



2019 JOHN JAY/ARNOLD REPORTING FELLOWS

CASH REGISTER JUSTICE

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Center on Media, Crime and Justice
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LaTrina Antoine

LaTrina Antoine has worked as a journalist with various community, national and international publications for 10 years. She has reported for a data news website, 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 professional writing, 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 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.

Jesse Bogan

Jesse Bogan is a general assignment and enterprise reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* who helps cover major breaking news and writes in-depth stories about the military, low-income housing, mental health, and criminal justice. Before coming to Missouri in 2010, he covered the Texas-Mexico border for the *San Antonio Express-News* and the Southwest as a reporter in *Forbes* magazine's Houston bureau. As a freelance reporter, he wrote investigative stories that appeared in *The Texas Observer* and *Texas Monthly* magazines. Bogan holds a master's degree from the Missouri School of Journalism. Before reporting, he was a grain merchandiser in Mexico for agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland.

Melissa Brown

Melissa Brown is a reporter at the *Montgomery Advertiser*, where she reports on criminal justice and public health inequity issues. An Alabama native, she has covered everything from state politics and higher education to local crime. At the *Advertiser*, Brown has written about religious liberty in Alabama's execution chamber, the generational terror of lynchings and

public health crises that disproportionately affect minority populations. She is most interested in reporting on systemic issues that weigh on vulnerable groups of people, whether those people are state inmates held in solitary confinement or Alabama infants who won't see their first birthdays.

Alex Burness

Alex Burness is a Maryland native who attended Northwestern University and then moved immediately after graduation (2013) to Colorado. He worked first at the *Loveland Reporter-Herald*, covering a contentious school board, before settling in at the *Boulder Daily Camera*, where he covered cops, courts and breaking news before transitioning to the city hall beat. In these roles he developed strong interest in homelessness, poverty, civil rights, criminal justice, and social equity. After leaving the *Camera* in May of 2018, he joined *The Colorado Independent*, a nonprofit outlet that digs deep, with nuance and soul, on all those aforementioned topics.

Cassie M. Chew

Cassie M. Chew is a Washington, D.C.-based policy reporter and video producer who has covered stories at the intersection of policymaking and corporate profit making. She now aims to use these experiences to produce stories that explore how policies and their unintended consequences impact economic justice issues.

Mary Cullen

Mary Cullen is a news reporter and producer at WGLT, the NPR affiliate in Bloomington-Normal, Ill. Previously, she was a reporter at NPR Illinois, reporting on state politics out of the Springfield, Ill. statehouse bureau. Simultaneously, she took classes for her master's degree in Public Affairs Reporting at the University of Illinois-Springfield. Her reporting with NPR Illinois focused on how state policy affects the everyday citizen, following bills step-by-step from introduction to passage. Since starting at WGLT, she has covered a range of beats from politics to women's issues to mental health service deficiencies. The Cash Register Justice Fellowship is her first fellowship as a young reporter, and she hopes it will "set a valuable base to grow professionally."

Jennifer H. Cunningham

Jennifer H. Cunningham is an award-winning investigative journalist, editor and photographer. She is a senior editor of exclusive news and investigative reporting at *Interactive One* creating one-of-a-kind video and digital content and regularly appears on television and radio. Known for combining shoe-leather reporting with a disarming and engaging interviewing style, Jennifer has reported on criminal justice topics including wrongful convictions, breaking crime news and major court cases in her 15 year career in journalism. Her work—which has also appeared in the *New York Daily News*, *amNew York Newspaper*, *Essence.com*, *the Bergen Record newspaper*, *the Herald News* and *The Grio*—has been recognized by organizations including the New York Association of Black Journalists. Ms. Cunningham resides in New York City with her

husband, Peter Mulligan, and daughter, Marigold, and is president of the Newswomen's Club of New York.

Whittney Evans

Whittney Evans is the legal and justice reporter for WCVE public radio in Richmond, Virginia. She covers courts and criminal justice in the Commonwealth. In addition to being a John Jay Fellow, Whittney is a member of NPR's Criminal Justice Collaborative. She recently moved to Richmond from Salt Lake City where she worked for NPR station KUER investigating Utah's High number of jail deaths, the plight of asylum seekers in the Trump era, and how a single inmate can bankrupt a rural jail. Most recently she has explored high-profile scandals in Virginia's executive branch. Otherwise, she's focused on efforts to reform the state's criminal justice system and to repeal a controversial state policy of suspending driver's licenses for unpaid court fines and fees. Whittney is originally from southern Ohio and got her start in public radio as a student at Morehead State University.

