

# 2007 Southern California Journalism Award Winners

Journalist of the Year (over 100,000 circulation)

Kenneth R. Weiss, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comment: "Altered Oceans" is an amazing series on how our oceans are being changed. It was an enormous undertaking and a breathtaking package of stories, photos, graphics, and online.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Christine Pelisek, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Tim Rutten, Los Angeles Times

Print Journalist of the Year (under 100,000 circulation)

Michael Collins, Los Angeles CityBeat

Judges' comment: First class journalism by a dedicated and dogged journalist. Collins' stories were winners on all counts: meticulously reported and intelligently written. He humanizes complex topics while never losing sight of the broader context.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sandra Hernandez, Los Angeles Daily Journal

Honorable Mention: Laura Dobbins, The Daily Independent

TV Journalist of the Year

Ana Garcia/Fred Mamoun, KNBC

Judges' comment: Ms. Garcia demonstrates a talent for identifying and investigating important issues in the community. Her coverage of the Shanty town and its residents revealed a world few are aware of and fewer wish to deal with. She covers all perspectives with concise and determined journalistic abilities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Robert Kovacik, KNBC

Judges' comment: Mr. Kovacik proves to be sure-footed in breaking news

and doesn't miss a beat when a story takes a drastic turn live on camera, as with the murder suspect turning himself in.

#### Radio Journalist of the Year

Adolfo Guzman Lopez, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Judges' comment: He displays thorough reporting skills with an obvious strength covering Latino issues, including education, immigration and culture. He shows good judgment with his use of sound to help move stories forward.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Steven Cuevas, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Judges' comment: Steven exhibits a nice use of descriptive elements to tell stories ranging from gang activity to forest fires.

Honorable Mention: Frank Stoltze, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Judges' comment: Frank identifies good sources and the meat of the story well, from politics to racism.

#### Sports Anchor or Reporter

Bill Plaschke, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comment: Reveals the unexpected impact of sports in the lives of the athletes who excel for the love of sport without either fame or fortune as a goal and inspires us all by allowing us to share the experience.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Michael Hiltzik, Los Angeles Times

#### Entertainment Journalist of the Year

Nikki Finke, LA Weekly

Judges' comment: Reading Nikki Finke's salaciously candid coverage of Hollywood and its inhabitants almost feels like a guilty pleasure. She mixes the news with fearless finger-wagging that's just fun to read no matter the subject. She tackles the industry monoliths without the kiddy gloves and she seems to have command of the beat.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Patrick Goldstein, Los Angeles Times

Hon. Mention: Ann Powers, Los Angeles Times

## Photojournalist of the Year

Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times, Portfolio

Judges' comment: "National Geographic"-quality work. Amazing range of talent displayed makes a strong visual statement, whether nature or humans. Terrific human portraits from war-ravaged areas. Shows both horror and humanity.

Place: Ted Soqui, Los Angeles CityBeat/Corbis

Judges' comments: Caught the story and humanity after Katrina.

## Designer of the Year

John Curry, LA Weekly

Judges' comment: Creative and unafraid of experimentation. Bold and striking design. It doesn't just pull readers in; it yanks them.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Denise Anne Duffield and Michael Collins, EnviroReporter.com

## Health Journalist of the Year

Kevin Sack, Los Angeles Times, "From the Heart of America's Culture War"

Judges' comment: A clear look at an up-and-coming ethical and medical issue: fertility in the gay culture. The package was a strong serial narrative focusing on two men who were open in their ordeal.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alan Zarembo, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comments: Thorough reporting and good story-telling.

Honorable Mention: Adam Wilkenfeld, CWK Network

Judges' comment: Solid coverage of health issues that relate to kids.

## Hard News

Staff, LA Times, "Devil Winds Stoke Fatal Fire"

Judges' comment: Impressive coverage of devastating events, well written and well organized package of facts and events. Compelling story.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Daniel Hernandez, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Josh Kun, LA Weekly

#### News Feature

David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times, "The Lifeline" Judges' comment: A powerful combination of hard news and personal storytelling that started with the excellent idea to tell the story of combat medicine through the eyes of every patient brought to one battlefield hospital in one week. The story was well-told and brilliantly organized. Just when I started wondering how the main characters were faring, Zucchino steered right back to them to tell me. And whatever I needed context or numbers to really make sense of the big-picture issue at stake, there he was with that, too. In every way, a stellar piece of journalism.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kenneth R. Weiss, Usha Lee McFarling and Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times

Honorable mention: Kevin Sack, Los Angeles Times

#### Investigative/Series

Charles Ornstein and Tracy Weber, Los Angeles Times, "Kaiser Transplant Patients at Risk"

Judges' comment: This was a very close call between first and second place. But we gave the nod to Charles Ornstein and Tracy Weber's investigation for their careful reporting of statistics and facts with life-or-death consequences for patients lost in the badly managed transplant business. The combination provided readers with a gut punch that lingered. The drama and agony the mistakes caused were conveyed with careful writing and excellent research.

