



‘CHILDREN AND LAW’ John Jay/Tow 2016 Reporting Fellows

Jeremy Arias

Jeremy Arias has been the Crime and Public Safety reporter for *The Frederick News-Post* in Frederick, Md., since August 2016. A native Marylander, he spent most of his career covering crime and breaking news, with earlier stints at *The Patriot-News/PennLive.com* in Harrisburg, PA, and the *Montgomery County Gazette* in Gaithersburg, MD. For six months in 2008, he was a general assignment reporter for AM Costa Rica, in San Jose, where he also covered crime. Awards include first place in the MDDC Press Association (2010) for environmental reporting. Jeremy says he is ‘drawn to hyper local, community papers where I can see my stories have an immediate impact, and spark discussions among readers.’

Sarah Barr

Sarah Barr is Washington correspondent for *The Juvenile Justice Information Exchange* and *Youth Today*, both published by the Center for Sustainable Journalism—where she focuses on telling stories about children and their families, and the policies that affect their lives. Previously, she covered schools, nonprofits and local government for *The (Raleigh) News & Observer*, and health care policy for BNA and *Kaiser Health News*. Sarah has contributed to *The Washington Post*, *National Journal* and MSNBC.com. She reports that she is “comfortable deep in the policy weeds” but also “loves crafting character-driven features.”

Ron Berler

Ron Berler is a freelance writer who has devoted much of his career to reporting on youth issues. For more than two years, he wrote a weekly column on youth issues for the *Chicago Tribune*, and also served as editor in chief of *NBA Inside Stuff*, a pro basketball magazine for tweens. For nine years, he has volunteered as a mentor for troubled boys in the public schools in Norwalk, CT. He is the author of “Raising the Curve: A Year Inside One of America’s 45,000 Failing Public Schools”, and has spoken about the book at universities and correctional

institutions. One inmate, a former gang member, sent him a letter, unsolicited, to give to the wayward fifth grader he was mentoring at the time, advising the boy not to follow his path. "I've been interested in this man and his fellow inmate-students ever since," writes Ron.

Edith Brady-Lunny

Edith Brady-Lunny is a legal affairs reporter for *The Pantagraph* in Bloomington, IL. She began her journalism career in 1976 as a reporter for *The DeWitt County Observer*—an award-winning weekly that she later earned. She has also been a reporter in California and Michigan, and has written for a number of magazines. Most recent honors include: the Associated Press Award for Enterprise Reporting (2015), the Illinois Press Association award for Community Service reporting (2014), and the Abraham Lincoln Media Award from the Illinois Bar Association (2012).

Elyssa Cherney

Elyssa Cherney covers courts in Central Florida's most populous region for the *Orlando Sentinel*. Her reporting on the jailing of indigent people who failed to pay court fines prompted officials to end the practice and lower interest rates on overdue fees. As part of the *Sentinel's* breaking-news team, Elyssa also covers homicides and traveled to Bell, Fla. to report on a domestic murder-suicide that claimed eight lives and shook the small town, a story that made national headlines. In 2015, Elyssa was accepted to a four-day seminar on the legal system, called "The Journalist Law School," hosted by Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. A Chicago-area native, Elyssa began work at the *Sentinel* in 2014 after graduating magna cum laude from Northwestern University with a double major in journalism and gender studies. She loves her dog and is still learning how to drink hot coffee in Florida's climate.

Sara Corbett

Sara Corbett has been a contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine* since 2001, writing about everything from the plight of Sudanese refugees in the U.S., to child-trafficking in Cambodia, and the life and times of the world's best 12-year-old baseball pitcher. Her work has also appeared in *Elle*, *Outside*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Esquire*, *New York*, *Mother Jones*, *Travel and Leisure*, *The Times of London*, and *National Geographic*, as well as in numerous anthologies. Her reporting on the impact of industrial chemicals on an American family earned her a 2007 "Front Page" award from the Newswoman's Club of New York. Her work has been nominated three times for National Magazine Awards, including a 2009 nomination for feature writing. She is the co-author of the 2013 *New York Times* bestseller "A House in the Sky."

Tessa Duvall

Tessa Duvall joined *The Florida Times-Union* in Jacksonville, Fl., as the education, children and families reporter in December 2014. Her reporting focuses on the issues that affect children and families living in Northeast Florida, including juvenile justice, mental health and child safety. Her reporting on the transformation of a troubled, urban school led to her busting the myths of “bad schools” as a speaker at TEDx Jacksonville in October 2015. She graduated with bachelor’s degrees in journalism and sociology from Western Kentucky University in December 2013, and spent a year reporting on education from the dusty oil fields of West Texas before moving to the Sunshine State.

