

Cops, Reform & Justice

JOURNALISTS attendees

Christina Acosta was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2014 and studied English with a concentration in Professional Writing with a minor in Women's Studies. Her first experience in the newsroom started in earnest at KSAT-12 in San Antonio Texas, an ABC affiliate where she was responsible for creating video packages, writing online content and script copy for the evening news broadcast. She is currently a reporter for *La Prensa of San Antonio*, a bilingual publication, and a freelance writer for Edible San Antonio Magazine.

Ximena Alvarez is the research specialist for KENS 5 and a board member for the San Antonio Association of Hispanic Journalists. With three years of experience in television, Ximena previously served as assignment editor for Telemundo San Antonio where she directed the nationwide project of Clear the Shelters for NBC/Telemundo. A native of Mexico City, Alvarez graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013 with a bachelors in journalism but has lived most of her life in San Antonio, TX. Alvarez once served as an ambassador for Rotary International Exchange from 2006-2007 in France. She is fluent in French, Spanish, Portuguese and English but also has knowledge in Japanese and Arabic.

Jacob Beltran is the evening public safety reporter for *the San Antonio Express-News*. He has been with the paper since 2012 where he began as an editorial assistant writing obituaries. He covered crime and spot news before fully transitioning to the public safety beat in 2014. His journalism career began in 2010 with *The Ranger* at San Antonio College. He helped grow *The Mesquite* at Texas A&M-San Antonio, serving as Editor-in-Chief and other positions from 2012 to 2015. He established the university's Society of Professional Journalists chapter and helped the online publication win awards from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conventions.

Keri Blakinger covers breaking news, crime and civil unrest for the *Houston Chronicle* through the Hearst Fellowship program. Previously, she covered overnight breaking news for the *New York Daily News* after two years covering county and town government for the *Ithaca Times*. She is a Cornell graduate who does not miss Ithaca winters.

Christine Bolaños is an award-winning Texas-based freelance writer based in Austin, Texas. As a 2016 International Women's Media Foundation fellow, she reported on women's development and rights in El Salvador. She covers government, education, human interest features and business for numerous international, national and local outlets. The proud Salvadoran-American's work has most recently been published in *NPR Latino USA*, *News Deeply*, *Latina Style Magazine*, *Cox Media Group*, *The Crime Report*, *Fusion* and *Orphan Outeach*. She is a first-generation college graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and journalism from Baylor University.

Mikaela Cannizo is a third year student at the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a Bachelor of Journalism and a certificate in the Business Foundations Program. Her main interests are in business journalism and financial reporting, but she has also reported on a wide range of topics including a focus on crime and public safety. Through her pursuit as a print journalist, she has contributed articles to *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Daily Texan*. Currently, she is covering the 85th session of the Texas Legislature for the *Texan* and works as a writing coach at the Moody Writing Support Program. She will be interning at the *Dallas Business Journal* this upcoming summer.

Brian Collister is an award-winning Investigative Reporter with the KXAN Investigative team specializing in uncovering fraud, corruption, and government waste. In 2017, Brian's investigation into the racial profiling records of Austin Police and the Texas Department of Public Safety was recognized with an Alfred I. DuPont – Columbia University Award. Brian's investigations have resulted in the criminal convictions of public officials, passage of new laws and embezzled public funds being returned to taxpayers. Brian is a licensed private investigator, a member of the national organization of Investigative Reporters and Editors and a board member of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. He attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville and received a degree in Broadcast Journalism. Brian got his first television reporting job in Bryan, Texas and later moved to Austin where he was an investigative reporter for five years. He has also worked at WOAI-TV in San Antonio and KTRK in Houston before returning to Central Texas. Brian's work has delivered results to many Texas communities and has been awarded with multiple regional Emmys.

Sam DeGrave is a reporter covering criminal justice reform efforts in the 85th Texas Legislature for the *Texas Observer*. Before moving to Texas in January, he worked for the *Juneau Empire*, a daily newspaper in Alaska's capital, where he covered city government and the goings-on of other panhandle communities. Sam grew up in the mountains of western North Carolina. He holds degrees in sociology and English from NC State University.

Emilie Eaton is a criminal justice enterprise reporter at the *San Antonio Express-News*, where she has extensively covered a recent surge in homicides, the creation of a police-community relations task force, and a federal lawsuit regarding an officer-involved shooting. Prior to that, Emilie spent two years at *The Cincinnati Enquirer* covering child poverty. Her work has been honored in the Hearst National Journalism Awards and the Society of Professional Journalist's Region 11 Awards, among others. In 2015, she was one of 30 students selected to participate in the Hearst 55th Annual National Journalism Awards Championship out of 1,150 students. Her articles and videos have been published by *USA Today*, *NBCNews.com* and *The Center for Public Integrity*, among others.