Second place: Michael J. Goodman and William C. Rempel, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Judy Pasternak, Los Angeles Times

#### Business Daily/Weekly Newspapers (Over 100K)

Richard Boudreaux, Nancy Cleeland, Sam Enriquez, Carol J. Williams, Richard C. Paddock, Tracy Wilkinson, Los Angeles Times, "The New Foreign Aid"

Judges' comment: This weighty, ambitious series sustains the quality of reporting, writing and storytelling over four installments and across several continents. It strives to explain an underground economy created by remittances — money by immigrants to their homelands — and manages to do so through stories about people. The series provides fascinating and heart-breaking insights into how human capital is spent — and wasted — throughout the world. This is the kind of journalism that only large newspapers can do, and the kind endangered by financial strains in the industry. In a world where economies and the lives of the people who support them are intertwined, it's important work that must be sustained and encouraged.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention [tie]: Lisa Girion, Los Angeles Times & Chip Jacobs, Los Angeles Times

Signed Commentary

Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, "Social Stigma Against Cross-Dressers"

Judges' comment: Having accepted the task of trying to make sense of the bizarre that passes for everyday relationship problems in Southern California, Alkon entertains, informs, intrigues and gently upbraids, never forgetting that her audience—much of which surely embraces the ethos of non-judgmentalism—rarely encounters a common-sense voice telling any one of them to get a grip. Alkon accomplishes the task with delicacy and artful reasoning, though—surely leaving the subject and the audience better for the experience.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bennett Ramberg, Los Angeles Times

Newspaper Columnist (Over 100,000 circulation)

Meghan Daum, Los Angeles Times

Judges' comment: Daum's readers are fortunate. Taking on topics that only nibble at the headlines, but are central to everyday life, she strips off the varnish with a voice that is at turns ironic, sarcastic, wisecracking and pointed, but is never, ever, mean. Her humor is simultaneously disarming and persuasive, and by the last line, the reader can't help but be on her side.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Dan Neil, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Steve Lopez, Los Angeles Times

Newspaper Editorial (over 100,000 circulation)

Karin Klein, Los Angeles Times, "Karin Klein on Schools"

Judges' comment: Klein makes robust, intelligent arguments that slice like a scythe through the insincere operations of Los Angeles' top governmental powers. She is straightforward and unsparing in her criticism, and thoughtful in pointing out the dire ramifications of high officials' ill-considered decisions. Happily, too, her editorials are not all hammers seeking the nearest available protruding nail. When praise is merited, she can see her way clear to apply a hopeful and well-argued pat on the back, providing readers with the reassurance that they can count on her corner of the Times' editorial page for balance.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Robert Greene, Los Angeles Times

Entertainment Reviews/Criticism/Column

Jonathan Gold, LA Weekly "Counter Intelligence: The Restaurant Review Column by Jonathan Gold"

Judges' comment: Jonathan Gold's reviews balanced convincing knowledge, chewy evocations of place, and a plausible sense of what food actually tastes like. In his review of Cut, the critic exposed the heady mix of style, Beverly Hills celebrity, and the carnal pleasures of meat. His gelato descriptions wobbled on the edge of too much and just right, with a giddy passion that never made us doubt Gold's delight in his subject.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Kate Sullivan, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Christopher Hawthorne, Los Angeles Times

Newspaper Entertainment, Hard News (over 100K)

Richard Rushfield and Claire Hoffman, Los Angeles Times, "Mystery Fuels Huge Popularity of Web's Lonelygirl15"

Judges' comment: We felt that the writers really jumped on the mystery surrounding this young girl as her life unfolded on MySpace long before the truth was revealed. We liked the way the authors presented a play-by-

play of the cast of characters and dissected the quirky interaction the subject had with viewers. Sharp writing. It was a well-sourced and compelling story.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Nikki Finke, LA Weekly

