

2022 JOHN JAY/HARRY FRANK GUGGENHEIM REPORTING FELLOWS

(Quattrone Center Fellows NOTED)

In alphabetical order



KRISTIN J. BENDER

Kristin J. Bender has been a working journalist for 29 years. She spent 20 plus years as a newspaper reporter before moving to the *Associated Press* in San Francisco as the breaking news supervisor. Bender left print five years ago to learn the ropes of television. At KTVU Fox 2, Bender is a versatile, fast and accurate news writer covering local, state, national and international stories for six daily newscasts. Bender has spent her career in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she was raised. Bender's work has been featured in more than 500 newspapers and magazines and she has collected many prestigious award for her reporting and writing.



LICI BEVERIDGE

Lici Beveridge works as a content coach and reporter with the *Hattiesburg American* and *Clarion Ledger* newspapers in Mississippi. She covers social issues such as racial inequities, housing shortages and homelessness, white collar crime, criminal justice and prison reform. She joined the *Hattiesburg American* in January 2004 as lifestyle editor before taking over the digital team in 2006. She led the digital team until 2017. Previously, she worked at the *Mississippi Press* in Pascagoula, Miss., and the *Sun Herald* in Biloxi. She is a 1997 graduate of Arkansas State University, with bachelor's degrees in photojournalism and French.



CHANDRA BOZELKO

Chandra Bozelko is a syndicated columnist, freelance opinion writer and thought leader. Her weekly column, *The Outlaw*, ppears in over 150 daily and weekly *Gannett/Gatehouse Media* papers through its syndication company More Content Now. It has been honored with multiple awards, including from the National Federation of Press Women, Connecticut Society of Professional Journalists (CTSPJ), and the Newswomen of New York. Chandra was the first inmate to write a regular newspaper column from behind bars, which *The New Haven Independent* named "Prison Diaries." It won the People's Voice Webby Award in 2018 and 2019 for Personal Blog/Website, has won two awards from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists (2016 and 2018) and from the Alliance for Women in Media (2019). Her book of poetry entitled "*Up The River: An Anthology*" (BleakHouse, 2013) won American University's Best Book Award in 2015.



CHRISTINA CARREGA

Christina Carrega is the National Criminal Justice Reporter for *Capital B*. Previously, Christina was a Crime and Justice Reporter for CNN, Multimedia Reporter for ABC News, News Editor of *The Queens Daily Eagle* and *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* newspapers as well as a Criminal Justice Reporter for *The New York Daily News* and *The New York Post*. The New York Association of Black Journalists (NYABJ) awarded her first place for 2017's and 2014's Best Spot News and in 2013 was a finalist for the National Association of Black Journalists' (NABJ) Best Single News Story. Christina previously served as NYABJ's Vice President of Broadcast and volunteers with Princess Chambers Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to uplifting underprivileged youth. She also is on the board for the Criminal Justice Journalists organization and is a mentor with the American Journalism Online Graduate Program at New York University.



STEPHANIE CASANOVA

Stephanie Casanova is a criminal justice and breaking news reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*. Prior to that, Stephanie was a breaking news and public safety reporter and an online producer at the *Arizona Daily Star*. She has also worked in newspapers in Kansas and in South Dakota. Stephanie is a Maynard 200 alumni, a Maynard Institute for Journalism Education training program for journalists of color that focuses on making newsrooms more equitable, diverse and anti-racist. She is a Spanish-speaking bilingual journalist who is passionate about in-depth storytelling that is inclusive and reflects the diversity of the communities she covers. She graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2014.



GEORGE CHIDI

George Chidi is a freelance journalist with more than 25 years of experience covering business, crime and politics. He is a regular contributor to *The Intercept* and a columnist for the local online news site *Decaturish*, and appears regularly on Fox 5 Atlanta hosting a public affairs show about civic policy. He is the Georgia Writers Association's John Lewis award winner for 2021 and a Substack Local grant recipient for his work covering Atlanta criminal justice. Chidi served as a city councilman for Pine Lake, Ga. and as social impact director for Central Atlanta Progress, connecting the business community's interests to

measures fighting homelessness, poverty and quality of life problems. Chidi holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an MBA from Georgia Tech. His work has appeared in the *Guardian*, *CNN*, *INC Magazine* and dozens of other publications.



