

McCree Award Winners

2026

-Reporter Violet Ikonoomova of the Detroit Free Press for series of stories on “Continuing coverage of a decade of Detroit Police Shootings” Her relentless research has produced a package of reports that reflects the newspaper’s continued commitment to dogged coverage of police shootings. Building on a project published the previous year, the 2025 investigation anchoring this package found many of those shootings that began with a recurring, avoidable set of circumstances – a random, nonviolent stop that escalated with a foot chase because an officer suspected a firearm. Her work exposed how a simple stop can turn dangerous or deadly.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/investigations/2025/09/12/detroit-police-shootings-nonviolent-stops-chases/85847620007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2025/09/19/detroit-police-shooting/86241487007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2025/10/24/detroit-police-shootings-detroit-police-board-members-call-for-limits-on-minor-stops-after-shootings/86851221007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2025/10/31/detroit-police-video-footage-editing/86967664007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2025/11/29/video-shows-detroit-police-shooting-teen-at-mcdonalds-drive-through/87511688007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2025/12/17/detroit-end-minor-traffic-stops-michigan-cities/87669802007/?gca-cat=p&gnt-cfr=1>

-Reporter Paul Egan of the Detroit Free Press for his reporting on “five deaths and two injuries all streaming from the exact same problem: Out of code railings on the top floors of two state prisons that are too short to prevent falls or suicides.” Prison staff, inmates, and families alike do not feel safe. They have asked courts, prison officials, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s office for help without seeing results. Paul’s consistent questions and reporting brought those results. Because of Paul’s dogged pursuit of these stories, state prison officials were designing the safety improvements in January and expect to select a contractor in spring 2026.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2025/01/17/michigan-prison-jumping-suicides-worker-miosha-complaint/77715694007/?gca-cat=p&gnt-cfr=1>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2025/04/16/inmate-dies-fall-egeler-prison-ervin-robinson/83099487007/?gca-cat=p&gnt-cfr=1>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2025/04/25/michigan-prison-railings-fatal-falls-budget-spending-fix/83268987007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2025/10/24/man-jumps-upper-gallery-michigan-panall-prison-survives/86857715007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2025/11/13/lawmakers-10-million-railing-safety-panall-egeler-suicides-falls/87234989007/>

-Reporter/Managing Editor Kristie May, reporter Raine Kuch, audience and engagement editor Reid Williams and editor James Sanford of NowKalamazoo for their story on “Jailhouse Communication.” On the face of it, a contract with a telecommunications company that helped county jail inmates hear and see their family and friends – and read e-books and other tablet activities – would seem like a positive program. We spent a year on

document requests, pressure financial disclosures, and interviews with officials in the Sheriff's office, jail, county government, and incarcerated communities, all to process the implication of this contract. We discovered the underbelly of a system that is common nationwide and known all-too-well by people least able to affect it: ● It was the only way inmates could connect to the outside world, because in-person visits had been all but banned ● Neither the phones nor tablets were accessible, available, or high quality enough to reliably communicate, and nowhere near what the jail or private companies promised ● The telecom company paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to the county as a bonus payment to add it to its network of affiliate jails ● The county also got a cut of the high fees that inmates and their families had to pay to use any of the equipment.

<https://nowkalamazoo.org/2025/09/profits-from-prisoners/>, <https://nowkalamazoo.org/2025/12/kalamazoo-county-to-look-for-bids-for-next-jail-telecommunications-contract/>, <https://nowkalamazoo.org/2025/10/how-we-found-out-who-profits-from-jail-phone-calls-in-kalamazoo-county/>

