



2018 JOHN JAY/TOW JUVENILE JUSTICE REPORTING FELLOWS

Christina Acosta

Christina Acosta was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. The journalism bug bit her when she was in sixth grade after watching the “The Early Show.” Afterwards, she decided to pursue her degree in English-Professional Writing at the University of Texas at San Antonio and wrote as a contributing writer for the college newspaper, *The Paisano*. During her senior year of college, she got a summer internship at KSAT-12 news, the ABC affiliate in San Antonio. In 2015, she interned for the bilingual newspaper, *La Prensa de San Antonio* newspaper in San Antonio. Two months later, she was promoted to full time reporter. In 2016, she was also a freelance writer for *Edible San Antonio*. In 2018, Christina was offered a full-time reporter position at *The Star Democrat* in Easton, Maryland. This will be Christina’s second fellowship with John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Ximena Alvarez

Ximena Alvarez is the Facebook Live anchor for *KENS 5 En Español* and research specialist for the news station. She was previously the assignment editor for *Telemundo San Antonio* and directed the nationwide Project ‘Clear the Shelters’ for NBC/Telemundo. Alvarez graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Alvarez is originally from Mexico City but moved to San Antonio at an early age with her family. Alvarez has participated in the publicity of Alamo Colleges, was a board member for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Woman of the Year and for the San Antonio Association of Hispanic Journalists. Alvarez has also been a guest speaker for the Society of Professional Journalists Regional 2018 Conference regarding her success with *KENS 5 En Español*. She was an ambassador for Rotary Exchange from 2006-2007 in France and is fluent in French, Spanish, Portuguese and English.

LaTrina Antoine

For about 10 years, LaTrina Antoine has worked as a journalist with various community, national and international publications. Her experience includes managing editorial teams, editing news content, developing editorial plans for digital and print publications, and developing strategies for news procurement and coverage. Her experience also includes reporting for a data news publication, a business publication on Capitol Hill, a military publication and a trade publication for the Accounts Receivable Management industry. Along with her reporting experience, LaTrina has written grant proposals and instructed college courses on advertising and multimedia design. LaTrina holds a master’s degree in Strategic Public Relations from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with concentrations in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies; Africana Studies and Creative Writing from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass. LaTrina also earned a certificate in Web Design.

Cary Aspinwall

Cary Aspinwall is an investigative reporter at *The Dallas Morning News*. She grew up in Colorado, Texas and Louisiana, and has a journalism degree from Oklahoma State University. In 2015, her reporting on flaws in Oklahoma's execution process with teammate Ziva Branstetter was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting, the Anthony Shadid Award for Journalism Ethics and the Scripps-Howard First Amendment award. Earlier this year, her investigation into what happens to children when moms are arrested, "Overlooked," was named the runner-up for the John Jay College/Harry Frank Guggenheim Awards for Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting (single story).

Lincoln Anthony Blades

Lincoln Anthony Blades is a print and digital journalist/columnist who writes about politics, race, culture, and justice. Lincoln has worked with various publications all over the globe and has developed a unique proficiency at engaging readers with his distinctive writing and incisive reporting. Lincoln has written for publications such as *Teen Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *NBC's 'The Grio'*, *Huffington Post*, *Ebony Magazine*; and his work has been referenced in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. Lincoln is also a broadcast political pundit who has appeared on television panels in multiple countries. Reporting on the intersection of race and socioeconomic hardships as they pertain to the juvenile justice system is one of Lincoln's passions. *Teen Vogue's* Kids Incarcerated series, which he worked on, won the Juvenile Law Center's 2018 Leadership Prize.

Ko Bragg

Ko Bragg is a Mississippi transplant working as a full-time reporter for the capital city's altweekly, the *Jackson Free Press*. She covers the City of Jackson, policing, and other state and local issues with a particular focus on juvenile justice. She is a 2018-2019 Reveal Investigative Fellow, and will spend the next calendar year producing an investigation of how juveniles charged as adults fare statewide. She got her start in journalism at Spelman College where she revamped the out-of-print school paper, and continued her path in journalism at Columbia Journalism School and Sciences Po in Paris.