Entertainment Feature

Claire Hoffman, Los Angeles Times, "Baby Give Me a Kiss"

Judges' comment: Claire Hoffman's profile on Joe Francis, the 'Girls Gone Wild' King, is the clear winner. Claire adroitly succeeds at including her own unnerving experiences with Francis in the story without overwhelming the story. Doing thorough research on Francis enabled her to show the reader that Francis treats numerous women with violent, contemptible behavior. Claire's interview with the 18-year-old shows that Francis is a dirt bag.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Paul Cullum, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Steven Kotler, LA Weekly

Sports

Michael Hiltzik, Los Angeles Times, "Presumed Guilty"

Judges' comment: Michael Hiltzik sheds important light on the secret and deeply flawed international drug-testing program that presumes athletes are guilty. This is an excellent, eye-opening account of a draconian system in which the drug testers act as prosecutors, judges, and juries, while athletes are denied basic legal rights. Hiltzik doesn't gloss over the fact that some athletes cheat to win, but he does expose an arrogant testing program that also ensnares the innocent and the unwitting. Even when substances found in an athlete's body could in no way have helped her performance, the system still punishes her mercilessly.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bill Dwyre, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Devra Maza, LA Daily News

Special Section

Staff, LA Weekly, "Who We Are: LA People 2006"

Judges' comment: Everybody who worked on this section had to have fun! Just selecting the 110 people who were featured must have generated spirited discussion. The photos are appealing, the headlines (examples: Save the Gefilte Fish, Flock of Segals, Peace Pied Piper) are clever, and the writing is both crisp and interesting. End result: A fascinating potpourri of people from on and off the beaten LA paths. The readers must have had fun, too.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Staff, Los Angeles Times

Honorable Mention: Staff, Los Angeles Times

Headline

Libby Molyneaux, LA Weekly, "What Would Jesus Do this Week?"

Judges' comment: What a laugh out loud winner. Nice edgy off-beat sense of humor runs through this headline. It works precisely because – for all of its outrageousness – the headline fits the calendar item like a glove. We like headlines that take chances by taking a common place expression and giving it a comic twist.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Steven Mikulan, LA Weekly

Honorable Mention: Steven Mikulan, LA Weekly

Design

Joseph Hutchinson, Kelli Sullivan, Michael Whitley, Los Angeles Times, "Altered Oceans – A Primeval Tide of Toxins"

Judges' comment: Along with great use of stunning pictures the designers incorporated graphics, graphs and facts to tell the whole story. The reader is rewarded with a well rounded and complete report.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chris Hart, LA Daily News Honorable Mention: Ryan Colditz and Shelly Leopold, LA Weekly

Hard News

Tracy Manzer, Long Beach Press-Telegram "10 Youths Charged in Halloween Beating"

Judges' comment: Good coverage of a breaking news story and showing both sides. Good Quotes.

2nd Place: Tie: Claude Walbert, LA Daily Journal & Greg Mellen and Tracy Manzer, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Honorable Mention: Ruby Gonzales, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

#### News Features

Greg Mellen, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "A Daily Scavenger Hunt"

Judges' comment: This story about how one woman copes daily with poverty just couldn't be any better. Written in a compelling style of narrative journalism--the heart of a news feature-- "A Daily Scavenger Hunt" illuminates the woman, her life, her compassion for others and the shadow of poverty in America. Excellent work.

2nd place [tie]: Chip Jacobs, Pasadena Weekly & Kevin Uhrich, Pasadena Weekly

Honorable mention: Dean Kuipers, Los Angeles CityBeat

#### Investigative/Series

Scott Moxley, OC Weekly, "The New Crips"

Judges' comment: This was an especially difficult category to judge because of the sheer number of high quality entries. We particularly liked the willingness of the papers in this competition to delve back into the past on stories, such as Michael Collins' fine piece on the history of a radioactive dump that is now a dog park or Chip Jacobs' excellent re-examination of a 15-year old homicide. We could have just as easily awarded first prize to Wendy Thomas Russell for her excellent expose on the cozy financial relationship between a police union leader and a city councilman. But in the end we settled on Scott Moxley's outrageous expose on a shady character who is raking in money by exploiting a loophole in a well-intended law that is wreaking unintended consequences. We liked how Moxley laid out the case against this disabled "activist" while treating him fairly and pointing out that the law is actually on his side. The story serves as much as an expose of the law as it does of the ex-drug dealer in the center of the story. This was great work in a tough competitive field. The fact that five different news organizations

fielded finalists is impressive. Each of the winners should be proud of their work.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Wendy Thomas Russell, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Honorable Mention: Michael Collins, Los Angeles CityBeat