-Reporter Sarah Cwiek of Michigan Public for her two stories “Another Detroit wrongful conviction lawsuit: ‘I have never seen a fabrication of this extent.’ and New Report on a wrongful conviction highlights old missteps in hopes of preventing future mistakes.” Together, these stories inform the public about the workings of the courts, prosecutors, police, and post-conviction review, while demonstrating how accountability and reform can emerge from public-interest journalism. These stories examine the case of Detroit exoneree Duane Williams and the systemic failures that led to his wrongful conviction and imprisonment for more than 11 years. They illuminate how wrongful convictions happen, how they are corrected, and what reforms are needed to prevent future injustices. <https://www.michiganpublic.org/criminal-justice-legal-system/2025-07-23/another-detroit-wrongful-conviction-lawsuit-ive-never-seen-a-fabrication-to-this-extent>, <https://www.michiganpublic.org/criminal-justice-legal-system/2025-11-17/new-report-on-a-wrongful-conviction-highlights-old-missteps-in-hopes-of-preventing-future-mistakes>

2025

-Reporters Dave Boucher and Darcie Moran of the Detroit Free Press for series of stories on “Judicial Accountability.” This series in Boucher and Moran showed Michigan judges are rarely held publicly accountable for misconduct. Lawyers frequently do not report possible problems due to the fear of reprisals. Even when those in power determine a judge did something wrong, punishment often amounts to a private scolding. This work explained the impact of streaming hearings while exposing potential misconduct. Our readers learned more about their elected officials, how they are or are not – held accountable and which changes might make the system more effective. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2024/08/14/detroit-judge-forces-teen-who-fell-asleep-on-field-trip-into-handcuffs/74794293007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2024/08/15/detroit-judge-teen-handcuffed-sleeping-removed-docket/74816184007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/investigations/2024/08/24/detroit-judge-kenneth-king-youtube-chat-scrutiny/74870118007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/investigations/2024/10/03/detroit-district-judges-banned-online-chats-court-livestreams-youtube/75495336007/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2024/10/11/michigan-viral-judges-courts-youtube/74955912007/>

-Reporter Heather Catallo, Johnny N. Satrin Jr., Randy Lundquist and Tim Kochenderfer of WXYZ-TV for their reporting on “Improper conduct by a powerful probate judge.” WXYZ exposed improper conduct by a powerful probate judge who is now under investigation by the Judicial Tenure Commission. Since 2017, WXYZ’s Heather Catallo has been investigating Michigan’s probate courts, pursuing allegations of corruption and suspect relationships between judges and professional guardians. That long history of exposing the truth and building trust in the courts prompted the Probate Court Administrator in one of Michigan’s largest probate courts to come forward to WXYZ to reveal some disturbing allegations.

<https://vimeo.com/1044786330/11d05638a4?ts=0&share=copy>

-Reporters Cole Waterman and Gus Burns of MLive Media Group for their series of stories on “Michigan State Police’s Secure Cities Program.” Reporter Cole Waterman began digging into the issue and filing FOIA requests after there was a surge of complaints. Waterman and fellow reporter Gus Burns combed through stacks of data from the FOIA requests, examined numerous lawsuits, annual reports and interviewed dozens of residents. The

months-long investigation revealed more than 80 civilian complaints -- many racial in nature -- \$27.2 million paid to settle lawsuits involving Secure Cities troopers, including lawsuits that had gone previously unreported and revealed criticism from the people who live in Flint and Saginaw. The package not only dissected specific cases and larger issues with Secure Cities, but addressed possible solutions as put forth by law enforcement and residents.

-Reporter Sarah Cwiek of Michigan Public for her series "A Wrongful Conviction and a Detroit Serial Rapist who stayed free." This story is the second part of a multi-part series, but it is story that specifically reports what happened to a wrongfully convicted man and explains how his wrongful conviction shows the justice system failing at nearly every turn. Cwiek's story details the tragedies that can occur when our criminal justice system does not work properly, and reports on the efforts now underway to address that misplaced justice.