Suzette Brewer

Suzette Brewer specializes in writing about federal Indian law, having extensively covered the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Supreme Court, environmental issues on Indian reservations, the opioid crisis and violence against Native women and children. She has written for *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Denver Post*, *the Denver Business Journal*, and many others. Her published books include *Real Indians: Portraits of Contemporary Native Americans and America's Tribal Colleges*; *Sovereign: An Oral History of Indian Gaming in America*. She is the 2015 recipient of the Richard LaCourse-Gannett Foundation Al Neuharth Investigative Journalism Award for her work on the Indian Child Welfare Act. She is a member of the Cherokee Nation and is from Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Kelly Davis

Kelly Davis has been a San Diego-based journalist for more than 15 years. Her work focuses largely on incarceration and vulnerable populations and has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Intercept*, *The Crime Report*, *Voice of San Diego*, the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *Vice* and the *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*. She's reported on the high rate of deaths in San Diego County jails and suicide attempts at county juvenile detention facilities. She's also written extensively about San Diego's ongoing efforts to address its large homeless population. Recently, her reporting on the San Diego Police Department's policy of taking DNA samples from juveniles without parental permission prompted a new California law. Kelly's work has been honored by the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies, the San Diego chapter of the Society of

Professional Journalists, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

Chelsea Deffenbacher

Chelsea Deffenbacher has worked in journalism for 10 years. Originally from Washington, her career brought her to Oregon in 2010, and eventually to *The Register-Guard* in 2014. She is passionate about crime reporting, and has always been intrigued by mystery novels, the TV Show Dateline and crime-centered podcasts. Her favorite story so far was a piece she wrote during her time in Astoria, Or., when she had the chance to unseal an historical mansions of a famous reclusive family, the Flavels—a story that was equal parts mystery and suspense.

Tessa Duvall

Tessa Duvall joined *The Florida Times-Union* as a reporter in 2014. Her reporting focuses on the issues that affect children living in Northeast Florida, with a particular interest in juvenile justice. As a John Jay College reporting fellow in 2016, Tessa began extensively covering juvenile life without parole and resentencing efforts underway in Florida. As a 2017 National Fellow through the University of Southern California's Center for Health Journalism, she has continued her reporting on Jacksonville-area kids who commit homicides. Tessa graduated with bachelor's degrees in journalism and sociology from Western Kentucky University in 2013, and spent a year covering education in the dusty oil fields of West Texas before moving to the Sunshine State. Outside of work, Tessa is actively involved as a volunteer with TEDxJacksonville and a member of Leadership Jacksonville's Class of 2019, and is the proud human of her adopted dog, Bear.

Ben Felder

Ben Felder is the leader of *The Oklahoman's* Dig Team, a three-person investigative desk. Ben's reporting focuses on education, children and families. He was recently the lead reporter during Oklahoma's two-week teacher walkout, has impacted state policy decisions with investigative pieces on school funding and has covered the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs and its effort to reduce recidivism in a state with the nation's highest incarceration rate. Ben is also the author of *The Morning Bell*, a daily email newsletter from *The Oklahoman* that offers additional insights into Oklahoma education. He recently received awards from the Society of Professional Journalism for reporting on government, diversity and education. Ben is also a member of the Education Writers Association.

Cassi Feldman

Cassi Feldman is an award-winning public interest journalist, born and raised in New York City. She is currently a senior editor at *The Appeal*, a nonprofit criminal justice news outlet focused on the state and local policies that drive mass incarceration. Prior to joining *The Appeal*, she spent several years as an associate producer for CBS News's 60 Minutes. She has also worked as bureau chief of *Chalkbeat New York*, a senior editor at *City Limits* magazine, and a reporter for the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. During a year spent stringing for *The New York Times*, she wrote a series of stories on the death of a 15-year-old Bronx boy in an upstate youth detention center that was later shuttered. She lives in Brooklyn with her family.