Newspaper Business (under 100,000 circulation):

Daniel Miller and Howard Fine, Los Angeles Business Journal, "Re-creating Crenshaw"

Judges' comment: This special report started with good trend-spotting and was fleshed out with deep reporting and real-life examples. Making it even stronger was creative storytelling like the visual tour of a neighborhood makeover in progress and a Q-and-A with a developer eyeing the once-ignored area.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Wendy Thomas-Russell, Long Beach Press-Telegram  
Honorable Mention: Don J. DeBenedictis, Los Angeles Daily Journal

Signed Commentary

Thomas Elias, California Focus

Judges' comment: Elias hammers away at the high and mighty and the politically connected without regard to party affiliation. He does it with an engaging writing style. He focuses on the pertinent facts, makes connections between them and uses poignant phrases to present his conclusions to the reader.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: John Boston, The Signal

Honorable Mention: Andrew Gumbel, Los Angeles CityBeat

Newspapers Columnist (Under 100,000 circulation)

Gene Maddaus, Pasadena Star-News

Judges' comment: Maddaus makes an important point about the ethics of journalism and honest reporting, reminding both the subjects of his ire and consumers of media what it means to be on the up-and-up, and why adhering to high standards should be the aim of all news operations. He accomplishes all this with solid reporting and proper scolding supported by

a careful architecture of facts.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Amy Alkon, syndicated

Honorable Mention: Natalie Nichols, Los Angeles CityBeat

Editorials

Larry Allison, Long Beach Press-Telegram, "A Councilman's Business"

Judges' comment: This is a brisk and smartly written editorial that pulls no punches and wastes no time in telling the reader where the paper stands. The argument behind the editorial is laid out clearly with more evidence than emotion. Bravo.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Greg Baumann, et al., Television Week

Honorable Mention: Rob Eshman, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

Newspaper Entertainment Reviews/Criticism/Column (under 100K)

Tom Teicholz, Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "Susanna Hoffs Walks Like"

Judges' comment: Funny, witty and a good read. Gives readers an insight into the life of a former rock star. It was well written and easy to follow.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sasha Stone, Santa Monica Mirror

Honorable Mention: Luke Y. Thompson, OC Weekly

Newspaper Entertainment Hard news (under 100K)

Andrew Harmon, LA Daily Journal, "Game Maker Fights Switcheroo ..."

Judges' comment: An interesting and comprehensive look at the cruel "kidnapping" of a Web site for children by a porn site and the fight to stop the intruder, regain credibility and seek justice in the courts. The intricacies of the takeover are well laid out with good sourcing. This was a view of an unusual event we don't often hear about. Strong, concise storytelling.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Greg Baumann, Melissa Grego, Tom Gilbert, Jennifer Ciminillo, Television Week

## Entertainment Feature

Anthony Miller, Los Angeles CityBeat, "Revolutionary Roads" Judges' comment: Very well-written interview with author Mark Z. Danielewski and review of his second book "Only Revolutions." I've reviewed several of this type of precious book, and appreciate the difficulty of divining what the author is trying to say, of why he chose the method of writing and of trying to encourage the author without totally dissuading him. Miller has done a masterful job of dissecting "Revolutions." Having read Danielewski's first novel as well, Miller does a great job of comparing and contrasting the two. Picking up on a connection here and there, then commenting on music written by the author's sister gives Miller another opening for dialogue with the author. Through this impressive

review/author interview, Miller encourages readers to follow these roads.

