

CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 68th Annual Southern California Journalism Awards

RULES:

- 1. All entries must have been published, broadcast or transmitted in Southern California, or be about Southern California, during the 2025 calendar year – OR produced in Southern California during 2025 by a journalist (including national and international correspondents) based in the Southland, working for outlets not based in Southern California. If not based in Southern California, the entry must be about SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Southern California is defined as including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Imperial, Kern and Ventura.**
- 2. Only electronically submitted entries are accepted.**
- 3. The same entry may be submitted in more than one category, but each such submission is a separate entry and requires separate forms and entry fees.**
- 4. There is no limit to the number of entries any individual or organization may submit but, again, each entry requires a separate form and fee.**
- 5. Special rules for competing in the Journalist of the Year categories: In order to compete in these categories, you need to enter a minimum of two entries in other categories. Each person may only enter one Journalist of the Year category. An organization may submit multiple Journalist of the Year entries as long as it is for different journalists.**
- 6. If there are fewer than three entries in a category, the judges will decide whether an award is merited.**
- 7. Bylines and other identifiers need not be concealed as judging is done out of the area. The decisions of the judges are final.**
- 8. The judges may move an entry to a more appropriate category.**
- 9. The entrants may promote, publicize and advertise LAPC awards. The LAPC reserves the right to use entries, in whole or in part, to promote the Awards and promote the LAPC.**
- 10. The early bird deadline is 7 p.m. Sunday, March 8, 2026. The final deadline for submitting entries is 5 p.m. Sunday, March 29, 2026. Entries must be received by this date and must include completed forms and proper fees. The LAPC has the right to reject any entries that it deems unsuitable.**
- 12. Trophies will be presented for First Place at a dinner gala at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel on Sunday, June 28, 2026. Certificates will be provided for Second Place and Third Place. The winners will not be announced until the evening of the gala.**
- 13. You may not submit more than one (1) sample with any one entry unless otherwise specified.**
- 14. Spanish-language media based in Southern California need not submit a translation with their entries, however a translation is much appreciated.**

PREPARATION OF ENTRIES:

PRINT: URL entries are much preferred. You may instead upload a PDF – follow the instructions on the entry form.

Please shorten URLs with Bitly or similar service.

PHOTOS: Digital entries only – follow the instructions on the entry form. URL or PDF.

RADIO: Radio entries should be supplied as URLs. Please shorten URLs.

TELEVISION: TV entries should be supplied as URLs. All TV entries should have commercials deleted. In all other respects the entry must be as aired. Please shorten URLs.

ONLINE: Please use Bitly or similar service to shorten URLs.

If your entry is behind a paywall, do not forget to supply a log-in and password for our judges.

COMPLETE LIST OF CATEGORIES

A. JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR

In one page, state why the nominee is deserving of this special honor for work done in 2025.

IN ORDER TO COMPETE IN THIS CATEGORY, YOU NEED TO ENTER A MINIMUM OF TWO ENTRIES IN OTHER CATEGORIES. ONLY ONE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR CATEGORY PER PERSON (OK to enter multiple people from the same outlet).

PRINT: Provide up to four samples, plus supporting materials. Print includes newspapers, wire services, magazines and news bureaus.

BROADCAST: Provide short URLs that showcase nominee in less than 10 minutes, plus supporting materials.

A1. PRINT (Over 50,000 Circulation)

Reporter, Columnist or Editor

A2. PRINT (Under 50,000 Circulation)

Reporter, Columnist or Editor

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST

A4. AUDIO JOURNALIST

A5. ONLINE JOURNALIST, Tied to an Organization

A6. ONLINE JOURNALIST, Independent/Freelance

A7. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST – Any Platform

A8. SPORTS JOURNALIST – Any Platform

A9. PHOTOJOURNALIST

A10. VIDEOGRAPHER

B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS — Print, Radio, Podcast, TV or Online

B1. CONSUMER NEWS or FEATURE

B2. FAITH/SPIRITUAL REPORTING

B3. TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

B4. TRAVEL REPORTING

B5. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE Presentation of any combination of text, graphics, audio, video, etc.

