

Connor Sheets

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Experience

Alabama Media Group - Investigative Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2015 to Present

- Published a series on misconduct by Alabama's "Beach House Sheriff" that led to his electoral defeat, prompted federal, state and local investigations, and spurred state and local lawmakers to pass laws barring sheriffs from taking jail food money.
- Uncovered a discriminatory ventilator triage protocol, prompting state and federal action.
- Wrote a story that drove Alabama to restore the voting rights of thousands of low-income felons.
- Produced a news app that revealed the financial incentives associated with Alabama's commissary system, spurred the state to reduce prison store prices, and led to a man's release from prison.
- Exposed an unconstitutional felon identification regime that discriminates against Black felons.
- Revealed severe understaffing at an Alabama prison, prompting the state to boost staffing levels.
- Worked with a colleague to expose a scandal that led Alabama's secretary of state to end his 2022 Senate bid. Played a key role in the reporting that drove Gov. Robert Bentley to resign in disgrace.

ProPublica Local Reporting Network - Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2019

- Partnered with ProPublica on a year-long investigation of Alabama sheriffs.
- Exposed widespread corruption and misconduct by Alabama sheriffs who lost 2018 reelection bids.
- Revealed that sheriffs in Alabama and across the U.S. release inmates in medical crisis from county jails just before they are hospitalized in order to reduce jail healthcare costs.

IBT Media / Newsweek - Senior Reporter

New York, NY - 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.

TimesLedger Newspapers - Staff Reporter

Queens, NY - 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 & Grants

Initiative in Reporting on Race and Criminal Justice grant – Columbia University – 2021

Justice Reporting Fellowship - John Jay College of Criminal Justice – 2021, 2020 & 2018

Reporting the U. S. Workplace - Sidney Hillman Foundation & CUNY - 2020

Journalist Law School - Loyola Law School - 2019

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

Key awards

- **National Headliner Awards** - 2021, 2020 & 2019
- **Sigma Delta Chi Awards, Public service** - 2020; **Investigative reporting** - 2019
- **Sidney Award** - 2019
- **Roy Bain Distinguished Special Achievement in Journalism Award** - 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
- **Green Eyeshade Awards, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016**
- **New York Better Newspaper Contest, Writer of the Year** - 2011
- **Eagle Scout Award** - 2001

Skills

Confident:

- FOIA & public records
- Excel & Google Sheets
- Audience engagement
- Audio & music production
- SQL
- SEO

Proficient:

- Photoshop & Illustrator
- Web scraping
- HTML & CSS

Learning:

- Python
- Video editing
- App/video game production
- Data visualization