2nd Place: Andrew Harmon, Los Angeles Daily Journal

Honorable Mention: Steve Appleford, Los Angeles CityBeat

## Sports

John Klima, Torrance Daily Breeze, "Baseball's Blackout"

Judges' comment: John Klima does a smart job explaining why the numbers of black athletes in Major League Baseball has declined rapidly in the past three decades. He astutely notes that the recent trend by pro scouts to select college players over those in high school is snuffing out the opportunities of countless African-American kids.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: David Nusbaum, Los Angeles Business Journal

Honorable Mention: Robert Morales, Long Beach Press-Telegram

## Special Section Category

Kevin Smith, San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group, "The Summit"

Judges' comment: Excellent overview of business in the San Gabriel Valley. Coverage is informative and balanced. Writing is crisp and photos are excellent. It makes me want to move there and find a job.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Staff, Los Angeles Business Journal

Honorable Mention: Staff, Long Beach Press-Telegram

## Headlines

Amy Alkon, The Advice Goddess, "With This Ka-ching I Thee Wed"

Judges' comment: This is a very clever headline. It creates a very funny juxtaposition between two concepts that don't always go very well together: love and money. The sense of humor behind the headline is a natural extension of the column itself, which is generally quite good.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Todd Cunningham, Los Angeles Business Journal

Honorable Mention: Amy Alkon, The Advice Goddess

## Design

Dan Kacvinski and Carvin Knowles, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "Jews in Space" Judges' comment: How could anyone resist a title like this? The layout is inviting and quickly tells the reader what is in store. Dan and Carvin did justice to the subject matter with their appealing design.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Carvin Knowles, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

Honorable Mention: Deborah Daly, Santa Monica Mirror

## News Photo

Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times, "Lebanon Bombing"

Judges' comment: The ultimate illustration of the horror of war. Made tears come to our eye. Congratulations on a gripping photo.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Diandra Jay, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Honorable Mention: Rebecca Martinez, San Fernando Valley Sun/El Sol

## Feature Photo

Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times, "Back Home"

Judges' comment: Stunning, poignant. Will he ever have a chance at the normalcy depicted by the other two people in the photo?

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Greg Andersen, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Honorable Mention: Ringo H. W. Chiu, Los Angeles Business

## Journal Sports Photo

Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times, "Lakers"

Judges' comment: Great Picture without a face! Capture the emotion of the moment.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Steven Georges, Long Beach Press-Telegram

Honorable Mention: Hans Gutknecht, LA Daily News

## Editorial Cartoon

Jake Novak and Michael Ciccotello, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles, "Schmooze or Lose"

Judges Comment: Great drawings, great writing, the color strip is amazing. A good modern version of editorial cartooning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Steve Greenberg, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

Honorable Mention: Patrick O'Connor, LA Daily News

## Photo Essay

Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times, "Altered Oceans"

Judges' comment: Mind-altering views of the ocean. Comprehensive and stunning.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ted Soqui, Los Angeles CityBeat/Freelance

Honorable Mention: Anne Cusack, Los Angeles Times

## Television Regularly Scheduled Newscast

CBS 2 News Team, KCBS/KCAL

(only one entrant)

Newscasts (over 35 minutes)

CBS 2 News Team, KCBS/KCAL, CBS 2 News at 5 p.m.

Judges' comment: Nice intro, nice lead – good solid pace, compelling stories with short and solid presentation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: KCAL 9 News at 10 p.m., KCBS/KCAL

Honorable Mention: Jeff L. Wald, KTLA

Breaking News

CBS 2/KCAL 9 News Teams, KCBS/KCAL, "The Esperanza Fire"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Robert Kovacik/Jeffrey Scharping, KNBC TV

Honorable Mention: Jeff L. Wald, KTLA

Feature

Bill Smith, KTLA, "LA's Good Samaritan Mayor"

Judges' comments: Is there anything that your LA Mayor Antonio Villariagosa can't do? Apparently not, according to this charming and inspiring segment by Bill Smith and his team – that captures the good Mayor saving a motorist who had crashed on the freeway, even going so far as to stop traffic to retrieve the man's wheel barrel. Finely produced with terrific content.

Leelila Strogov, KTTV-Fox 11 News

Bret Marcus, Lisa McRee and John Ridley, California Connected/KCET Investigative/series

Ana Garcia and Fred Mamoun, KNBC TV, "Dumped Documents"

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Chris Blatchford, KTTV-Fox 11 News

Honorable Mention: Brian Ross, Eric Longabardi and Jill Rackmill, ABC News

Sports:

Damon Andrews, Ted Green and Donovan Tar, KTLA, "Umpire School"

(only entry)

Entertainment Feature:

Sam Rubin and Grace Mendoza, KTLA, "Mel Gibson's Anti-Semitic Rant"