B6. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF FILM

B7. COMMENTARY/ANALYSIS OF TV

B8. CRITICISM OF FILM (Over 1,000 Words; Each Review) Up to three reviews

B9. CRITICISM OF FILM (Under 1,000 Words; Each Review) Up to three reviews

B10. CRITICISM OF TV Up to three reviews

B11. CRITICISM OF THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS Up to three reviews

B12. CRITICISM OF MUSIC Up to three reviews

B13. CRITICISM OF LITERATURE Up to three reviews

B14. CRITICISM OF ART/ARCHITECTURE/DESIGN Up to three reviews

B15. CRITICISM OF FOOD/CULTURE Up to three reviews

C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, including news bureaus and correspondents.

Enter individually or as a team.

C1. HEADLINE. A single headline (may include a deck) that is dramatic/witty/smart.

C2. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

C3. MEDICAL REPORTING, Healthcare Issues

C4. MEDICAL REPORTING, Mental and Physical Health

C5. MEDICAL REPORTING, Diseases and Epidemics

C6. SCIENCE REPORTING

C7. LOCAL POLITICS/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Schools and Universities

C8. LOCAL POLITICS/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Homelessness/Housing

C9. LOCAL POLITICS/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Crime/Corruption

C10. LOCAL POLITICS/GOVERNMENT REPORTING, Governing

C11. NATIONAL POLITICS/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

C12. EDUCATION REPORTING

C13. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

C14. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, Film/TV Personalities

C15. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

C16. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM Rigorous reporting on a response to a problem and its associated evidence. Series or single story.

C17. IMMIGRATION REPORTING (Includes Dreamers)

C18. CRIME REPORTING

C19. SPORTS REPORTING Any News or Feature on sports

C20. SPORTS COMMENTARY

D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY — All Platforms

D1. NEWS PHOTO A single image relating to a breaking story.

D2. FEATURE PHOTO A single image created for a feature story, or as a stand-alone.

D3. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Entertainment

D4. PORTRAIT PHOTO, Non-Entertainment

D5. SPORTS PHOTO A single sports image.

D6. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO A single entertainment image.

D7. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic), Culture/Entertainment At least two images published the same day, or as a series.

D8. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic), News/News Feature At least two images published the same day, or as a series.

D9. EDITORIAL CARTOON

D10. ILLUSTRATION

D11. GRAPHIC

D12. ANIMATION/MOVING GRAPHIC

D13. COVER ART

D14. PAGE DESIGN Demonstrating outstanding art direction and layout, graphics.

D15. BEST ISSUE A publication, supplement or special issue from a single day, demonstrating outstanding art direction, layout and/or graphics.

E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET

More categories under B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS, C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY, F. NEWSPAPERS Over 50,000 circulation, G. NEWSPAPERS Under 50,000 circulation and H. MAGAZINES.

E1. EDITORIALS

E2. HARD NEWS One day's coverage of a hard news story.

E3. BUSINESS REPORTING An article or series.

E4. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

E5. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

E6. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING

E7. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING (Includes LGBTQ reporting)

E8. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

F. NEWSPAPERS Over 50,000 Circulation

Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS, C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY, E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET, P. and Q. – special awards.

F1. NEWS FEATURE, General News/Hard News

F2. NEWS FEATURE, Society/Culture/History (For Environmental Reporting, see category E, for Education or Science Reporting, see category C; for Technology or Travel Reporting, see category B.)

F3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

F4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

F5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING May include relevant information on the impact or supporting editorials and letters to the editor. Series accepted.

F6. COMMENTARY On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects. For editorials see E1.

F7. COLUMNIST One person's point of view on any subject. Up to 3 samples.

G. NEWSPAPERS Under 50,000 Circulation

Includes news bureaus and correspondents. Enter individually or as a team.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS, C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY, E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET, P. and Q. – special awards.

G1. NEWS FEATURE, General News/Hard News

G2. NEWS FEATURE, Society/Culture/History (For Environmental Reporting, see category E, for Education or Science Reporting, see category C; for Technology or Travel Reporting, see category B.)

G3. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

G4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

G5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING May include relevant information on the impact or supporting editorials and letters to the editor. Series accepted.

G6. COMMENTARY On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects. For editorials see C1.

G7. COLUMNIST One person's point of view on any subject. Up to 3 samples.

H. MAGAZINES

Including magazines with L.A. bureaus.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS, C. PRINT/ONLINE – ANY OUTLET, D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY and E. PRINT – ANY OUTLET.

H1. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING By an individual or team.

H2. COMMENTARY On political, social, cultural, investigative, judicial, economic or other serious subjects, including editorials.

H3. COLUMNIST One person's point of view on any subject. Up to 3 samples.