<https://www.michiganpublic.org/criminal-justice-legal-system/2024-04-30/a-wrongful-conviction-and-a-detroit-serial-rapist-who-stayed-free-heres-how-it-happened>

2024

-Reporter Kara Berg of the Detroit News for series of stories on "Michigan Kids keep dying on Child Protective Services' watch." This series helped expose major flaws in the bureaucracy at Michigan's Child Protective Services agency. Importantly, the reporting offered potential solutions for policymakers to consider as they pursue their own investigations and justice for these victims of child abuse and neglect. Detroit News reporter Kara Berg has been tracking child abuse cases where children died during an ongoing Child Protective Services case for several years. In her years-long reporting, Kara started to see a pattern of cases where kids were seriously injured or killed after family, friends, etc, made CPS reports and the cases were either investigated or punted to the side by investigators. When a 5-year-old boy was found dead in a suburban Detroit house his aunt dubbed the "house of horrors," Kara began a deeper investigation into how this state agency was handling repeated abuse allegations.

-Reporter Lauren Gibbons of Bridge Michigan for her columns "Juvenile Justice carries high costs: Crippling Debt for Parents." It's a pattern seen over and over in wrongful conviction cases: testimony from incentivized traveled from Detroit, to Hillsdale to Macomb County to document the plight of families deep in debt for court fees imposed on juvenile offenders. People like Ernest Bracanovic, a war refugee from Yugoslavia who, as a teen in Macomb County, spent the bulk of his teenage years in juvenile detention for assault and illicit substances. He amassed more than \$100,000 in debt because Michigan law allowed judges to impose fees on juvenile offenders and their families for everything from drug tests and counseling to detention (which averages \$100-300 per day). Gibbons researched and reported on studies showing thousands of families collectively owed millions of dollars in juvenile fees. One study showed Macomb County families with children in juvenile detention owed, on average, \$87,000 in court debts. Another study showed at least \$28 million in juvenile fees assessed statewide between 2017 and 2019. A third study revealed ten Michigan counties kept such unpaid court fees open indefinitely, in some cases pertaining to juveniles who are now deceased. As State Senator Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, told Bridge Michigan, "The whole point of juvenile justice is to make sure that we're rehabilitating and then getting folks on track to success. But how can you do that when people are saddled with an enormous amount of debt from the court, where it's hindering their ability to get ahead and move forward? ... It just feels so wrong." Weeks after Gibbons published her report, the Michigan Legislature passed reforms eliminating most juvenile court fees.

-Reporter Andrea Sahouri of the Detroit Free Press for her column Exposing Racism, Harassment, assault at Detroit's Renaissance Center." The initial tip led to Andrea's locating and reading through hundreds of pages of old court cases, depositions and exhibits to verify what whistleblowers were telling her about the long but untold history of racism and abuse allegations against the security companies. She sorted through a complicated web of business records to verify who owned the multiple firms and to demonstrate those companies' ties to the multinational auto company. She didn't just rely on just public records. She tracked down a mentally ill Black woman who said she was recently beaten by a white RenCen officer and then detained in a basement cell. The woman was never charged with a crime. With compassion, Andrea was able to earn the woman's trust to tell her story, all while verifying her account with other entities, including the Detroit Police Department.

Michigan law gives these private police officers a state-endorsed license to arrest people and carry weapons. And Andrea's story shed light on the lack of oversight in place at the state level after these licenses are granted.

-Reporter Heather Catallo of WXYZ_TV for her reporting on "Problems in Probate: Fighting for Accountability and Access" has been working since 2017 to expose the fraud and abuse in the probate courts in Michigan that result in unnecessary guardianships and conservatorships. In 2021, Catallo's reporting resulted in four bills being introduced in the Michigan legislature. But guardianship reform has opponents: the judges in the system and

the lawyers who work as professional guardians. In 2023, Catallo exposed how the Michigan Guardianship Association worked to kill those bills. She also revealed recordings of a well-known probate judge helping professional guardians and lawyers push back against family members fighting for their loved ones. This reporting not only held the judge accountable, it educated the public about the law and the reforms needed in the probate courts.