## Talk/Public affairs

Bret Marcus, Lisa McRee, Rick Wilkinson, Bob Jimenez and Joseph Angier, California Connected/KCET, "Pre-Election Special"

Judges' comment: The best part of this special was that it offered important election information to viewers in a fantastic entertaining format. If you can make election information compelling and fun to watch... you deserve an award. The music and graphics were sharp and fitting. The entire show was smart and the Prop 86 expose at the end was well produced, shot and edited. Again, it was smart, opinionated and fun to watch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Bret Marcus, Lisa McRee, Angela Shelley and Michael Bloecher, California Connected/KCET

Honorable Mention [tie]: Bret Marcus, Lisa McRee, Coll Metcalfe and Michael Bloecher, California Connected/KCET

Val Zavala, Linda Burns, Sam Louie, Roger Cooper and Vicki Curry, Life and Times/KCET

## Documentaries

Jeff Wald, Marcia Brandwynne, Joe Russin, Scott Aulerich, Frank Buckley, Michaela Pereira, Christie Lyn Lugo Leigh and Jim Lowry, KTLA, "When Disaster Strikes: A Survival Guide"

Judges' comment: A well thought-out and thorough effort to help prepare the community for different disasters. The journalists were not there to scare the audience with flashy disaster scenes, rather to empower them with a factual, well-articulated presentation.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Adam Wilkenfeld, Trent Ward, Bobby Hall, Collin Siedor and Stacey Dewitt, CWK Network

Honorable Mention: Bret Marcus, Lisa McRee, Jonathan Dann and Michael Bloecher, California Connected/KCET

## Radio Breaking News

Lance Orozco and Jim Rondeau, KCLU News, "Goleta Postal Shooting"

Judges' comment: Excellent coverage of true, spot breaking news.

2nd Place: KPCC News, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Feature

Frank Stoltze, 89.3 KPCC-FM, "Skid Row Homeless"

Judges' comment: Interesting actualities make this piece come alive. Great Work!

2nd Place: Will Lewis, KCRW-FM

Honorable Mention: Lance Orozco, KCLU-FM

Radio Investigation/Series

KPCC News, 89.3 KPCC-FM, "Fight Over Illegal Immigration"

Judges' comment: Fair, comprehensive coverage of a hot-button issue in Southern California ...gives both sides.

2nd Place: KPCC News, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Honorable Mention: KPCC News, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Entertainment

John Rabe, 89.3 KPCC-FM, "G4"

Judges' comment: Eye opening report that gives us a glimpse of what may be the next "big thing."

2nd Place: Patricia Nazario, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Honorable Mention: John Rabe, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Sports

Lance Orozco, KCLU-FM, "Cowboys Hit the Trail"

Judges' comment: Great actualities bring this story to life.

2nd Place: Kitty Felde, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Use of Sound

Jon Kalish, KCRW-FM, "Andy Statman's Journey"

Judges' comment: Truly an escape from reality. This piece literally jumps out from the radio. Bravo!

2nd Place: Claude Brodesser-Akner, KCRW-FM

Honorable Mention: Ilsa Setziol, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Talk/Public Affairs

Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, KCRW-FM, "Which Way L.A. – Voting for Judges"

Judges' comment: The discussion about how voters select judges is educational and enlightening. This is a subject that all voters can relate to and it is presented so well that listeners couldn't help but learn something about themselves. Warren Olney has a comfortable host style, as well.

2nd Place: Mathew Miller, Arianna Huffington, Robert Scheer, Tony Blankley and Sarah Spitz, KCRW-FM

Honorable Mention: Larry Mantle, Linda Othenin-Girard, Mindy Steinman, Chumi Paul, Roger Ruderick and Jackie Oclaray, 89.3 KPCC-FM

Radio Documentaries

Jon Kalish, KCRW-FM, "Andy Statman's Journey"

Judges' comment: A wonderful story told well with words and lots of great music. Excellent Work!

2nd Place: Lance Orozco, KCLU-FM

Radio News Bureau

Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, PRI/KCRW-FM

Judges' comment: This entry is a comprehensive report on the Moussaui trial and took me back to the horrors of September 11th and what lead up to that fateful day. Another excellent show. Great work. To the point.

