

Connor Sheets

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Experience

Alabama Media Group - Investigative Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2015 to Present

- Was first to write about a discriminatory state ventilator protocol, prompting similar reporting in other states and ultimately spurring federal legislation to address the issue.
- 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 restore the voting rights of thousands of low-income felons.
- 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.

ProPublica Local Reporting Network - Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2019

- Partnered 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.
- Revealed that sheriffs across Alabama and the U.S. increasingly release inmates in medical crisis from county jails just before they are hospitalized in order to keep jail healthcare costs low.

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.
- Served as editor of the IBT's Traffic & Trends desk for nearly a year.

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

Justice Reporting Fellowship - John Jay College of Criminal Justice - 2020-21 & 2018-19

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

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

Key awards

- **Sigma Delta Chi Awards**, Public service - 2020; Investigative reporting - 2019
- **National Headliner Awards** - 2020 & 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**, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 & 2016
- **New York Better Newspaper Contest**, Writer of the Year - 2011
- **Eagle Scout Award** - 2001

Skills

Confident:

- FOIA & public records
- Audience engagement
- Excel & Google Sheets
- Photoshop & Illustrator
- Music & audio production
- SQL
- SEO

Proficient:

- Photography
- Web scraping
- HTML & CSS

Learning:

- Python
- Data visualization
- Video editing
- Video game/app production