Tanya Eiserer is an award-winning criminal justice reporter who joined the staff of WFAA-TV in 2014. Eiserer previously worked for *The Dallas Morning News*, as well as papers in Abilene, Omaha and Fort Worth. She is a tenacious reporter who has covered many high-profile North Texas stories. Eiserer broke the story about former Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins' misuse of forfeiture funds to cover up an accident he had in a county vehicle. Eiserer won an Emmy last year for her series of stories on lax security at local North Texas reserve

bases. Eiserer, a Texas native, graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in journalism.

Veronica Gallegos works as a News Reporter for Telemundo KVDA San Antonio. For Telemundo Gallegos reports on the latest and most important news for viewers in the San Antonio area. Gallegos joined Telemundo 60 in 2014. Prior to joining Telemundo, Gallegos worked as news reporter for KGBT Action 4 News in the Rio Grande Valley from 2012 to 2014. Gallegos has also worked as a reporter for general assignments for KUPB in Midland, Texas from 2011 to 2012. Gallegos is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists; National Lesbian Gay Journalist Association; DFW Communicators, the Dallas-Fort Worth area journalist organization and the San Antonio Hispanic Journalists Association. Gallegos received a Bachelor of Arts in Audio Journalism from the University of North Texas, Denton.

Lyanne Alexia Guarecuco is a legislative fellow covering the 85th Texas Legislative Session for the *Texas Observer*. She mainly covers women's reproductive health and immigration and border issues, including the ongoing statewide sanctuary cities debate. Previously, she graduated from St. Edward's University where she studied Communication and Journalism, and was the Editor in Chief of *Hilltop Views*, the campus newspaper. Lyanne is originally from Laredo, Texas, where she grew up speaking both Spanish and English and frequently crossing the border to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Katie Hall has been reporting on breaking news – which includes public safety, government and more – for the *Austin American-Statesman* for the past two years. Previously, she wrote about issues in western Travis County, primarily local government and education, for the *Statesman*. Before that, she covered criminal justice for *New York Times*-owned community papers in southern Louisiana, including Hurricane Isaac's landfall and its aftermath.

Kristian Jaime has covered regional and national politics and legislation for nearly 18 years for both English and bilingual media outlets such as *La Prensa of San Antonio*, *Somos Primos* and his own online outlet, *March Magazine*. His coverage has also been carried by numerous publications as a freelance journalist. His photographic work during the 2008 and 2012 Presidential elections were featured on CNN regional coverage of the Southwest. Jaime, originally from the border city of El Paso, Texas, has always been steeped in international policy and immigration issues. Thus leading him to cover The White House fervently.

Philip Jankowski is a public safety reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*. He has been reporting for newspapers of all sizes in Central Texas for nine years with a concentration on criminal justice issues. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Journalism and lives in Austin.

Andrew Kragie is a breaking-news reporter at the *Houston Chronicle* focused on public safety and public policy. Recently he's written about body cameras, the death penalty, vehicular pursuit policies, police canines and hospital shootings. He graduated from Duke University, where he earned the Melcher Award for Excellence in Journalism and was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the political science honor society. He is also an Eagle Scout.

Terri Langford is a member of the investigative team for *The Dallas Morning News* where she concentrates on criminal justice and governmental issues. She has worked for *The Texas Tribune*, *the Houston Chronicle*, the Associated Press, WNYC and the *Florida Times-Union*.

Eva Ruth Moravec is an Austin-based freelance journalist with more than a decade of reporting experience. Currently, she is reporting on officer-involved shootings in Texas for a grant-funded series called Point of Impact that runs in the *Houston Chronicle*, *Austin American-Statesman* and *San Antonio Express-News*. Moravec previously covered the Texas Legislature for the Associated Press and was a crime reporter and then government reporter for the *Express-News*. She regularly freelances for *The Washington Post* and her work has also appeared in *The Daily Beast*, *The New York Times* and several local and state publications. She plans to complete her Master's in journalism research in August.

Jolie McCullough reports on the death penalty and develops data interactives and news apps for the *Texas Tribune*. She was a lead reporter in the *Tribune's* investigative series on police shootings, "Unholstered." She came to the *Tribune* in early 2015 from the *Albuquerque Journal*, where she worked four years specializing in interactive maps and data-driven special projects. She is a graduate of Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. While there, she interned as a reporter and online producer at the *Arizona Republic* and served as the web editor of the student-run newspaper, *the State Press*.

James Pinkerton has been a reporter for the *Houston Chronicle* since 1990, when he opened a news bureau in to cover the Texas border. Since then, he has reported on criminal justice issues in the Houston region, including extensive reporting on police shootings, bungled murder investigations by Houston's homicide division and the impartiality of the grand jury system.