2023

-Reporter Kara Berg of the Detroit News for series of stories on “Michigan Kids keep dying on Child Protective Services’ watch.” This series helped expose major flaws in the bureaucracy at Michigan’s Child Protective Services agency. Importantly, the reporting offered potential solutions for policymakers to consider as they pursue their own investigations and justice for these victims of child abuse and neglect. Detroit News reporter Kara Berg has been tracking child abuse cases where children died during an ongoing Child Protective Services case for several years. In her years-long reporting, Kara started to see a pattern of cases where kids were seriously injured or killed after family, friends, etc, made CPS reports and the cases were either investigated or punted to the side by investigators. When a 5-year-old boy was found dead in a suburban Detroit house his aunt dubbed the “house of horrors,” Kara began a deeper investigation into how this state agency was handling repeated abuse allegations.

-Reporter Lauren Gibbons of Bridge Michigan for her columns “Juvenile Justice carries high costs: Crippling Debt for Parents.” It’s a pattern seen over and over in wrongful conviction cases: testimony from incentivized traveled from Detroit, to Hillsdale to Macomb County to document the plight of families deep in debt for court fees imposed on juvenile offenders. People like Ernest Bracanovic, a war refugee from Yugoslavia who, as a teen in Macomb County, spent the bulk of his teenage years in juvenile detention for assault and illicit substances. He amassed more than \$100,000 in debt because Michigan law allowed judges to impose fees on juvenile offenders and their families for everything from drug tests and counseling to detention (which averages \$100-300 per day). Gibbons researched and reported on studies showing thousands of families collectively owed millions of dollars in juvenile fees. One study showed Macomb County families with children in juvenile detention owed, on average, \$87,000 in court debts. Another study showed at least \$28 million in juvenile fees assessed statewide between 2017 and 2019. A third study revealed ten Michigan counties kept such unpaid court fees open indefinitely, in some cases pertaining to juveniles who are now deceased. As State Senator Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, told Bridge Michigan, “The whole point of juvenile justice is to make sure that we’re rehabilitating and then getting folks on track to success. But how can you do that when people are saddled with an enormous amount of debt from the court, where it’s hindering their ability to get ahead and move forward? ... It just feels so wrong.” Weeks after Gibbons published her report, the Michigan Legislature passed reforms eliminating most juvenile court fees.

-Reporter Andrea Sahouri of the Detroit Free Press for her columns “Rights & Wrongs.” Nearly 50 years ago, the Michigan Legislature gave people with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities their own set of rights: to be free from abuse and neglect, to be treated with dignity and respect, to receive care in the least restrictive environment. At the time, it was seen as progressive, groundbreaking legislation, unique nationwide. But in a first-of-its-kind investigation, the Free Press found the system known as recipient rights is broken. And across Michigan, people are suffering.

Recipient rights have a fundamental problem: psychiatric hospitals and community mental health agencies are responsible for investigating themselves when a complaint is filed. The result: community mental health agencies have fired their recipient rights investigators for simply doing their job; the quality of investigations varies from place to place; the recommended punishment is often vague or insufficient; and there is no guarantee a wrong will be righted.

-Reporter Tresa Baldas of the Detroit Free Press for her columns “Investigation contradicts damning narrative about the Crumbleys – the embattled parents of the Oxford school shooter.” Her two-part investigation included never-before published text messages between teachers who had reported the shooter to school officials, new red flags about the shooter that were missed, and a detailed account from the social worker who was tasked with finding the shooter on surveillance cameras. In covering the Crumbleys, Baldas has sought to provide the most detailed and easy-to-understand information about their complicated case, and all its legal implications. Specifically, we have included in our submission an explanatory piece titled “The Crumbleys: Criminals, or just bad parents? Why this case may be hard to prove.”