Jessica Fernandez

Jessica Fernandez is an investigative producer at *Univisión* in Chicago, Il. Before joining the unit in 2016, she was a news producer for the 5pm and 10pm newscast also at *Univisión*. She covers issues that affect the Hispanic community in Chicago ranging from criminal justice, to environmental threats, consumer fraud and education. She is a Social Justice News Nexus Fellow from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Jessica and her team won an Emmy in 2017 for the

investigation that they did along with SJNN on Asbestos in Chicago Public Schools and another statuette for a 30-minute special on the Influx of Polluting Industries in Minority Neighborhoods. She received her Bachelor's in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia College in Chicago and holds a Master in Public Administration from DePaul University. Jessica has seven Emmy Awards and over 20 nominations for outstanding achievements.

Michael Fitzgerald

Michael Fitzgerald is the recently appointed northeast editor of the *Chronicle of Social Change*. The *Chronicle* is the paper of record in the field of child welfare, especially in California and in Congress, and is now pursuing a nationwide general interest audience for its work. Michael is a former Senior Editor at *Pacific Standard*, which he helped launch in 2012, contributing to three National Magazine Award nominations, and ten-fold web traffic growth, as a writer and editor. He arrived in New York City in February of 2018 to establish a bureau for the *Chronicle* as part of the non-profit news outlet's national expansion. Here, he covers juvenile justice, foster care, adoption—issues affecting vulnerable youth and families statewide. Michael's writing has also appeared in *Wired*, *the New Republic*, and *Outside*, and has been discussed by the *New York Times* and *Politico*, among others, and on social media.

Allie Gross

Allie Gross is a reporter at the *Detroit Free Press*, where she covers criminal justice, housing and income inequality in a rapidly changing city. A graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Allie joined the *Free Press* in 2017 after working as a staff writer at the *Detroit Metro Times*, a Ben Bagdikian Fellow at *Mother Jones* and a freelancer. Her work has appeared in *VICE News*, *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *FiveThirtyEight*, *Chalkbeat*, and *Jacobin*. In 2017 Allie was named a Kresge Literary Arts Fellow. Before pursuing a career in journalism, Allie worked as a 5th-grade teacher in Detroit for three years.

Caitlin Herrington

Caitlin Herrington is the Lifestyle Editor at *The Journal* in the northwest corner of South Carolina. In addition to managing the features section, she covers county government and Oconee County Sheriff's Office. After a two-year break from journalism, she came back to *The Journal* in November 2017. With her first stint in copy and design, Herrington slowly began writing more before returning with a full-time reporting role last year. On top of community events and local pastors rescuing stranded asylum-seekers, her articles cover everything from the foster care system to the slow decline in local juvenile crime and, most recently, an 18-year-old charged with murder. Herrington received honorable mentions from the South Carolina Press Association in 2014. The awards hang proudly above the tank of her desk fish, Destiny. When she's not at the office, Herrington can commonly be found chasing waterfalls and not-so-gracefully exploring nearby mountains and rivers.

Jimmy Jenkins

Jimmy Jenkins is a senior field correspondent at *KJZZ* and a reporter for NPR's National Criminal Justice Desk. His work has been broadcast on *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, *Marketplace*, *Here and Now*, *The Takeaway* and *NPR Newscasts*. Jenkins has been published by *the Arizona Republic*, *The Crime Report* and *The Marshall Project*. Originally from Terre Haute, Indiana, Jenkins has a B.S. in criminology from Indiana State University and a master's degree in journalism from Indiana University. Law enforcement runs in Jenkins' family, and much of his reporting has focused on the criminal justice system. Jenkins has reported on Tasers, body cameras, use of force, jail privatization, and the criminal contempt trial of former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. In 2018, Jenkins' reporting prompted a federal judge to conduct a hearing, which resulted in the appointment of an independent monitor over the Arizona prison health care system.