H4. FEATURE, Business/Government (Over 1,000 Words)

H5. FEATURE, Culture/Arts (Over 1,000 Words)

H6. FEATURE (Under 1,000 Words) Any feature.

H7. FILM FEATURE

H8. TV/STREAMING FEATURE

H9. MUSIC FEATURE

H10. THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS FEATURE

H11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS Coverage of any entertainment subject by a person or a team.

H12. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film Personalities

H13. PERSONALITY PROFILE, TV Personalities

H14. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Theater Personalities

H15. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Politics/Business/Arts Personalities

H16. IN-HOUSE or CORPORATE PUBLICATION Single-best issue published by a company, agency or organization, for internal or external distribution.

I. BROADCAST — ANY OUTLET (TV/Film/Radio/Podcast)

I1. HUMOR/SATIRE WRITING

I2. OBITUARY/IN APPRECIATION

I3. PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS or FEATURE

I4. BUSINESS REPORTING

I5. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM

I6. MEDICAL/HEALTH REPORTING

I7. SCIENCE REPORTING

I8. LOCAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

I9. NATIONAL POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT REPORTING

I10. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

I11. EDUCATION REPORTING

I12. SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM Rigorous reporting on a response to a problem and its associated evidence. Series or single story.

I13. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING, Racial Histories

I14. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING, Individual Profiles

I15. IMMIGRATION REPORTING (Includes Dreamers)

I16. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING (Includes LGBTQ reporting)

I17. CRIME REPORTING

I18. SPORTS REPORTING Any News or Feature on sports.

I19. WEATHER or TRAFFIC REPORT

J. TELEVISION/FILM

Broadcast, including online and cable TV, produced in Southern California.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS and I. BROADCAST – ANY OUTLET.

J1. REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCAST

J2. ANCHOR/HOST Any anchor or host, single or team.

J3. VIDEOGRAPHER Any news, feature, sports or documentary videographer.

J4. BREAKING NEWS One news story, by an individual or a team.

J5. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.

J6. NEWS FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

J7. NEWS FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

J8. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes)

J9. HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes)

J10. LIFESTYLE FEATURE

J11. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Over 5 Minutes) Coverage of any entertainment subject.

J12. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE (Under 5 Minutes) Coverage of any entertainment subject.

J13. ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

J14. NON-ENTERTAINMENT PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW

J15. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS Single program on news, talk or public affairs.

J16. FEATURE DOCUMENTARY (Over 25 Minutes)

J17. DOCUMENTARY SHORT (Under 25 Minutes)

K. AUDIO JOURNALISM

Radio broadcast, podcast or stream produced in Southern California.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS and I. BROADCAST – ANY OUTLET.

K1. ANCHOR/HOST Any anchor or host, single or team.

K2. NEWS or BREAKING NEWS

K3. NEWS FEATURE

K4. LIFESTYLE FEATURE Lifestyle or special topics.

K5. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW, Entertainment Personalities (Over 10 Minutes)

K6. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW, Non-Entertainment Personalities (Over 10 Minutes)

K7. PERSONALITY PROFILE/INTERVIEW (Under 10 Minutes)

K8. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.

K9. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING Coverage or commentary on any entertainment subject. (For criticism see B categories.)

K10. USE OF SOUND Include a brief letter on how it was done, if relevant. A single program or related series.

K11. REGULAR PODCAST One episode

K12. LIMITED SERIES PODCAST

K13. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS An episode or a locally produced news, talk, information, education or public affairs show.

K14. DOCUMENTARY A single non-fiction program, 15 minutes or longer.

L. ONLINE

Content exclusively published on the Internet.

MORE CATEGORIES UNDER B. ALL MEDIA PLATFORMS, C. PRINT/ONLINE - ANY OUTLET and D. ART/PHOTOGRAPHY.