2nd Place: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, PRI/KCRW-FM

Honorable Mention: Warren Olney and Karen Radziner, PRI/KCRW-FM

Magazine – News/Investigative

David Evans and David Glovin, Bloomberg News, "How Test Companies Fail Your Kids"

Judges' comment: Superb investigative reporting, this piece exposes widespread errors in the No Child testing industry. Well done sidebars illustrate the human side of the story and impact on students and professionals. The story keeps its focus on the tactics and errors of the industry without making judgments of the No Child's effect on education, which, I think, would have politicized the piece. I'm curious if the journalists came across any testing companies that got it right. It would have been nice to read about one reputable model. I hope the story generates better laws and regulation for the industry.

2nd Place: Radley Balko, Reason Magazine

Honorable Mention: Eric Berkowitz, Los Angeles Times

Feature/Commentary

Michael Goldstein, LA Times West, "The Other Beating"

Judges' comment: A chilling account made even more interesting by the twist of fate that brought George Holliday into the writer's life. Strong quotes and great insight into Holliday's character and journey made this a story we couldn't put aside. This is a story about a man thrust into history that had every chance of never being told, which makes it even more haunting.

2nd Place: Johnny Dodd, People Magazine

Honorable Mention: Oliver Jones and Sandra Marquez, People Magazine

Entertainment Reviews/Criticism/Column

Joe Woodward, Poets & Writers Magazine, "David Foster Wallace"

Judges' comment: Woodward's tackling of a difficult subject—the reclusive author—had every opportunity to be a clunky, self-indulgent, "Woe-is-me" effort that simply would have annoyed his audience. Happily, his search for DFW is precisely the opposite: The piece is lively, engaging, sassy and revealing (Yes, about himself; he's forgiven;) but more about the unavailing DFW himself. This is not easy work, but Woodward demonstrates that it can be rewarding. Similarly frustrated writers who

lament to their editors that they are unable to nail the subject interview could draw a great lesson here.

2nd Place: Tim Cavanaugh, Reason Magazine

Entertainment News or feature

Seth Lubove, Bloomberg News, "John Davis"

Judges' comment: More than a solid profile of an intriguing and unusual Hollywood mogul, Lubove's tale of the spot-on producer caught in a Dickensian family dispute strikes the reader as both meticulously reported and sparingly told, a combination that is as welcome as the proverbial sleeper hit.

2nd Place: Gendy Alimurung, LA Times Magazine/West Magazine

Honorable Mention: Lyndon Stambler, Emmy Magazine

In-House or Corporate Publication

Elizabeth Leonard, Bryan Alexander and Oliver Jones, People Magazine, "Hollywood Daily"

Judges' comment: Beautiful use of color and layout; engaging copy, headlines and bullets. Crisp writing in efficient clumps of copy. Clearly significant time spent in researching interesting industry "insiders" to illuminate and present to the audience.

2nd Place: Jim Perry, The Los Angeles Fire Fighter

News Bureaus and Correspondents – Breaking News

Terry Vermeulen Keith, City News Service, "Farmer's Market Tragedy"

Judges' comment: Hard hitting breaking news story about a tragic event. Great job of collecting a lot of good quotes and all the facts surrounding the verdict and the case.

2nd Place: Jill Stewart, Wall Street Journal

Honorable Mention: Jill Stewart, Wall Street Journal

Investigative/Series

Claes Andreasson and Jon Beaupre, Public Radio Exchange/PRX, "Dirty Harry"

Judges' comment: John Beaupre and Claes Andreasson bring alive the devastating, long-lasting, and tragic effects of America's above-ground nuclear testing program in the Nevada desert of the 1950s and early 60s. Beaupre and Andreasson contrast the horrific experiences of survivors, both at the test sites and those downwind from the mushroom clouds, with the bogus official government assurances that the radioactive fallout was safe. It's a haunting story of cancer, death and the long search for justice in the wake of more than 900 above-ground nuclear detonations. It was an American embarrassment and an American tragedy. But Beaupre and Andreasson do it justice. 2nd Place: Scott Gold, Los Angeles Times Honorable Mention: David Evans and David Glovin, Bloomberg News

Entertainment News or Feature

Vickie Bane and Maureen Harrington, People Magazine, "Bill Cosby Under Fire"

Judges' comment: In their backgrounder on Bill Cosby's ongoing troubles with sexual harassment charges, Vickie Bane and Maureen Harrington marshaled an impressive, detailed chronology of complaints against the entertainer, buttressed by a sidebar list of Cosby's "causes" that only make his problems with women seem all the more ironic. A fine example of A&E reporting with the gloves off.