CASSIE M. CHEW

Cassie Chew, a freelance reporter in Washington, D.C., specializes in stories on healthcare, science, education, and technology policy. Prior to forays in freelance journalism, Cassie worked as a digital editor for *Medill News Service*, a reporter and video producer for PBS NewsHour, and as a staff reporter for *Bloomberg News*. She studied business reporting, feature writing and digital media production at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She holds memberships with the Association of Health Care Journalists and the IDA B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting.



MEGHANN CUNIFF

Meghann Cuniff is a freelance journalist focused on legal affairs with bylines in the *ABA Journal*, *Los Angeles Magazine* and *Los Angeles Times Community News*. She's reported full time for *The Spokesman-Review*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Orange County Register* and the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*. She's a graduate of the University of Oregon.



MICAH DANNEY

Micah Danney is a freelance multimedia journalist based in Brooklyn. He covers human rights issues, criminal justice, international affairs, religion and the environment. He has reported locally in the New York City region, in the Middle East and is currently an editor at the New York Daily News and a freelance writer with *Juvenile Justice Information Exchange*. He is a formerly incarcerated person, having served time in New York's prison system for a drug conviction when he was 21.

MARIA DILORENZO

Maria DiLorenzo, based in Brooklyn, NY, is a contributing writer to *The Crime Report*. She received her MFA in English/Creative Writing from Hunter College in 2011. Recently, she founded the website "Beyond the Crime," which shares stories of those incarcerated for murder to gain a deeper understanding of criminal behavior and the criminal justice. Her work in true crime has been chronicled in podcasts and documentaries, including an appearance on ABC's 20/20. For the last eight years she has spent her time researching and writing a true crime novel about the life and crimes of Maksim Gelman, which is forthcoming.



DAVID DUDLEY



David is a journalist, educator, and playwright. He's a staffer at *St. George News* in Southern Utah. He's written for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Zenger News*, *the Barton Chronicle*, *North Star Monthly*, and *The Northland Journal*, among others. He has covered various beats, including breaking news, courts and crimes, sports, and arts and entertainment. His writing on theatre appears regularly in *American Theatre Magazine*, *Contemporary Theatre Review (UK)*, *ConJunto (Cuba)*, and *HowlRound.com*. David's play, *800 Days of Solitude*, about the ways in which solitary confinement affects juveniles and their

families, was awarded the 2018 Christian Moe playwriting prize. He earned a BFA with summa cum laude honors from DePaul University, and holds an MFA in playwriting from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He is a 2021-2022 John Jay/Arnold Ventures Justice Reporting Fellow.



JOE FERGUSON

A reporter with 15 years of experience at Arizona news outlets, Joe Ferguson has spent most of his career covering local and state politics, with multiple awards over the years for his investigative work with public records. In Tucson, Ferguson was one of the lead reporters on a prostitution scandal that led to six Tucson Police Department officers losing their jobs. Ferguson has had law enforcement experience himself, serving as a Pima County constable working to alleviate a rash of evictions and serving other court orders

during the height of the COVID pandemic. Ferguson taught journalism for four years at the University of Arizona, focusing on public affairs reporting. He has served among the leaders of several journalism-related nonprofit groups, including the First Amendment Coalition of Arizona. A board member for more than a decade, he was the president of the Arizona Press Club for several years



ROWAN MOORE GERETY

Rowan Moore Gerety's reporting career has blended work examining the experiences of marginalized people navigating complex institutions and the nature of the relationship between citizens and state, as in his first book, *Go Tell the Crocodiles: Changing Prosperity in Mozambique*. He has reported for *NPR*, *Reveal*, *Esquire*, and *The Atlantic*, and broken news on the emergence of now-widespread practices like remote jailing and video-only visitation. His coverage of policing and discipline in urban Miami schools won awards for investigative reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists, and his two-part radio documentary on activists working to

improve conditions for expectant mothers in Texas jails was nominated for a Peabody Award. In the past year, he has also spoken about the scope of police power on national radio programs like *The Takeaway*, the *Laura Coates Show*, and *Here & Now*, and on podcasts like *Today, Explained*.



ELLEN GERST

Ellen Gerst covers criminal justice, courts and local government for the *Casper Star-Tribune*, the statewide newspaper of Wyoming. She has spent the last year reporting on COVID in the state's prisons, local and state court cases and law enforcement. Ellen has focused the beat away from daily crime hits and towards coverage of systemic issues like police reform, prison conditions (in a small state with a high incarceration rate) and criminal justice legislation. Her work has uncovered a mishandled pandemic response in a corrections and treatment facility in

Casper, people sleeping on a gym floor at a state prison and a recent wave of law enforcement officers moving to Wyoming in search of a pro-police community as policing in their hometowns has begun to reform. Her source pool includes law enforcement officers, public defenders, prosecutors, prison wardens, reform advocates and people in jails, prisons and transitional centers around the state – as well as many of their loved ones.