His other assignments for the *Chronicle* and other Texas newspapers included coverage of the opening weeks of the Iraq war in 2003, the civil war in El Salvador, and the Zapatista revolt in southern Mexico. Pinkerton has previously worked for the *Austin American Statesman*, *the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and his hometown *Brownsville Herald* where he won the top state journalism award for uncovering corruption in a federal job training program in South Texas. A journalism graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, Pinkerton is married and has three children.

Jessica Priest is a journalist at the *Victoria Advocate*. She is passionate about holding those in public office accountable and giving a voice to those who are less fortunate. Since coming to Victoria in 2012, she has earned numerous awards for her work, including star investigative report from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors. She's also the received the Gavel Award two years in a row. The award is given out by Texas lawyers to journalists who foster a public understanding of the legal system. Jessica has written about juvenile justice, indigent defense, law enforcement misconduct and low-income housing.

Naheed Rajwani is a lifelong -- and proud -- North Texan. She enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles in hopes of studying biology to become a doctor, but returned to Texas with a political science degree and an interest in journalism. Naheed interned at the *Orange County Register* and the *Chicago Tribune* before joining the *Dallas Morning News*. She is currently on the cops beat and occasionally writes criminal justice stories in other areas, such as

the treatment of athletes in the legal system. Naheed is also a Girl Scouts leader and a loyal Dallas Cowboys and Dallas Mavericks fan.

Karina Ramirez has been a reporter in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for the past decade. Since 2014, she's been a multimedia reporter at *Al Día Dallas*, the Spanish-language paper of *The Dallas Morning News*, where she focuses on community news. Karina worked previously as staff writer and social media manager at *El Hispano News* in Dallas and spent six years as a staff writer and two of those years as a business columnist at the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. She's the current president of the Hispanic Communicators DFW, the North Texas chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. Karina is a fan of social media in all forms and enjoys learning what people have to say in 140 characters or less on Twitter.

Brian Rogers covers crime, courts and the politics of criminal justice for the *Houston Chronicle*. A licensed attorney who loves telling stories, Brian is the beat reporter for Houston's massive number of state courts. He covers breaking news, trials and the occasional Supreme Court decision. Brian is from west Texas and graduated from a LSUS, in Shreveport, Louisiana. He spent two years at the Odessa American, in Odessa, TX. After law school at Texas Tech, he spent a year in the Open Records division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. In 2006, he landed the courts beat at the *Houston Chronicle* and has been there for more than decade, averaging more than 50 A1 stories a year and more than 200 print stories annually.

Fares Sabawi has been a journalist since 2012, as a freelance reporter for multiple South Texas publications, including the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, the *Kingsville Record* and *The Bend Magazine*. After graduating from Texas A&M University Kingsville with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Sabawi began working as a full-time multimedia reporter for the *Caller-Times*. The responsibilities include breaking news, general assignments and law enforcement coverage. Since starting the job, Sabawi has explored the rise of Corpus Christi's new police chief, the rising trend of synthetic marijuana, and the stories behind Corpus Christi homicides.

Neena Satija is an investigative reporter and radio producer for the *Tribune* and *Reveal*, a public radio program from the Center for Investigative Reporting. Previously, she was the environment reporter at the *Tribune*. A native of the Washington, D.C. area, she previously worked for the *New Haven Independent*, the *Connecticut Mirror*, and *WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio*. She has also been a regular contributor to *National Public Radio*. As an East Coast transplant she is particularly thrilled with Austin tacos and warm weather.

Larry Seaward is a general assignment journalist for KHOU-TV. He is the lead night side reporter who covered last summer's police shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge. His enterprise work includes a series of stories about slum apartments that moved Houston's mayor to file a lawsuit against the slumlord and later provide safe, adequate homes to hundreds of people defrauded by their former landlord. Prior to Houston, Larry spent more than six years working in Kansas City. He also worked in Florence-Myrtle Beach, S.C. market. Larry is a magna cum laude graduate of Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

Jon Wilcox has a passion for the stories of real people and the experiences that change their lives. Since 2015, the Texas State graduate has worked as a reporter at the *Victoria Advocate*.

Jon started at the daily newspaper as the night reporter. In that role, he covered everything from homicides, police shootings and fires, while shining a light on the lives of people affected by these tragedies and the community's efforts to help them. In January, he attracted national and international attention with his on-the-spot reporting of arson at a Victoria mosque. He recently started on the courts beat, where he hopes to continue to produce important and change-affecting journalism.

Mark D. Wilson is a breaking news reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*. Prior to joining the *Statesman* in 2016, he spent four years as a staff writer for the *San Antonio Express-News*, most of which was spent covering cops, crime and public safety. Mark is a graduate of Texas State University, where he served as a crime reporter and entertainment section editor for *The University Star* and was recognized by the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association in 2012 for feature writing and contributions to an investigative series. He completed his master's degree in mass communication in 2016 and has since spent his time covering crime, public safety and breaking news in Austin.

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