2022

-Reporters Heather Catallo, Kimberly Craig, Videographer Johnny N. Sartin Jr. and Video Editor Randy Lundquist of WXYZ-TV for their investigation "Probate Problems: Reforming Michigan's Guardianship Laws." This article highlighted that guardianship abuse has become an increasing problem across the country. It covered some disturbing cases here in Michigan and that Catallo's work prompted the introduction of four bills in the Michigan Legislature. The legislative reforms will transform the probate court system in Michigan. Catallo has been relentless in her coverage of the proposed legislation to ensure Michigan's leaders pay close attention to the changes that are needed to protect the rights of seniors and families. She was not able to attend one of the key announcements about the law changes, but WXYZ still dedicated tremendous resources to this important issue in her absence, and reporter Kimberly Craig helped explain the new legislation to our viewers.

-Reporters Elisha Anderson, John Wisely, Podcast Co-producers Cary Junior II, Darcie Moran and Tad Davis of Detroit Free Press for their columns "Jailhouse informants and a 15-year fight for freedom." Free Press reporters Elisha Anderson and John Wisely investigated Deering's case and showed how the criminal justice system relied heavily on jailhouse informants in hard-to-crack cases. They also examined the informants themselves, including their credibility issues, which were never disclosed to defense attorneys or jurors. Their reporting showed breaks the informants received in their own cases that were not disclosed or were downplayed to jurors. It also revealed the long-established relationships law enforcement had with some of the informants. The coverage brought to light an issue that is critically important in the criminal justice system but rarely understood by the public and showed the scope of the problem. In addition, Tad Davis, Cary Junior II and Darcie Moran produced an in-depth podcast on the case that incorporated several months of reporting. The 'On the Line' episode highlighted Deering's 15-year fight for freedom. Last year, a judge ruled Deering was denied a fair trial and tossed out his convictions. Prosecutors determined Deering would not be retried, and he was freed.

-Reporters Benjamin Simon, Greg Chandler, Photojournalist Scott Harmsen and Publisher Fred Jacobs of Hastings Banner for their columns "Family faces crisis under insurance reforms." Photojournalist Scott Harmsen first noticed them at a meeting with Michigan state Representative Julie Calley a year ago in Hastings. They appeared distraught; a middle-aged woman with her father, a disabled man in a wheelchair, his granddaughter and two caregivers. They were asking questions about changes to the state's no-fault automobile insurance law. As we learned about their plight, we discovered that these victims would not be grandfathered in under the reforms. These victims were going to be left without the care that they now needed to live. They had nowhere to turn and no one to speak out for them until The Banner began reporting on the issue. Since then, Staff Writers Benjamin Simon and Greg Chandler, Photojournalist Scott Harmsen and Publisher Fred Jacobs have been educating readers about this law and bringing the issues that resulted from the reforms to the attention of policymakers and legislators in a continuing series of articles, features and editorials. Those articles got attention.

2021

-Reporter Sarah Cwiek of Michigan Radio for her investigation "Tax foreclosure lawsuit asks: How much can government take from property owners?" This article shows how citizens, especially those at risk of foreclosure, don't even know how the process works. It's a complicated issue before the Michigan Supreme Court, but many homeowners don't realize how easy it can be to lose their home if they are unaware, they owe some back taxes. <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/tax-foreclosure-lawsuit-asks-how-much-can-government-take-property-owners>

-Reporter Chandra Bozelko of Holland Sentinel for her columns "Insider takes on Prisons and Courts." She uses real life experiences to show case how the prisons and the judicial system works. These are the stories and explanations of what's really happening in these places.

-Reporter Nancy Kaffer of Detroit Free Press for an in-depth investigation "She's tormented by final days' unexplained death of little sisters in Harper Woods Jail." Kaffer delved into the circumstances of Slater's death. Caught on video having a seizure around 5 a.m., Slater wasn't found dead by jail staff for seven hours. Little attempt has been made to explain the long lapse, and two Harper Woods cops were fired after the report of her death was altered. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is investigating and will ultimately decide whether any Harper Woods employees should be charged in Slater's death.