KADE HEATHER

Kade Heather is a crime and courts reporter for *The Pantagraph* in Bloomington, Illinois. He is from Saint Charles, Illinois and received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Illinois State University. He received his master's degree in Public Affairs Reporting from the University of Illinois at Springfield. Kade began working at *The Pantagraph* in November 2020. (Quattrone).



ASHLYND D. HUFFMAN

Ashlynd Huffman covers crime, breaking news, cops, and courts for the *Stillwater News Press* in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She has reported on was the lack of prosecution for adult sexual assaults by the local District Attorney's Office, and the lack of transparency.



WISTA JEANNE JOHNSON

Wista Jeanne Johnson's deceased son spent much of his life in New York State prisons. Hence, she writes about criminal justice reform and hosts *In the Name of Justice* podcast. She has a BA in communications and media from the City College of New York. Johnson has held editorial positions with *Essence*, *Food and Wine*, *the Amsterdam News*, and *the Village Voice*. She's contributed to *POZ*, *Black Enterprise*, *Today's Black Woman*, *Beauty Digest*, *The City Sun*, and *St. Petersburg Times*. As a Ford Foundation Fellow,

Johnson reported on school health education in six cities nationwide.



GEORGE JOSEPH

George Joseph is a reporter for *THE CITY*, covering Brooklyn with a special focus on criminal justice and housing issues. Previously, he worked for WNYC NY Public Radio and *Gothamist.com* where he published a series on police corruption allegations in Mount Vernon, Ny. The series resulted in the disbandment of the city's controversial narcotics unit and the launch of a Department of Justice investigation into the city's small police department.

Before that, he worked on a series uncovering lists of adverse credibility records compiled by District Attorneys across New York City. The series prompted a federal court monitor to order the NYPD to incorporate such lists into a red flag algorithm for misconduct. Police misconduct records uncovered through that project also contributed to the dismissal of a man's conviction following drug planting allegations.

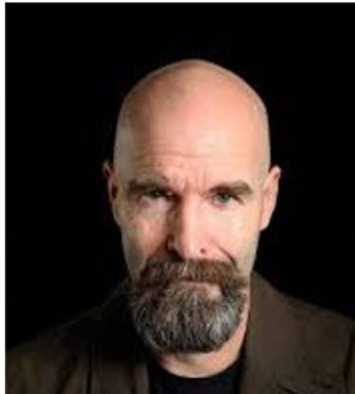


APRIL S. KELLEY

April S. Kelley has worked for various local newsrooms throughout the U.S. over the last 11 years, reporting on social justice, human rights and culture. Stationed in Texas, she continues her work as a freelance journalist to tell the stories of national issues in local communities.

GENE KOPROWSKI

Gene Koprowski is an award-winning documentary producer whose films are distributed via PBS-TV, CBS and ABC affiliates. He's an Emmy Award Nominee (2008), a Telly Award Winner (2019, 2021), a Davey Award Winner (2021), a Marcom Award Winner (2021), and a Viddy Award Winner (2021). He earned an AP Investigative Reporting Award (1988). He's a graduate of Northwestern University and earned an MA at The University of Chicago.



TRISTRAM KORTEN

Tristram Korten is a freelance journalist and investigative reporter who covers the criminal justice system and the environment, among other topic areas. His work has appeared in national magazines such as *GQ*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*, as well as newspapers including the *Washington Post* and *The Miami Herald*. His radio work has been featured on PRI's *The World*, and NPR's *Here and Now*. He is the former editor of the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting, and the author of the 2018 book "Into The Storm" (Ballantine/Random House). (Quattrone)



JILLIAN KRAMER

Jillian Kramer is a journalist who has covered crime, science, and much more over a 15-year career. As a crime reporter in Mobile, Ala., she profiled Mobile's most-jailed man, and the lives of four children fatally tossed from a bridge by their father; detailed a community derailed by methamphetamine; and traced the origins of a single stolen gun. In recent years, she has worked as a freelance journalist, and her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and many other outlets. In

February, she accepted a position as the criminal justice reporter at the Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate, where she covers the local criminal court system, federal courts, district attorney's office, sheriff's office, and more.