Nadege Green

Nadege Green covers social justice issues and gun violence for WLRN, South Florida's NPR affiliate. Since joining WLRN, Nadege has reported on gun violence as a public health crisis, serial slumlords, police shootings in predominantly black communities and the restoration of rights for former felons. For her, "journalism is about seeking out the voices we don't hear from, and telling those stories too." Her work has received numerous awards, including a Regional Edward R. Murrow award, first place investigative reporting award from the National Association of Black Journalists and several Florida AP Broadcaster awards. In 2018, the Miami Foundation recognized Nadege with the Ruth Shack Leadership award for a body of work that gives voice to communities that are not often heard. Her reporting has appeared in the *Miami Herald*, NPR and Public Radio International.

David Greenwald

David Greenwald is founder of *Davis Vanguard*, a locally based independent news source in California, looking into local city issues as well as criminal justice reform. In 2010, he created the *Vanguard Court Watch*, which sends eight to twelve college interns into the Yolo County Court on a weekly basis. They are charged with monitoring cases, taking notes, and trained to write journalistic articles on court proceedings. The purpose of the *Vanguard Court Watch* is to fill the gap in media coverage created by the underfunding of news sources. Outside of a few high-profile cases, the typical court case gets zero coverage and, in most locations, even when there is coverage, it is not critical and detailed coverage. The *Vanguard Court Watch* covers at least 100 trials and 150 court proceedings per year, and focuses on wrongful convictions, overcharging, police misconduct, judicial error, and ineffective defense.

Yuti Joshi

Yuti Joshi, a graduate of Columbia University's School of Journalism, is developing a freelance career in multimedia reporting. She describes herself as "highly investigative and curious, always looking to find the most unique or pertinent angle to a story, especially through data." A native of India, she moved with her family Atlanta, Georgia when she was in high school. She is "passionate about shaping what journalism will become in the digital age, through both new forms of advertising and the new mediums used to tell stories."

Kala Kachmar

Kala Kachmar covers local government, breaking news, police misconduct and the municipal court system at the *Asbury Park Press*, a daily local news outlet in New Jersey. Before that, she worked as a city government reporter and statehouse reporter at the *Montgomery Advertiser* in Alabama's capital city. A 2009 University of Connecticut graduate, she sits on the journalism department's Professional Advisory Committee, a group of alumni who help steer the curriculum. Her passion is government reporting—uncovering corruption, scrutinizing policies and spending, mining through records to find stories and helping people understand how all levels of government helps or hurts them. Describing herself as an "old soul," she reports that she loves "the outdoors, a good brew and cased meat."

Kira Lerner

Kira Lerner is a reporter at *The Appeal* where she covers criminal justice, voting, and civil rights issues. Her work has helped to expose suppressive voting laws across the country. She was recently an inaugural fellow with Columbia University's Ira A. Lipman Center for Journalism and Civil and Human Rights, and produced a series on the movement to overturn Florida's felon disenfranchisement law. Previously, she covered the 2014, 2016, and 2018 elections and reported from both Washington and the campaign trail with a focus on movements like Black Lives Matter and the intersection of politics and criminal justice. While at the Chicago Innocence Project in 2011, her investigative reporting helped free a wrongfully convicted man from an Illinois prison where he was serving a life sentence. She graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and is a native of the Washington, D.C., area.

Michelle Liu

Michelle Liu, a reporter based in Jackson, Mississippi, covers criminal justice issues across the state for *Mississippi Today*, a nonprofit, online news outlet dedicated to informing the civic lives of Mississippians. She is part of the first fellowship cohort of the local journalism initiative Report for America. Her work on deaths in Mississippi's state prisons was recognized by the Institute for Nonprofit News in 2018. She graduated from Yale University last May.

Meaghan M. McDermott

Meaghan M. McDermott is a member of the *Democrat and Chronicle's* investigative team in Rochester, New York. She has written extensively about suburban communities, education and municipal spending. Additionally, she's covered police corruption, environmental issues, high-

profile crimes including domestic violence homicides, shoddy construction work in a multi-million dollar renovation projects in area school districts, taxation and property rights. Most recently, she's been engaged in coverage related to substandard performance of the Monroe County Child Protective Services and the death by neglect of a Rochester woman incarcerated in the Erie County Holding Center. Meaghan has received numerous in-house journalism awards, as well as New York State Associated Press Association awards for Watchdog work, Community Service and Beat Reporting. She grew up in Chili, N.Y., and is a graduate of The College at Brockport.