<https://www.freep.com/in-depth/opinion/columnists/nancy-kaffer/2020/12/04/priscilla-slater-harper-woods-jail-death/6044371002/>

2020

- Reporter Sarah Cwiek of Michigan Radio for her investigation “They say their son needs to be in a psychiatric hospital. He went to jail instead.” <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/detroit-new-ap-proach-stemming-cycles-violence-meeting-victims-needs>, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/they-say-their-son-needs-be-psychiatric-hospital-he-went-jail-instead>, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/lawsuit-seeks-end-unnecessary-unconstitutional-and-costly-cash-bail-detroit>, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/detroit-police-request-more-money-controversial-facial-recognition-and-surveillance-program>, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/duggan-gives-thumbs-police-using-facial-recognition-not-surveillance>, <https://www.michiganradio.org/post/detroit-police-revise-facial-recognition-policy-civil-rights-groups-call-ban>
- Reporter Karen Bouffard of the Detroit News for an in-depth investigation “Healing Justice” showed America’s underinvestment in mental health services, and the enormous expense of incarceration. <https://apps.detroitnews.com/projects/healing-justice/>
- Reporter Heather Catallo of WXYZ for an in-depth investigation “Guardianship Epidemic: I just want my parents back” showed that as the baby boomers age, guardianship abuse is increasingly becoming a bigger problem across the country. <https://vimeo.com/378700466/129aeca885>

2019

- Reporters Jim Schaefer and Gina Kaufman of the Detroit Free Press for an in-depth investigation “They look like cops, but they’re not. And they’re all over Michigan” – <https://www.freep.com/story/news/investigations/2018/10/24/mcoles-michigan-reserve-cops/1353397002/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/investigations/2018/11/20/michigan-review-reserve-officer-freep/2024804002/>
- Reporters Elisha Anderson, John Wisely, Ann Zaniewski and Executive Video Producer Brian Kaufman collaborated on a series that appeared in print and on the Detroit Free Press website called “Tale of a Tape”. <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2018/04/13/police-video-michigan-state-police-taser/499525002/>, <https://vimeo.com/308319755>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/detroit/2018/04/16/michigan-state-police-atv-taser-death-trooper/499630002/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2018/05/17/atv-taser-crash-coverup/608123002/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/2018/06/07/detroit-atv-taser-case/676323002/>, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/2018/08/23/mark-bessner-michigan-state-police/1054558002/>
- Reporter Matt Mencarini of the Lansing State Journal for his coverage Larry Nassar and the fallout at Michigan State University after he was exposed as a serial sexual abuser who had used his position as a campus physician to rape women and girls for 20 years. <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2018/04/05/larry-nassar-inside-prosecution-investigation/472506002/>
- Lead Defense Reporter Kevin Dietz, TV & Digital Executive Ro Coppola, Web reporter Derick Hutchinson and Dave Bartkowiak of WDIV and Podcast Producer Zac Rosen of Graham Media for their steady drumbeat of investigative news stories exposing the injustices within the Michigan parole board which turned into national outrage and concluded with not only the parole of this prisoner but the introduction and passing into law Michigan House Bill 5377. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLKngms6KmM&feature=youtu.be>

2018

- Investigative Reporter Heather Catallo, Videographer Johnny N. Sartin Jr. and Editor Randy Lundquist of WXYZ-TV, Detroit: Problems in Probate: Grief, Greed and Real Estate <https://www.wxyz.com/probate>
- Jim Schaefer and Gina Kaufman of the Detroit Free Press: Disorderly Conduct: How problem cops stay on the street <https://www.freep.com/topic/c1b86103-0a5a-4c9c-8ba2-476fc4bd59a1/disorderly-conduct/>
- Mike Martindale of the Detroit News

2017

- The staff of Bridge Magazine, and John Bebow, president and CEO of The Center for Michigan: <http://www.bridgemi.com/truth-squad-companion/disaster-day-day-detailed-flint-crisis-timeline>, <http://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-truth-squad/who-approved-switch-flint-river-states-answers-draw-fouls>, <http://www.bridgemi.com/truth-squad-companion/good-bad-and-ugly-rating-comments-public-officials-and-experts-flint-water>, <http://www.bridgemi.com/public-sector/what-flint-lost>, <http://www.bridgemi.com/public-sector/felony-charges-filed-against-state-city-employees-flint-water-crisis>
- Jennifer Dixon and Kristi Tanner-Detroit Free Press: <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/mich->