L1. EDITORIALS

- L2. HARD NEWS** One day's coverage of a hard news story.
- L3. GENERAL NEWS** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L4. CULTURE NEWS, TV/Film** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L5. CULTURE NEWS, Profiles** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L6. CULTURE NEWS, Events** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L7. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Film/Broadcast** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L8. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS, Music/Performing Arts** A single news story originally written for and published on the Internet.
- L9. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Entertainment/Business** Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.
- L10. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Government** Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.
- L11. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, Crime** Reports showing enterprise, initiative, research. Single report or a series.
- L12. BUSINESS REPORTING**
- L13. ACTIVISM JOURNALISM**
- L14. RACE AND SOCIETY REPORTING**
- L15. GENDER AND SOCIETY REPORTING** (Includes LGBTQ reporting)
- L16. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING**
- L17. NEWS FEATURE, Film/Broadcast**
- L18. NEWS FEATURE, Music/Culture/Performing Arts**
- L19. HARD NEWS FEATURE, General News**
- L20. SOFT NEWS FEATURE, General News**
- L21. LIFESTYLE FEATURE**
- L22. FILM FEATURE, Documentaries/Animation/Indies**
- L22. FILM FEATURE, Profiles of Creatives**
- L24. FILM FEATURE, Production History**
- L25. TV/STREAMING/RADIO FEATURE**
- L26. MUSIC FEATURE**
- L27. THEATER/ARTS FEATURE**
- L28. VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE FEATURE**
- L29. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Film/TV Personalities**
- L30. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Music/Art Personalities**
- L31. PERSONALITY PROFILE, Business/Government/Society Personalities**
- L32. COLUMNIST, Entertainment/Media** One person's point of view. Up to 3 samples.
- L33. COLUMNIST, Politics** One person's point of view. Up to 3 samples.
- L34. COLUMNIST, Current Events** One person's point of view. Up to 3 samples.
- L35. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, National** One person's point of view.
- L36. POLITICAL COMMENTARY, Local** One person's point of view.
- L37. NON-POLITICAL COMMENTARY** One person's point of view.

L38. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, Film/TV

L39. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY, Arts (Including theater, music)

L40. BLOG, INDIVIDUAL Submit any single day.

L41. BLOG, GROUP Best collective or institutional blog; submit any single day.

L42. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET

L43. WEBSITE, TRADITIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATION Website of a print or broadcast outlet.

M. SOCIAL MEDIA

Judged on content, creativity and engagement.

M1. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By an Independent Journalist Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

M2. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Journalist Tied to an Organization Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

M3. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENHANCE and/or COVER A STORY By a Group Maximum two days coverage of an individual story.

N. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS based in Southern California, reporting for an outlet outside of the U.S. Print, radio, TV or online. An English translation must be submitted along with the original work.

N1. NEWS

N2. FEATURE Profiles, lifestyle and other topics

N3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

N4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS or FEATURE

N5. COLUMNIST or CRITIC One person's point of view on any subject.

O. STUDENT MEDIA

Student media includes groups with students in charge, including school newspapers and/or online publishing. Student media: high school, local college, university undergraduate or graduate publications or news websites.

O1. BEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

O2. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

O3. BEST COLLEGE NEWS WEBSITE

O4. BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS WEBSITE

O5. BEST NEWS PHOTO

O6. BEST FEATURE PHOTO

O7. BEST SPORTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

O8. BEST ARTS WRITING – PRINT or ONLINE

O9. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues, Budget/Personnel – PRINT or ONLINE

- O10. BEST NEWS WRITING, Campus Issues, Layoffs/Strikes/Protests – PRINT or ONLINE**
- O11. BEST NEWS WRITING, Off Campus issues – PRINT or ONLINE**
- O12. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE**
- O13. BEST FEATURE WRITING, Off Campus Issues – PRINT or ONLINE**
- O14. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM**
- O15. BEST PERSONALITY PROFILE, Off Campus Personalities – ANY PLATFORM**
- O16. BEST TV or STREAM REPORTING**
- O17. BEST RADIO or PODCAST REPORTING**

P. A-MARK CASH PRIZE FOR REPORTING ON MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

This award goes to a piece of journalism on any platform that excels at examining misinformation or disinformation in the public discourse. The work can take on a specific instance of media manipulation, examining its perpetrators and its impact. It can explore possible solutions to the problem, or individuals or groups active in either perpetrating or solving it. In short, the work should delve deeply into any aspect of the troubling phenomenon in any journalistic format.

The \$15,000 prize is sponsored by the Santa Monica-based non-partisan and non-profit A- Mark Foundation.

First place: \$5,000 for the reporter + \$2,500 for the publishing outlet.

Second place: \$3,000 for the reporter + \$1,500 for the publishing outlet.

Third place: \$2,000 for the reporter + \$1,000 for the publishing outlet.

Q. TATIANA SCHLOSSBERG ENVIRONMENTAL CASH AWARD

Rigorous reporting on a response to an environmental problem and its associated evidence. Series or single story.

The \$1,000 prize is sponsored by author, scholar and professor Angela Aleiss.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, CA