Tristan Scott

Tristan Scott has been covering the criminal justice system in Montana for 15 years, and his familiarity with the nuances of the legal system, as well as his talents as a dogged investigator and concise writer, have earned him an impeccable reputation as a journalist capable of unpacking complex issues fairly and accurately. Scott's reporting on the wrongful conviction of Richard Raugust in a 1997 deliberate homicide case helped lead to the man's exoneration after nearly two decades in prison, and his coverage of environmental crimes has exposed corporate polluters and held them accountable. His passion for conservation and the outdoors is rivaled only by his deep interest in criminal justice reform and, in particular, how it affects underprivileged citizens in rural areas, as well as tribal members living on Montana's seven Indian reservations and the wrongfully accused. Since 2013, Scott has worked as senior writer at the *Flathead Beacon*, a weekly newspaper and digital media company based in northwest Montana. Prior to that, he worked at the *Missoulian* daily newspaper, first as a cops and courts reporter and then as the Flathead Valley Bureau Chief. He lives in Whitefish, Montana, with his partner, Tracy, who works as a wilderness therapist, and their beloved Bernese Mountain Dog, Mowgli.

Matt Sledge

Matt Sledge is a criminal justice reporter for the *New Orleans Advocate*. A native Hoosier, he attended Brown University and worked at the *Huffington Post* in New York City before heading south. He has contributed to the *Advocate's* award-winning coverage of sky-high 911 response times and the shooting of former Saints player Will Smith. His current beat includes the city's police department and jail, which are both under federal consent decrees, and the criminal courts, which have been criticized for unconstitutional fines and fees in recent federal court decisions.

Cassandra Stephenson

Cassandra Stephenson has been interested in covering issues involving justice since delving into journalism at age 15. While earning a journalism degree at Pepperdine University, she produced award-winning coverage of sexual assault policy and Title IX issues. She took additional classes in sociology to gain a better understanding of the social issues that underlie her research. After graduating, she moved to Jackson, Tennessee to do deep-dive reporting on rural America and small towns in West Tennessee. As a breaking news and justice reporter, she has produced extensive coverage on crime and incarceration in the 13 counties spanning West Tennessee.

Her work in Jackson began with a long-form, four-part series on overcrowding in Madison County Jail. With Jackson's violent crime rate clocking in at 155 percent higher than the national average, she has significant experience reporting on crime, and believes it is paramount to explore the relationship between low-income Americans and incarceration.

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg is a freelance journalist based in New Jersey, reporting on criminal justice issues for *The Appeal*, *The Nation*, *The Crime Report*, and *Truthout*. She is a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University-New Brunswick at the Program in Criminal Justice, where she teaches a course on wrongful convictions. She is also a playwright. Her works include *Life, Death, Life Again: Children Sentenced to Die in Prison (LDLA)*, a documentary play produced by coLAB Arts, which has been performed throughout New Jersey and in Philadelphia. *LDLA* is a non-fiction play that shares the stories of people sentenced to die in prison for violent crimes committed as teenagers, and a victim's grandson who chose to lead with forgiveness. From 2007 to 2015 she worked as a Case Analyst for the Innocence Project where she was instrumental in several exonerations. She earned her Master's degree at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and her Bachelor's degree at Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

Hannah Winston

Hannah Winston is the criminal courts reporter for *The Palm Beach Post* in West Palm Beach, Fla. She has worked for *The Post* since 2014, where she started on the breaking news team, and has covered mass shootings and cases of police excessive force. She previously worked for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, ABC News in Washington, D.C., and *The Gainesville Sun*, and was selected as an Investigative Reporting Fellow for Carnegie-Knight initiative News21, all while attending the University of Florida. Hannah is a South Florida native who spends her free time reading, traveling and stress-baking.

Izabela Zaluska

Izabela Zaluska will receive her degree in journalism, as well as a certificate in criminal justice, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison this summer. Her decision to pair a journalism degree with a certificate in criminal justice was in hopes of shedding a light on issues facing one of the most vulnerable populations — individuals in prison. As she explains, "There's a disconnect between how the criminal justice system is expected to work and how it actually works that needs to be addressed." Currently, she is working on a story for the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism (WCIJ) about Wisconsin's overcrowded prisons and use of extended supervision. This summer, she will continue reporting on criminal justice issues as an investigative reporting intern for WCIJ.

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