

Michigan Press Association Foundation announces that Detroit Free Press reporter Andrea Sahouri has been chosen for the 2024 Richard Milliman Journalist of the Year

The MPA Foundation is pleased to honor Andrea Sahouri as the 2024 Richard Milliman Journalist of the Year.

"Andrea Sahouri gets people to talk to her. And she holds others accountable," said Jim Schaefer executive director of the Detroit Free Press. The Detroit Free Press reporter had an incredible year, with a string of exclusives, from investigative stories to pieces that add context and impact in the aftermath of tragedies. Andrea was the first to expose a racist trend at Detroit's most iconic high-rise, the Renaissance Center, where a state-licensed, private police force was operating with over a decade of unchecked allegations of assault and harassment of Black visitors. This story got results: General Motors, whose headquarters is in the RenCen, acted at the facility the next day, ordering the accused officers off their property while they launched an investigation.

"There is no way to tell a story that prompts change without people, and Andrea Sahouri's body of work testifies to that fact," said Nicole Avery Nichols, editor, and VP of the Detroit Free Press. "Through compassionate and insightful reporting, Andrea has helped to shine a light on longstanding injustice and systematic failures in ways that are meaningful for our communities. The Free Press is immensely proud."

Andrea has been at the Detroit Free Press since 2022. A reporter since 2019, she has covered police, crime, and justice not only at the Detroit Free Press but also at the Des Moines Register. She graduated from the University of Michigan and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She loves people, their stories, and the community she serves.

"Highly incisive reporting on a number of tremendously difficult subjects. Ms. Sahouri cuts to the heart of some topics that we would rather not hear about but need to." says judge Magnus Wilson.

Also recognized as finalists for the award at the 2025 MPA Convention were Anna Nichols of Michigan Advance as runner up for her reporting Domestic Violence during and after the Covid Pandemic in Michigan. Todd Heywood of WLNS for his coverage of Board of Water and Light and Craig Mauger of Detroit News for his coverage on Donald Trum electors' scheme in Michigan. They were chosen from a field of entries from broadcast, print and electronic journalism for work from October 2023 through September 2024.

The Michigan Press Association Foundation was created in 1980 to further the interests of community journalism in Michigan. The Foundation's mission includes serving the public interest by encouraging, fostering, and aiding improvements in the quality, vigor and fairness of Michigan journalism and a free press in the state of Michigan. They have awarded the Richard Milliman Journalist of the Year each year since 2014.