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/09/06/state-plans-surprise-inspections-demolition-sites/89773806/>, <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/05/01/asbestos-contractors-target-homeless-other-vulnerable-people/82618742/>, <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/06/25/mio-sha-penalties-michigan-workers-compensation/84592140/>, <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/06/30/dearborn-heights-janitor-says-shes-vindicated-osha/86549872/>, <http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/09/06/state-plans-surprise-inspections-demolition-sites/89773806/>

-George Hunter-Detroit News: <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/06/13/lawyer-davontae-sanford-license/85806144/>, <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/2016/06/20/detroit-news-at-noon/86130874/>, <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2016/06/20/possible-perjury-charges-ex-detroit-cop/86126506/>

-Staff of Michigan Radio: <http://michiganradio.org/topic/michigans-juvenile-lifers-who-gets-second-chance>

2016

- Joe Linstroth and Kate Wells-Michigan Radio
- Ron French and Ted Roelofs-Bridge Magazine
- Kevin Dietz, RO Coppola, Vanessa Ogletree, Ben Bell, and John Pompeo-WDIV
- John Wisley-Detroit Free Press

2015

- Jennifer Guerra, Sarah Alvarez & Sarah Hulett—Michigan Radio: Finding Home: A Documentary about Foster Care in Michigan
- Nathan Bomey, John Gallagher & Mark Stryker—Detroit Free Press: How Detroit Was Reborn
- Joan Isabella, Sandra Svoboda & Courtney Hurtt—WDET: NextChapterDetroit.com
- Brad Devereaux—MLive Media Group: Small Town, Big Problems
- Honorable Mention: Mike Martindale—Detroit News: Judge on Leave to Quit After Re-election

2014

- Ross Jones, Randy Lundquist, Ann Mullen, Ramon Rosario, & Johnny Sartiny—WXYZ-TV
- Jim Schaefer—Detroit Free Press
- John Barnes, Fritz Klug, Scott Levin, John Agar, & Gus Burns—MLive Media Group

2013

- L.L. Brasier & Gina Damron—Detroit Free Press
- Mike Martindale—Detroit News
- Ross Jones, Ann Mullen, Johnny Sartin, Randy Lundquist, & Newton Glasby—WXYZ-TV
- Honorable mention:
 - Jeff Gerritt (Detroit Free Press);
 - John Barnes, Heather Peters, John Agar, Gary Ridley, Brad Devereaux, Rex Hall Jr., Jonathan Oosting, & Tim Martin (MLive Media Group);
 - John Barnes, Jonathan Oosting, Tim Martin, Dave Eggert, & Brandon Howell (MLive Media Group);
 - Jennifer Dixon, Jim Schaefer, Kristi Tanner, Martha Thierry, Romain Blanquart, & Mandi Wright (Detroit Free Press)

2012

- Heather Catallo, Ross Jones, & Randy Lundquist—WXYZ-TV
- Lester Graham—Michigan Radio
- Bill Proctor, Randy Lundquist, Ramon Rosario, & Johnny Sartin—WXYZ-TV
- L.L. Brasier & John Wisely—Detroit Free Press
- John Barnes & Team: Barton Deiters, Khalil AlHajal, Danielle Salisbury, Rex Hall, John Hausman, Andy Hoag, Jonathan Oosting, Michael Wayland, Angela Wittrock, Brandon Howell—MLive Media Group

