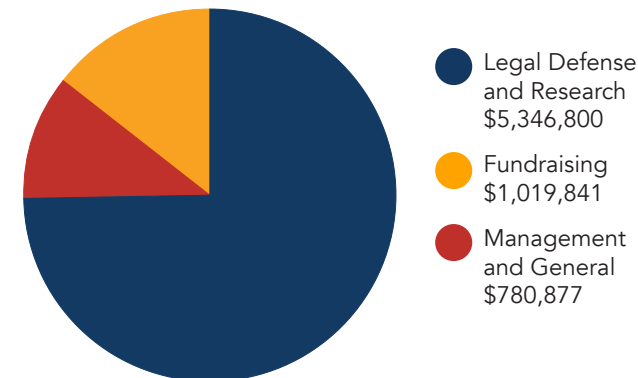


In 2024, ProJourn's pro bono network empowered newsrooms to break big stories and safeguard against legal risk.

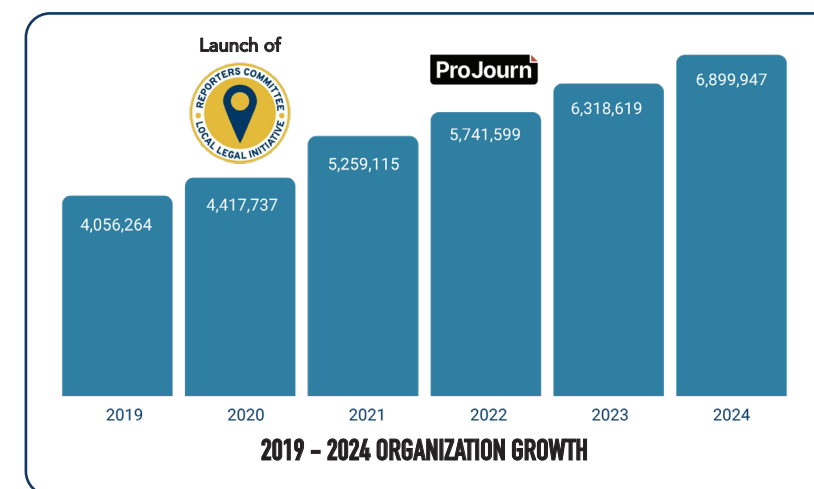
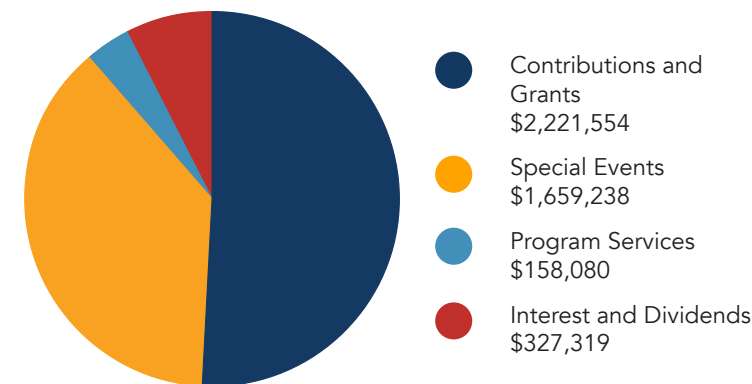
- ProJourn connected InvestigateWest with attorneys from Covington & Burling LLP to vet the nonprofit newsroom's investigative series exploring a potential Medicaid fraud scheme linked to an Idaho anti-trafficking nonprofit. The series ultimately sparked a federal investigation into the safe house program.
- ProJourn expanded to Illinois to fill a growing need for free legal assistance in the state, supporting nonprofit news organizations and independent journalists to tell important stories about local government, as well as bringing legal services to bilingual and Spanish-language newsrooms.

The following information is from the Reporters Committee's Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year spanning Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024.

**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES, ACCRUAL BASIS**



**REVENUE**



**ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND FUND BALANCES, ACCRUAL BASIS**

**Current Assets**

Cash and equivalents	\$ 2,867,747
Grants and contributions receivable, current	\$ 1,280,493
Prepaid expenses	\$ 66,818
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,215,058</b>

**Other Assets**

Grants and contributions receivable-long term, net of discount	\$ 287,770
Investments	\$15,621,784
Property and equipment, net	\$ 254,463
Operating lease right-of-use assets, net	\$ 1,671,906
Security deposit	\$ 36,235
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b>\$17,872,158</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,087,216</b>

**LIABILITIES**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts payable	\$ 63,090
Accrued expenses	\$ 64,582
Accrued vacation	\$ 172,850
Operating lease liability, current portion	\$ 371,410
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 671,932</b>

**Other Liabilities**

Operating lease liability, net of current position	\$ 1,785,811
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,457,743</b>

**NET ASSETS**

**Without Donor Restrictions**

Undesignated	\$ 8,760,751
Board designated quasi-endowment	\$ 1,354,920
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>\$10,115,671</b>
With donor restrictions	\$ 9,513,802
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,629,473</b>

Our work over the past 12 months would not have been possible without the generous support of our individual and institutional donors, many of whom are identified in this annual report. 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 P.O. Box 34176, Washington, D.C., 20043 or by telephone at 202-795-9300.

## The Reporters Committee is deeply grateful to all of our individual and household supporters.

The list below represents all individuals and households who donated over \$1,000 in 2024 and are recognized as part of our Leadership Circle.

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## Foundation, corporate, media, law, and nonprofit funding support is vital to sustain our legal impact.

We are grateful to organizational supporters whose contributions over \$1,000 were received in 2024, listed below by category. Due to space considerations, funding at lower levels is not included, but we are grateful to all of our institutional partners.

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2024 Freedom of the Press Award winners with host Martha Raddatz, ABC News' chief global affairs correspondent (left to right): Mazin Sidahmed, Sisi Wei, Maria Hinojosa, Stephen Paul Engelberg, Martha Raddatz, Jason Criss (Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP), Josie Huang.



Photos by Meridith Kohut

The Reporters Committee honored pioneers in journalism and law at the 2024 Freedom of the Press Awards on Oct. 16 in New York. The event raised more than \$1.8 million to support and defend the free press for years to come.

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**MARIA HINOJOSA**  
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**JOSIE HUANG**  
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The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press provides pro bono legal representation, amicus curiae support, and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

Donations to the Reporters Committee help to protect the right to gather and distribute news; to keep government accountable by ensuring access to public records, meetings, and courtrooms; and to preserve free speech and a free press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS



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**PROTECTING PRESS FREEDOM AND THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS SINCE 1970**

**2024 HOTLINE CALLS**

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

