

## **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**
- L23. 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**