-Curt Guyette—Detroit Metro Times

2011

-Jim Schaefer, Kristi Tanner-White, & Eric Seals—Detroit Free Press

-Andy Hoag—Saginaw News

-Jennifer Dixon & Jim Schaefer—Detroit Free Press

-Curt Guyette—Detroit Metro Times

-Mike Martindale & Mike Wilkinson—Detroit News

-Jessica Harthorn—WEIY NBC 25

2010

-Jennifer Dixon & Tina Lam—Detroit Free Press

-Cody Hinze, Ryan Loew, Louise Knott Ahern, & Jamie Urrea—Lansing State Journal

-M.L. Elrick, Naomi R. Patton, Jim Schaefer, Rochelle Riley, & Gina Damron—Detroit Free Press

-Angie Hendershot & Christopher Carr—WJRT TV-12

-Honorable mention: Craig McMorris (WNEM TV-5)

2009

-M.L. Elrick & Jim Schaefer—Detroit Free Press

-Charlie Cain & Gary Heinlein—Detroit News

-Sandra Svoboda—Metro Times

-Honorable mention:

-Brian Dickerson (Detroit Free Press);

-George Hunter (Detroit News);

-Brian McGillivray, Bill O'Brien, & Mike Tyree (Traverse City Record-Eagle)

2008

-Kathy Jessup, Chris Killian, & Rebecca Pierce—Kalamazoo Gazette

-Jim Schaefer, Joe Swickart, L.L. Brasier, Brian Dickerson, Suzette Hackney, & John Wisely—Detroit Free Press

-Honorable mention:

-Shantell M. Kirkendoll (Flint Journal);

-Sandra Svoboda (Metro Times)

2007

-Jeff Gerritt—Detroit Free Press

-Curt Guyette—Metro Times

-Matt Phillips & Charlie Langton—Sterling Heights Television & the Macomb County Bar Association

-Honorable mention:

-Todd Berg (Michigan Lawyers Weekly);

-Ronald J. Hansen (Detroit News);

-Judy Putnam (Booth Newspapers)

2006

-Norman Sinclair, Ronald J. Hansen, & Melvin Claxton—Detroit News

-Matt Phillips & Charlie Langton—Sterling Heights Television & the Macomb County Bar Association

-Honorable mention:

-Jason Alley (Southgate News Herald);

-David Ashenfelter (Detroit Free Press);

-Ken Kolker (Grand Rapids Press);

-Rosemary Parker, Ed Finnert, Barbara Walters, & Bill Krasean (Kalamazoo Gazette)

2005

- David Shepardson, Norman Sinclair, & Ronald J. Hansen—Detroit News
- Mark Albert—WWMT-TV Kalamazoo

2004

- Gregg Krupa, Francis X. Donnelly, & John Bebow—Detroit News
- Matt Phillips, Charlie Langton, & Rick Troy-Sterling Heights Television & the Macomb County Bar Association
- Honorable mention:
 - Nolan Finley, George Bullard, & Shikha Dalmia (Detroit News);
 - M.L. Elrick, Jim Schaefer, & Ben Schmitt (Detroit Free Press);
 - Stephen W. Huber (Oakland Press);
 - Darryl Q. Tucker (Saginaw News)

2003

- Jack Kresnak, David Zeman, & Ben Schmitt—Detroit Free Press
- William H. Dance—Detroit Legal News

2002

- David Ashenfelter, Tamara Audi, Suzette Hackney, Jim Schaefer, Joe Swickard, David Zeman, & Alison Young—Detroit Free Press
- Scott MacFarlane—WKBD/WWJ-TV Detroit

2001

- David Ashenfelter, Suzette Hackney, & Joe Swickard—Detroit Free Press
- Ken Kolker & Gary Schroder—Grand Rapids Press
- C. Jesse Green—Michigan Lawyers Weekly

2000

- David Ashenfelter—Detroit Free Press
- Wayne Woolley & George Hunter—Detroit News
- Bob Allen & Michelle Corum—Interlochen Public Radio

1999

- Scott E. Aiken—St. Joseph Herald-Palladium
- Scott Davis—Jackson Citizen Patriot
- Ken Kolker—Grand Rapids Press