Second Place: Seth Lubove, Bloomberg News Honorable Mention: Lyndon Stambler, Emmy Magazine

Online News story, Feature, Series or Package

Michael Collins, EnviroReporter.com, "Real Hot Property"

Judges' comment: Investigative journalism at its best. A true public service. The level of research and the presentation of the information is deeply compelling and intelligently mapped out. This is what journalism, in any form, is all about. You scooped everybody.

2nd Place: Melinda Fulmer, MSN Real Estate

Honorable Mention: Mack Reed, LAvoice.org

## Online Column/Commentary/Criticism

Bennet Kelley, Huffington Post

Judges' comment: An entertaining and compelling mix of bite, intelligence and humor. It's clear he does his homework and isn't afraid to tell it the way he sees it. He reads the Bush administration like a book. His column on class warfare is exceptionally piercing.

2nd Place: Nick Gillespie, Reason Magazine

Honorable Mention: Chet Currier, Bloomberg News

## Design and Layout

J. Craig Williams, Esq., May it Please the Court

Judges' comment: Easy-on-the-eyes palette appropriate to the subject matter. Does a good job of accessibility and navigation to content across a variety of forms. User-friendly interface helps invite the reader to read a site devoted to a potentially tough vertical topic.

2nd Place: Denise Anne Duffield and Michael Collins, EnviroReporter.com

## Online Entertainment News/Feature/Commentary

Alex Ben Bloch, HollywoodToday.net, "Rocky' Underdog Origin: A Studio Myth"

Judges' comment: Compelling behind-the-scenes expose about the origin of an iconic pop culture myth. Brightly written, using generous supplemental links as supporting material.

2nd Place: Leslie Simmons, The Hollywood Reporter, Esq

Honorable Mention: Nikki Finke, LA Weekly

## Weblog, Individual

Patricia Saperstein, Eatingla.blogspot.com

Judges' comment: Writer does a great job of merging personality and topic, producing an engaging voice. Well-informed without coming across as elitist. Great showcasing of related blogs and resources. Comes across as a "come with me" adventure for writer and user.

2nd Place: Amy Alkon, The Advice Goddess

Honorable Mention: J. Craig Williams, Esq., May it Please the Court.com

Weblog, Group

Staff of Reason Magazine, Hit & Run Weblog

Judges' comment: Impressive churn of high-quality posts during the judging period. Good Group voice with articles well-sourced and linked. Good job of inviting and receiving comments from readers.

2nd Place: Mack Reed, LA Voice

Website, Online only

Staff, The Hollywood Reporter, Esq.

Judges' comment: Well-designed and well-structured content focusing on a seven-category niche coverage of entertainment and media law. Functionality invites users to scan top stories in the categories, subscribe to RSS feeds and use premium database content. Design easily accessible. A well-planned vertical site that knows its audience and makes it easy for readers to both scan and dig deep.

2nd Place: Ted Johnson, WilshireandWashington.com

Honorable Mention: Michael Collins and Denise Anne Duffield, EnviroReporter.com

Website, News Organization

Staff of the Los Angeles Times, LATimes.com

Judges' comment: Best site over a broad range of interests and utility. Especially like the integration of reader reviews in the CalendarLive section. Also like the MyLATimes Beta, which offers customization of the site for individual users.

2nd Place: Staff of Reason Online, Reason Online

Honorable Mention [tie]: Staff of the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, sgvtribune.com & Variety.com Team, Variety.com

International Journalism – Hard News

Michael O'Sullivan, Voice of America, "Democrats, Republicans Eye Albuquerque..."

Judges' comment: Lots of work evident in gathering tape for this piece. Both sides represented. Good use of sound.

2nd Place: Barbara Gasser, Kleine Zeitung

Honorable Mention: David Willis, BBC

International Journalism – News Feature

Helena Groll, Swedish Broadcasting, "Accused Marine"

Judges' comment: Well done radio piece, with great use of sound and editing. Interesting hearing English language actualities within Swedish copy, knowing more Swedish listeners are fluent in both languages.

Place: Barbara Gasser, Kleine Zeitung

Honorable mention: David Willis, BBC

International Journalism – Entertainment News or Feature

David Willis, BBC, "The Oscars"

2nd Place: Barbara Gasser, Kleine Zeitung