Daryl Khan

Daryl Khan is the New York bureau chief of the *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*, the only national news publication dedicated to covering the juvenile justice system. He writes magazine-length investigative pieces, features and oversees a freelance staff. His experience prepared him to provide in-depth coverage of the 2014 raids that turned a Harlem housing project upside down, left a legacy on the NYPD and created a blueprint for going after crime committed by poor youths in the city. Khan began his career in New York City covering courts, crime, the war on terror and incarceration as a reporter for the *Boston Globe*, *The New York Times* and *New York Newsday*. He runs the Urban Reporting Program at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and recently finished his first feature-length documentary, a film that solved an 80-year-old lynching while exposing the racist legacy of a notorious reform school in Florida's panhandle and is in post-production on his second about the legacy of the Emmett Till killing in the Mississippi Delta.

Kristian Jaime

Kristian Jaime has been a tenured member of the media for over 18 years holding most editorial positions including reporter, news editor and publisher of the online publication, *March Magazine*. Following a career that started in Texas, he relocated to Maryland to join the editorial team at the *Kent Island Bay Times* and *the Record Observer*. Throughout his career, he has covered a myriad of beats and specializes in politics, immigration and police matters. His career has included bylines with the *El Paso Times*, *La Prensa of San Antonio* newspaper, *Latino Leaders Magazine* and a number of other publications. He graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a B.A. in Political Science with concentrations in International Law and Foreign Relations.

Gene Koprowski

Gene Koprowski is Executive Producer-Writer-Director for PBS-TV + affiliates and Pacifica Radio. He earned an Emmy Award nomination (2008) as a producer-writer for his interactive TV storytelling for a digital division of Fox Entertainment Group. He leads Ingenuity Studios, Inc., a best-in-class, boutique, digital media company. Gene's passion is developing provocative, unexpected stories that shape audience experience and resonate with today's culture. As executive producer, during the discovery stage of a new project, he finds, develops, and produces promising programming for prestige media brand partners, including PBS-TV affiliates carrying Gene's new Frank Capra documentary; radio documentaries for public media's Pacifica Network; digital op/eds for Shanghai Media Group; and public affairs programming for digital media producers in Austin and New York. Gene has written and field-produced for CBS News/Local, Fox News Channel digital; produced a sci-fi feature film distributed by Amazon; and produced a documentary for Swiss TV. He has authored four books: The bestseller *Done With Diabetes* (2016); *Tongkat Ali+Other Herbs to Boost Vitality* (2017); *Nanotechnology in Medicine* (2012); *+The Genius of Imitation* (2005). Previously, Gene wrote and produced a weekly public affairs TV magazine show syndicated to 300 PBS stations, *TechnoPolitics*, as a protege of Peabody Award-Winner Neal B. Freeman.

Mario Leal

Mario Leal, a native of the Rio Grande Valley, has worked as a journalist for several television stations in South and Central Texas: including *Univisión (KNVO)*, *Fox (KFXV & KABB)*, *NBC (WOAI)*, *Spectrum News* in Austin, and now *CBS (KENS 5)*. Leal received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas Pan American, and has used his education as a technical director, photojournalist and producer. As a dual-language journalist, Mario has covered immigration along the South Texas border, crime, breaking news, and now investigative reporting. Mario has focused on finding stories of communities that are largely marginalized, like the Deaf, LGBTQIA, and immigrant communities. In his personal time, Mario likes to spend time with those closest to him, is a parent to two rambunctious dogs, and has recently joined a bowling league.

