



Fund for  
Investigative  
Journalism

JUNE 2018

## FIJ awards nearly \$75K in latest round of grants

The Fund for Investigative Journalism has awarded nearly \$75,000 in reporting grants for a collection of projects focused on pressing social issues, the environment and other important topics. Those receiving grants include:

**Allegra Abramo**, a Seattle-based freelancer;  
**Rozina Ali**, a New York journalist who writes about the Middle East, the war on terror and Islamophobia;  
**Marilyn Garateix**, a Miami-based reporter;  
**Julie Grant**, an environmental reporter for The Allegheny Front in Pittsburgh;  
**inewsources**, a data-driven San Diego nonprofit;  
**Allison Herrera**, a Minneapolis multimedia journalist;  
**Jane Kay**, a journalist specializing in enterprise science stories on health and the environment;  
**Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting**, a nonprofit investigative unit based in Louisville;  
**Yanick Rice Lamb**, a Howard University professor and Washington-based independent journalist;  
**Lauren Lee White**, a documentarian based in Los Angeles;  
**Voice of San Diego**, the country's first digital, nonprofit news organization.

**In other news:** Congratulations to FIJ board members **Cheryl W. Thompson** and **Doris Truong**.

Earlier this month, FIJ board member Thompson, an associate professor of journalism at George

Washington University who writes investigative pieces for The Washington Post, was elected board president of **Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE)** during the organization's convention in Orlando.

"I am honored and excited to lead this 5,700-member organization that I've been a part of for two decades," Thompson said. "Watchdog journalism has always mattered, and I want to continue IRE's mission of 'fostering excellence in investigative journalism,' including ensuring that the organization's membership better reflects the tapestry of this country."



Cheryl W. Thompson

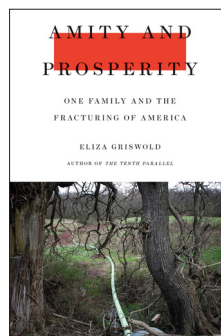
Meanwhile, Truong has been hired as Poynter's first director of training and diversity. Truong is departing her current job as the homepage and weekend homepage editor at The Washington Post. She begins her new role with Poynter on Aug. 2.

"I'm excited to be working with such a respected name as Poynter and even more excited to be helping to further the important cause of diversity in the journalism industry," Truong said in an announcement by Florida-based Poynter. "And I'm happy to be leaving my snow shovel behind."

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

#### *Campaign contributors more likely to get debt-collection contracts in Ohio*

**James McNair** examined 10 years of public data on behalf of the Ohio Center for Investigative Journalism. He found a strong correlation between the amount of campaign contributions and the revenue received by law firms doing collection work for the state attorney general's office. What's more, the data showed that debt collection firms who hired lobbyists got more money.



**Eliza Griswold** examines the fracking boom in her book "Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America." In an essay for the New York Times, Griswold addresses a concept called "the resource curse" in her book. In her essay, she asserts that the subjects of her book, who live in a resource-rich part of the rural United States, suffer from many of the same structural pressures and disadvantages as people living in countries that most Americans think of as less developed.