Judy Ellich

Judy Ellich has been a reporter at the *Somerset (Pa.) Daily American* since 20014. Her news career began at *The Alexandria (Va) Gazette* in 1976, and she has since worked for a variety of newspapers, magazines. In 2014 she received honorable mention from the Schurz Communications Inc for best explanatory journalism for her story, “Murder Detailed.” Other honors include first place in the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors competition for Best Spot News Reporting (2010). She received her JD from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2001, and was co-author of a paper on “Credibility and Perceptions of Network News Coverage of the O.J. Simpson Trial” that was honored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Erica L. Green

Erica L. Green is an Education Reporter for *The Baltimore Sun*, where she has also covered breaking news, crime, education, government, and investigative reporting. She was a finalist this year in The Pulitzer Prize’s Breaking News category as part of the paper’s staff covering the death of Freddie Gray and the Baltimore riots. In 2015, she placed first in the National Awards for investigative reporting on education, given by the Education Writers Association. Erica received a Master of Science in journalism, with a concentration in reporting and writing from the Medill School of Journalism, at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. She began delving into Maryland’s juvenile justice system as part of a *Baltimore Sun* series following the Baltimore unrest, where she identified Gray as one of thousands of youth who were derailed by the system.

Kate Howard

Kate Howard is a writer at the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting. A veteran investigative reporter specializing in higher education and government accountability, her work has highlighted the need for reforming “pill mills” in Florida that drew customers from as far away as Kentucky, and caused a community college to reign in administrative spending. She

worked as a news reporter for nearly five years at *The Tennessean*, covering crime, courts and transportation. She also spent more than three years at the *Florida Times-Union* covering higher education, health and crime issues, and more than two years writing about higher education at the *Omaha World-Herald*. Kate is originally from Rhode Island and graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I.

Archie Ingersoll

Archie Ingersoll is a staff reporter for *The Forum of Fargo-Moorehead*. A Washington, D.C., native and Columbia University graduate who's been in the news field since 2005, he has largely focused on criminal justice and public safety. After a stint as a government and education reporter in Dickinson, N.D., he covered crime and courts in Grand Forks, N.D. at the Fort Wayne (Ind.) *Journal Gazette*. As an enterprise reporter in Fargo, he specializes in "watchdog" and investigative pieces. "I don't have an assigned beat," he writes. "But I seek out stories that shine a light on the criminal justice system." Among his recent coverage topics are clergy sexual abuse, untested rape kits, and the shortage of addiction treatment options in North Dakota.

Jimmy Jenkins

Jimmy Jenkins is a senior producer at the Phoenix NPR station, KJZZ. His work has been featured nationally in *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace* and *Here and Now*. "I was born to cover Criminal Justice," he writes. "My father was a Sheriff for 30 years (and) while I have an MA in Journalism, my undergraduate degree is in Criminal Justice." Recent stories have focused on prison education, small-time drug dealers, and simulation technology used in training police officers

Caitlin Johnson

Caitlin Johnson is co-founder and managing editor of *SparkAction* in Brooklyn, NY, and freelances at other outlets, where she specializes in social programs, public policy and child/youth issues. She has written for *City Limits*, *Yahoo News*, *Nation's Cities Weekly*, *KidsHealth*, among others---and has been a Casey Journalism Fellow. Caitlin is a strong believer in the power of creative technologies to engage and move audiences, and enable authentic youth voice. This passion led her to co-found *SparkAction.org*, a journalism and advocacy platform to mobilize action for and by young people. Caitlin holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Virginia, where she was a Hoynes Fellow and was awarded a Poe Fellowship. Her fiction has appeared in *Five Points*, *Gargoyle* and other journals.

Anne Jungen

Anne Jungen covers law enforcement and the criminal justice system for the *La Crosse Tribune*, a daily newspaper in western Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor's in Mass Communication with an emphasis in journalism from Winona State University in 2005, and is a graduate of the Poynter Institute's post-graduate fellowship writing program. In her decade with the *Tribune*, she was honored with four Golden Gavel awards from the Wisconsin Bar Association for outstanding legal coverage that deepens the public's understanding of law and the justice system; and countless other awards from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association for reporting excellence. She lives in La Crosse with her husband and their three-year-old daughter, Abigail.

Rebecca Klein

Rebecca Klein has been *The Huffington Post's* education editor since May 2013, where she also writes regularly on issues facing schoolchildren around the country and serves as a liaison between education bloggers and the site. Previously, she worked as a producer for New York Public Radio. A 2012 graduate of Brandeis University, she wrote her senior thesis on the similarities and differences between Boston and Atlanta's school desegregation processes. She describes her "passion" as writing about children's issues.

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams

Juleyka Lantigua-Williams, a staff writer at *The Atlantic Magazine*, where she covers criminal justice, has been a writer and editor for 15 years. She was a nationally syndicated columnist with the *Progressive* magazine's Media Project, where she penned opinion columns on a broad range of issues, including women's rights abroad, the environment, U.S. immigration, maternal health, national and international politics, and Latinos. Her articles have appeared in *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *The Los Angeles Times*. Juleyka has served as a mentor for National Public Radio's Next Generation Radio training program. She is also a writer of young adult fiction.

Rachel Lippmann

Rachel Lippmann has been with St. Louis Public Radio since 2008, most recently as the courts and public safety reporter. Before that, she spent two years in Michigan covering state government. A native of St. Louis, Rachel has a bachelor's degree from the Medill School of Journalism and a master's degree in public affairs reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is active in the local Jewish community, and serves on the boards of the local affiliate of the Northwestern Alumni Association, and the Illinois News Broadcasters Association. She is a "mom" to a rescue mutt, a Big Sister to a wonderful Little, and a runner to keep herself sane.