JAMILES LARTEY

Jamiles Larthey is a New Orleans-based staff writer for *The Marshall Project*. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *National Public Radio*, *Politico* and *FiveThirtyEight*. Previously, he worked as a reporter for *the Guardian* covering issues of criminal justice, race and policing. Jamiles was a member of the team behind the award-winning online database “The Counted,” tracking police violence in 2015 and 2016. He is also an instructor for the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.



SARAH N. LYNCH

Sarah N. Lynch is a reporter for *Reuters* where she writes about the U.S. Justice Department and criminal justice policy. She previously covered Wall Street regulation and the collapse of the U.S. housing market for the Wall Street Journal’s newswire service. She is a graduate of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism where she specialized in investigative reporting, and she received her bachelor’s degree from Barnard College with a double major in English and Spanish. She lives with her husband Thomas Palafox and their dog Chewbacca in Washington, D.C. Follow her on Twitter @SarahNLynch.



LUKE MALONE

Luke Malone is a journalist and producer who has written stories and produced audio and video documentaries for outlets including *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, *This American Life*, *FX*, *Showtime*, *Gimlet Media*, and *The Atlantic*. He is currently writing a book on child sexual abuse prevention and the history of U.S. sex crime legislation, and producing a feature-length documentary on intrafamilial sexual abuse.



CRAIG MCCARTHY

Craig McCarthy is an award-winning journalist who covers the New York City Police Department for *The New York Post*. His recent work has revealed numerous incidents of misconduct by NYPD officers. Recently, he exclusively reported that two officers were never charged after sexually assaulting a teen girl in the department's youth program. He also uncovered that another officer was quietly charged with perjury years prior and was still on the force after allegedly lying for more than a decade about a police shooting. Prior to *The Post*, Craig was the lead reporter on *The Star-Ledger's* "The Force Report."

During the 16-month project, in which he was selected as a John Jay fellow, he oversaw the data collection for a massive database detailing every use-of-force in New Jersey over a five-year span and co-led the reporting effort of dozens of stories from the analysis.



JOSH MCGHEE

Josh McGhee covers courts, policing and public defense with an emphasis on public records and data for *Injustice Watch*. He's reported on just about everything in his decade of reporting in Chicago. Josh got his start working the crime and mayhem beat at the now-defunct *DNAinfo Chicago*, where he helped populate *Murder in Chicago: The Human Toll*. The interactive project aimed to give a name and face to all of the the murder victims, instead of the normal 17/M/B narrative that floods daily reporting. He later transitioned to a neighborhood reporter at *DNAinfo* covering the North Side

community of Uptown, where he followed the rapidly changing community, its reaction to crime trends, and its growing population of unhoused individuals. His reporting on the encampments and a shelter set to close on Christmas was awarded a Lisagor Award for Best Feature Series.

T.E. MCMORROW

T.E. McMorrow is an award-winning author and journalist most recently with *The East End Independent*. He has covered the police, the courts, and the criminal justice system as major components of his beat on the East End of Long Island, first for *The East Hampton Star*, then for *The Independent*. T. E. McMorrow's work for *The Independent* was recognized by the New York State Press Association, with first place awards for quality of reporting in both 2018 and 2019.





JERRY MITCHELL

After working for three decades for the statewide *Clarion-Ledger*, Mitchell founded the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting in 2019, a nonprofit that exposes injustices, investigates cold cases, gives voice to the voiceless and raises up the next generation of investigative reporters. Mitchell's stories have helped put four Klansmen and a serial killer behind bars. His stories have also helped free two people from death row, exposed injustices and corruption, prompting investigations and reforms as well as the firings of boards and officials. He is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, a longtime member of Investigative Reporters & Editors, and a winner of more than 30 other national awards, including a \$500,000 MacArthur "genius" grant. His memoir for Simon & Schuster,

Race Against Time, details how some of the nation's most notorious murders came to be punished decades later. *The New York Times* made it an Editors' Pick, and NPR selected it a Best Book of the Year. (Quattrone)