Art Levine

Art Levine is a contributing writer to *Newsweek*, a contributing editor of *The Washington Monthly*, and the author of the well-received, recently published book *Mental Health, Inc.: How Corruption, Lax Oversight and Failed Reforms Endanger Our Most Vulnerable Citizens*. My book was praised by *Nature*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and by *VICE/TONIC*, which provided the best single-sentence summary of his findings: "A searing indictment of the sorry state of the American mental health care system as seen from the perspective of those who have been victimized by it." He has also started writing both for *Youth Today* and the *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*, with articles exploring reforms affecting juvenile offenders and homeless youth, and has broken a series of scoops in recent years involving the maltreatment of youth and the criminal justice system. His articles have been featured in *Salon*, *Newsweek*, *The Huffington Post* and *Miami New Times*, among other outlets.

Massarah Mikati

Sarah Mikati is a Hearst Fellow at the *Houston Chronicle*, covering Houston's diverse communities and general assignment. She previously reported on the towns of Colonie and Niskayuna, as well as immigrants and refugees in the Capital Region, for the *Albany Times Union*. A graduate of Ohio State University in 2017 with a B.A. in journalism, Middle East studies and Francophone studies, and the daughter of Lebanese immigrants, she has aspired to be a magazine writer specializing in the Middle East since the age of 13, and give the silenced a humanized and contextual voice. Sarah has worked for *Deseret News National*, the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, *1870 Magazine*, and *The Lantern*; and her subjects have ranged from state fiscal budgets to prison seminaries. She spent the Fall of 2016 in France conducting field research for her honors thesis on how the November 13, 2015 Paris attacks impacted the lives and identities of French-Maghreb Muslims.

Jessica Miller

Jessica Miller covers legal affairs and criminal justice at *The Salt Lake Tribune*, where she has worked since 2011. She was part of the Tribune team that in 2017 won a Pulitzer Prize for their reporting of sexual assault on Utah college campuses. Her recent work has focused on the state's juvenile courts, its indigent defense system, and the death penalty, among other legal issues. When she's not working, she enjoys spending time in Utah's mountains.

Jonah Newman

Jonah Newman is an investigative reporter at *The Chicago Reporter*, where he covers criminal justice and policing. He joined *The Reporter* in October 2014, after two years at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in Washington, D.C. In 2017, Jonah received an award for innovation in investigative journalism from Investigative Reporters and Editors for his work on "Settling for Misconduct," a database of every police misconduct lawsuit paid out by the city of Chicago since 2011. He has also received a National Award for Education Reporting for data journalism and is a two-time finalist for the Livingston Award for Young Journalists. Jonah received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Clarissa Sosin

Clarissa Sosin is a multimedia journalist concentrating on justice, and civil and human rights abuses. Her current work focuses on policing and the criminal justice system in New York City and beyond. She regularly contributes stories in a variety of media to the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. She's worked in five countries outside of the U.S. and most recently returned from Liberia where she spent two months covering elections and illegal mining. Clarissa attended the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Prior to attending CUNY she worked for Film at 11 Media on their independent feature length documentary film about the first trial to prosecute rape as a war crime, *The Uncondemned*.

Jaya Sundaresh

Jaya Sundaresh is a reporter and writer living in New York City. She is a journalism master's student at Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, and she currently writes for the *Hunts Point Express* and the *Mott Haven Herald*. She previously wrote for upstate outlets such as *The Alt* and *All Over Albany*. She's written about everything from food policy, to immigration, to white supremacists, to the conflict in Syria. However, her true reporting interests lie in mass incarceration, policing, and criminal justice policy. Before Jaya was a journalist, she was an activist, working with antipoverty initiatives in her hometown of Schenectady, NY, and with anti-mass incarceration organizations located in Upstate New York. Jaya has lived in Montreal, New York, and India. She attended McGill University and received an honors degree from them in Political Science, with a minor in American history

Grace Toohey

Grace Toohey is a criminal justice reporter at *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge Louisiana, where she leads the coverage of local law enforcement agencies, the justice system, crime and corrections. She most recently revealed the conflicting narrative released by the Baton Rouge Police Department after an officer shooting, leading to the release of the man who was arrested, wrongly, for first firing at the officer. She continues to cover the aftermath of the Alton Sterling shooting as well as the state's criminal justice reform efforts. Originally from Maryland, Grace graduated with honors from the University of Maryland's journalism school in 2016, with a double degree in government and politics and a Spanish minor. She previously interned at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *McClatchy Newspapers*.