Maya Miller

Maya Miller is the deputy news editor at the *Jackson Free Press* in Jackson, Miss. A recent graduate of Jackson State University, she studied psychology and child development, as well as early education for children with mental-health issues. She has covered criminal justice and crime in Jackson as well as policing practices and crime prevention strategies. She is working closely with Editor-in-Chief Donna Ladd and other team members on a juvenile justice project, funded by the Solutions Journalism Network, that seeks to find and vet potential solutions for every component of Mississippi's juvenile justice system.

Irene Plagianos

Irene Plagianos is a reporter for *DNAinfo* New York, an online news site dedicated to New York City news. When she joined *DNAinfo* three years ago, she began covering Manhattan Criminal Court, and breaking crime stories. Her enterprise reporting included a first look at what was then a new youth court pilot program in the state. Previously, she was a reporter for *American Lawyer* Magazine, covering complex litigation, corporate deals, the business of law and legal trends; and worked as a metro reporter for *The New York Post* and *The Journal News*. Her stories have been published in *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and other newspapers. Irene has a B.A. in History from Columbia University, as well as a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Kristy Plaza

Kristy Plaza is a writer for *Witness LA*, where she has covered child sex trafficking and the responses of the city and the LAPD. A recent graduate of the USC Annenberg School of Journalism, she has reported on multiple media platforms, including print, radio, TV and digital. A Spanish-speaker, she has covered issues ranging from gentrification to minority representation and women's health policy. "I knew I wanted to be a journalist since seventh grade," she writes.

Casey Quinlan

Casey Quinlan, an education reporter at *ThinkProgress*, has covered current school desegregation plans, harsh student discipline and zero tolerance policies and their effects on college admissions, and how the concept of "grit" can be damaging to disadvantaged students, among other subjects. Besides education reporting, she has covered politics, LGBT issues, and women's rights issues for publications such as *The Legislative Gazette*, *The Atlantic*, *The Establishment*, *City Limits*, *Nerve*, and *Bitch Magazine*. She also covered justice issues, such as the relationship between trans women and police and the culture of the S.E.C. for *The Crime Report*

Nissa Rhee

Nissa Rhee is a correspondent with *The Christian Science Monitor* in Chicago, where she covers criminal justice and police accountability issues, with a special interest in peace and justice issues. Her reporting over the last ten years has taken her from Black Lives Matter protests in Chicago to bomb demolition sites in central Vietnam. Nissa began her career as a producer at Chicago Public Radio, and went on to become a foreign correspondent reporting in Asia for a variety of print and radio outlets. Her work has appeared on Radio Netherlands Worldwide and in the *Chicago Reader*, among other places. In recognition of her work as a journalist, Nissa was awarded a 2011-2013 Rotary Peace Fellowship at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. She received her BA from the University of Chicago and her MA in International Studies at the University of Queensland. A portfolio of her work can be found at www.nissarhee.com.

Scott Selmer

Scott Selmer is an experienced trial attorney who recently graduated from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and plans to write as a freelancer on justice issues. He earned his JD from the University of Wisconsin and went on to serve as attorney and CEO of the St. Paul (MN) Urban League. He has interspersed stints in private practice with work as a substitute teacher (K-12). "As an experienced trial attorney," he writes, "I know the virtual unbridled power and influence of judges" in the juvenile justice system, and plans to examine the issue of judicial selection for his fellowship project.

Jennifer Swift

Jennifer Swift is founding editor of *D.C. Witness*, a website created to track and report on every homicide in Washington, D.C. A multimedia journalist, she has covered politics, education and criminal justice for the New Haven Register and Connecticut Magazine. She reported on the Sandy Hook school shooting, the Boston Marathon bombing, natural disasters, and other major news events. She has also investigated politician and police misconduct. Her work on these topics earned her several awards from the Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists and a fellowship with the New England First Amendment Institute in 2014.

Alana Victor

Alana Victor writes for *the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*. She's a recent graduate of the University of Southern California where she earned BA degrees in print and digital journalism from the Annenberg School of Communications and Journalism, and in International Relations from the Dornsife School of Letters, Arts and Science. She lived in Buenos Aires for six months, where she studied at the Universidad de San Andres. In 2015, she worked as a creative associate for *Palaround*, a smartphone app startup. Recently, she teamed up with Kirsty Plaza of *Witness LA* to report on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

DanielleWolffe

Danielle Wolffe is a writer and resident fellow with the Carey Institute for Global Good in Rensselaerville, NY, where she is working on a multimedia series exploring the experiences of 55 women sentenced to mandatory juvenile life without parole—with the first piece expected to air on NPR's *All Things Considered* this summer. A recipient of a George Polk Grant for Investigative Reporting, her 15-year writing career has produced work in *Outside*, *the Huffington Post* (regular blogger), *Alaska*, *The Associated Press*, *The Elephant Journal*, *Telling Our Stories Press*, *SOCO*, *Salt*; on *Weekend America*/*American Public Media*. She has also done extensive volunteer work in prisons and re-entry programs.