

# Connor Sheets

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[www.connorsheets.com](http://www.connorsheets.com)

## Experience

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### **The Los Angeles Times** – Investigative & Enterprise Reporter

Los Angeles, CA - Sept. 2021 to Present

- Report on a wide range of issues impacting California and Californians.
- Investigated topics including COVID-19 vaccine mandate exemptions, L.A. gang violence, the October 2021 oil spill off the Orange County coast, and a hazing scandal at Mater Dei High School.

### **New York University** – Adjunct Instructor

Virtual – May 2022 to Present

- Lead an investigative reporting course for NYU's American Journalism Online Master's Program.

### **Alabama Media Group** - Investigative Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2015 to Sept. 2021

- 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.
- Produced an app that drove Alabama to reduce commissary prices and release a man from prison.
- Revealed severe understaffing at an Alabama prison, prompting the state to boost staffing levels.
- Exposed an unconstitutional felon identification regime that discriminated against Black felons.
- Worked with colleagues to expose scandals that led state Secretary of State John Merrill to end his 2022 Senate run and drove Gov. Robert Bentley to resign in disgrace in 2017.

### **ProPublica Local Reporting Network** - Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2019 to Dec. 2019

- Revealed how Alabama sheriffs abused the public trust after losing 2018 reelection bids.
- Exposed a practice called “medical bond” that sheriffs use to avoid paying for inmates’ health care.

### **IBT Media / Newsweek** - Senior Reporter

New York, NY - Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2015

- Reported from Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S.

### **TimesLedger Newspapers** - Staff Reporter

Queens, NY - Oct. 2009 to Oct. 2011

### **The Gazette** - Staff Reporter

Frederick, MD - March 2008 to Sept. 2009

## Education

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### **University of Maryland** - B.A.

Philip Merrill College of Journalism - 2007

## Key Fellowships & Grants

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**Initiative in Reporting on Race & Criminal Justice grant** - Columbia University - 2021

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

**Journalist Law School** - Loyola Law School - 2019

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

## Key awards

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- **Poverty & Inequality Awards**  
Honorable mention - 2022
- **National Headliner Awards**  
2021, 2020, 2019
- **Sigma Delta Chi 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
- **New York Better Newspaper Contest**  
Writer of the Year - 2011
- **Eagle Scout Award** - 2001

## Skills

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### Confident:

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

### Proficient:

- Web scraping
- HTML & CSS

### Learning:

- Python
- Data visualization
- App development
- Video & audio production