Joshua Vaughn

Joshua Vaughn is the cops and courts reporter for *The Sentinel*, a six-day a week paper in Carlisle, Pa. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, his career in news began in 2004 as a production assistant on the morning crew for WHAG-TV in Hagerstown, Maryland. Following a brief hiatus from the news field, Vaughn joined his hometown newspaper, *The Record Herald* in Waynesboro as a general assignment reporter. Vaughn was a 2016 John Jay/Harry F. Guggenheim criminal justice reporting fellow, a 2016 president's award for excellence in news reporting recipient from Lee Enterprises and has won several Keystone and Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors awards. Vaughn also is a contributing reporter to *The Appeal*, a publication by Harvard Law School's Fair Punishment Project.

Charlotte West

As a seven-year-old, Charlotte West recruited her classmates as reporters for her own newspaper, *Kids' News*. While her third-grade peers proved to be unreliable colleagues, the experience sparked a life-long passion for journalism. Since then, she's covered everything from education to architecture for publications such as *Icon*, *Men's Journal*, *Dwell*, *Budget Travel*, *Inside Higher Education*, *International Educator*, and *Teen Vogue*. Her most recent work has pivoted to topics such as housing and juvenile justice for *Pacific Standard* and *Mic*. In addition to her editorial work, Charlotte has worked in higher education and has coauthored several academic publications. She earned a bachelor's in history and international studies from Seattle University and a master's in politics from Stockholm University on a Fulbright fellowship from the U.S. State Department. Now based in Denver, she writes that she "draws on my academic background in my journalistic work through my ability translate social science research into human stories."

Spencer Whitney

Before joining the *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial team, Spencer Whitney worked as the Multimedia Editor at the *Oakland Post* newspaper where he was responsible for organizing and producing web-based content daily while reporting on local politics, community news and education around the Bay Area. Spencer graduated from Howard University in 2011 with a degree in Print Journalism, where he reported for the *Hilltop* newspaper and worked as an on-air personality for the college radio station WHBC830AM. He later attended UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and covered community politics for the hyperlocal news sites *Richmond Confidential* and *Oakland North*. He also volunteered at San Quentin Prison to help produce content for the monthly news publication *San Quentin News*. Spencer now helps produce digital content through Facebook Live interviews, podcasts and news videos. He writes a weekly column called "Last Word" on a variety of social and political topics.

Del Wilber

Del Wilber is a reporter at the *Los Angeles Times* who covers criminal justice and national security. He has previously worked at the *Baltimore Sun*, *Washington Post*, *Bloomberg News* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has covered federal law enforcement, local police, plane crashes and Special Counsel Robert Mueller. He is the author of two books: "Rawhide Down: The Near Assassination of Ronald Reagan" and "A Good Month for Murder: The Inside Story of a Homicide Squad."

Dandan Zou

Dandan Zou has been a staff writer since 2016 at *The Calvert Recorder*, Maryland, where she covers crime, courts, health and environment in Southern Maryland. She won three Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Press Association awards, including one first place on a family grieving the loss of a 19-yearold to suicide in the feature category in all divisions news reporting and writing. A graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, she previously worked at *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* in Washington, D.C., produced short documentaries and wrote feature stories for print and online magazines, and co-produced a multimedia story on tech-guru Kevin Kelly for the magazine *BlogWeekly*. At the start of her career, she served as a research Intern at *The New York Times* bureau in Shanghai. She received her bachelors of public affairs in public administration at Sichuan University, China, and describes herself as "passionate about storytelling."

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