CHRIS PALMER

Chris Palmer is a staff writer at the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he covers law enforcement, gun violence, and a criminal justice system in the midst of reform. He's responsible for leading the newspaper's coverage of the city's Police Department, District Attorney's Office, and criminal court system. In addition to daily coverage, he's spearheaded projects combining data analyses, street reporting, and scores of interviews to expose the [systemic failures](#) that have [contributed to the city's gun violence crisis](#) — including its intense concentration in neighborhoods long deprived of resources, and law enforcement's inability to arrest or convict shooters. He's exposed the practices of [a corrupt homicide detective](#), written about murder cases [overturned due to misconduct](#), and [closely covered](#) the administration of DA Larry Krasner. He has won several statewide press awards for his coverage. And [other investigations](#) he's authored have sparked calls for reform from [city](#) and [state](#) legislators



CAITLIN SCHMIDT

Caitlin Schmidt is the *Arizona Daily Star's* solutions reporter, covering people and groups working to solve social problems, fill gaps and break down barriers in equity. Since graduating from the University of Arizona in 2014, Schmidt has worked on the *Star's* public safety, local government and sports desks, and has written dozens of stories about criminal justice reform efforts and gender-based violence within the University of Arizona athletic department. She serves on the boards of the Arizona

Press Club and Association for Women in Sports Media and is a former Solutions Journalism Network, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Poynter fellow. She's a two-time winner of the Arizona Press Club's Sledgehammer Award for pursuit of information and a co-winner of the 2019 National Sports Media Association Arizona Sportswriter of the Year award.



DYAN SMITH

Dylan Smith is the Editor and Publisher of *TucsonSentinel.com*, a pioneering nonprofit local independent online news organization. He was the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Local Independent Online News Publishers (LION Publishers), organizing a group of publishers of nearly 300 local news websites across the country. He is a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the president of the Arizona

Press Club. He's won numerous state and national awards and accolades, including the Sledgehammer Award from the Arizona Press Club, and is a Brechner Reporting Fellow at the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida. An experienced designer and programmer, he served as the only journalist to be an Invited Expert on the World Wide Web Consortium's HTML Working Group, helping write the latest specification for the language that runs the Internet.



ANN SEYMOUR VERGARA

In her coverage of art programs in prisons, Ann centers her reporting on current and formerly incarcerated individuals as humans instead of perpetrators of crimes. Her focus is on the importance of arts programs in correctional facilities as both a means of self expression and a way to build social responsibility. In 2018, she contributed to [Prison Outside](#), a conference in Helsinki focused on art programs in prisons around the world. She has reported on incarceration for the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Escaping](#)

[Time](#). Currently Ann is producing a video about a pilot prison music program in Colorado.



VIDA VOLKERT

Vida Volkert has been covering crime and corruption, social issues, agriculture and the environment for the *Gallup Independent*, a newspaper in Gallup, New Mexico, since 2010. A graduate of Florida State University, Vida started her career in journalism covering Native American issues and the immigration beat. Born and raised in Peru, Vida is passionate about issues impacting indigenous people. Her work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Washington Times*, the *Houston Chronicle*, *Arizona Republic*, *U.S. News & World Report*.

CHARLOTTE WEST

Charlotte West covers the future of postsecondary education and prisons for *Open Campus Media*, a nonprofit newsroom focused on higher education. Charlotte has more than a decade of experience writing about education, housing, juvenile justice, and politics. Her work has appeared in publications such as the *Hechinger Report*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, *Teen Vogue*, *Huffington Post*, *Fortune*, and *CalMatters*, an Open Campus partner. She's passionate about working with college journalists, and her most recent newsroom position was as a reporting coach with the CalMatters College Journalism Network. She's received fellowships from the Education Writers Association and Kiplinger.



ADILIA WATSON

Adilia Watson is a Buffalo-based reporter for The Imprint, a national nonprofit news outlet focusing on child welfare and youth justice. She is developing a youth justice beat in upstate New York communities where there is less coverage of these important issues. Among her projects are covering efforts to roll back aspects of Raise the Age legislation, restorative justice and police presence on school campuses. After graduation from Seattle University, Adilia became a Rural Reporting Fellow at *The Daily Yonder*. She is from Stockton, California, and has articles published in *Cultura Colectiva* and *The Yucatan Times*. In her free time, she enjoys reading science-fiction and rollerskating.





JANAE WILLIAMS

JaNae Williams is a reporter at *The Oklahoman*. She was the 2020 Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association Journalist of the Year and is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma. Since starting at the Oklahoman in April she has been covering county government, homelessness and general assignment beats. Much of her reporting has focused on the Oklahoma County Jail and the trust that oversees it.

