

Connor Sheets

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Experience

ProPublica Local Reporting Network - Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2019 to Present

- Partnering with ProPublica on a year-long investigation of Alabama sheriffs.
- Exposed that Alabama sheriffs destroyed government property, pocketed public funds, and wasted taxpayer money after losing 2018 reelection bids.

Alabama Media Group - Investigative Reporter

Birmingham, Ala. - Jan. 2015 to Present

- Published a series on misconduct by an Alabama sheriff that led to his electoral defeat, prompted federal, state and local investigations, and spurred state and local lawmakers to pass new laws.
- Wrote a story that drove Alabama to clarify its voter disenfranchisement policies, restoring the voting rights of thousands of low-income felons who had been improperly denied the franchise.
- Exposed severe understaffing at an Alabama prison, prompting the state to boost staffing levels.
- Revealed that the University of Alabama funneled "dark money" to political campaigns.
- Served on a small team that led the reporting that drove Gov. Robert Bentley to resign in disgrace.
- Broke the story of author Harper Lee's death.
- Produced and co-produced data and multimedia projects.

IBT Media / Newsweek - Senior Reporter

New York, N.Y. - Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2015

- Reported from Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S.
- Published numerous impactful investigations, including one on alleged Hatch Act violations at the Cincinnati IRS office that prompted the IRS to investigate.
- Served as editor of the International Business Times' Traffic & Trends desk for nearly a year.

TimesLedger Newspapers - Staff reporter

Queens, N.Y. - Oct. 2009 to Oct. 2011

- Created niches covering immigrant communities, real estate, and federal terrorism trials.

The Gazette - Staff reporter

Frederick, MD - March 2008 to Sept. 2009

- Covered key beats including Frederick County government, crime and business.

Education

University of Maryland - B.A.

Philip Merrill College of Journalism - 2007

Fellowships

Journalist Law School - Loyola Law School - 2019

Justice Reporting Fellowship - John Jay College of Criminal Justice - 2018-2019

Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellowship - University of Missouri - 2016-2017

Fellowship on Immigrant Children and Education - Georgia State University - 2016

U.S.-Nigeria Exchange Program - International Center for Journalists - 2013

Key awards

- **Roy Bain Distinguished Special Achievement in Journalism Award** - 2019
- **Sigma Delta Chi Awards**, First place, Investigative reporting - 2019
- **Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting**, Finalist - 2019
- **Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting**, Finalist - 2019
- **Worth Bingham Award for Investigative Journalism**, Finalist - 2019
- **Livingston Awards for Young Journalists**, Finalist - 2019
- **Tom Renner Award**, Finalist - 2019
- **Michael Kelly Award**, Finalist - 2019
- **James Aronson Awards for Social Justice Journalism**, Finalist - 2019
- **National Headliner Awards**, Investigative reporting, Third place - 2019
- **Green Eyeshade Awards**, Investigative reporting, First place - 2016
- **New York Better Newspaper Contest**, Writer of the Year - 2011
- **Eagle Scout Award** - 2001

Skills

- FOIA & public records
- SQL
- Excel
- Data visualization
- HTML
- SEO
- Audience engagement
- Social media reporting
- Photoshop
- Photography
- Basic video and audio production