



Fund for  
Investigative  
Journalism

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## Nonprofit News Where For-Profit Has Failed: One FIJ Grantee's Commitment to Journalism



It's been just over 10 years since the reporters, photographers and editors of Arizona's longest lasting publication, the Tucson Citizen, sent their last edition to print. The Gannett-owned newspaper was shut down, rather, "it was left to die," as one reporter put it in that final Saturday edition. The story of the Citizen is one newsrooms around the country know all too well.

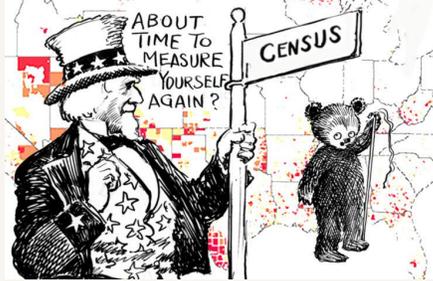
But for one of those reporters, Dylan Smith, the end of the Citizen marked the beginning of his own publication – the nonprofit Tucson Sentinel – which he started the second he was no longer receiving checks from Gannett. To Smith and his staff of four reporters, which has received several grants from FIJ since its inception, reporting in Tucson has always been more than a job.

"We report on this town because we love this place," he said. "We want to see it be the best it can be."

That's not to say it isn't hard work. He said the main difficulty is and always has been funding, but that organizations like FIJ provide important opportunities for longer-form investigations. The Sentinel's most recent report, funded by FIJ, uncovered how immigration officials in Arizona are seeking much higher bonds for immigrants or refusing them altogether due to new Trump administration policies.

This type of reporting and the local, daily news Smith and his team produce stand as a testament to good journalism – the kind FIJ will always be proud to sponsor.

## Our Grantees' Most Recent Work



## Don't Count On the Census

The 2020 census will make a huge imprint on the nation for a decade, from determining how much federal money goes to states to divvying up congressional seats and helping city planners figure out where to build schools. But, as FIJ grantee Natasha Haverty reports for Reveal, when the Census Bureau does its next count this April, it will be counting nearly 2 million people in the wrong place: where they are incarcerated, not where they call home.

As Haverty reports, what started as a quirk in the way we count people behind bars now serves to reinforce some of our country's ugliest racial and political dynamics.

In her report on a practice called "prison gerrymandering," Haverty investigates what it means when our criminal justice system intrudes on the democratic process.

Read more and listen to Haverty's podcast segment, published by Reveal, [here](#).



## Southern California Murder Suspect Denies He's in Montenegro to Dodge Arrest

A former Southern California businessman sought in connection with the slaying of a Los Angeles-area lawyer and the home-invasion killing of a Whittier, Calif., man, lives in a \$2 million home along the Adriatic Sea in Montenegro, where the lack of an extradition treaty with the U.S. protects him from arrest.

FIJ grantees Larry Altman, Vladimir Otasevic and Sasa Lekovic tracked down Richard Henry Wall, 67, who was identified in 2017 as a suspect in the killings, as well as a homicide in Las Vegas.

Wall denied committing the crimes or that he fled Whittier for the Balkan nation to avoid prosecution. But, the families of the victims want justice and Wall is on their list of suspects who got away.

Read the full investigation, published by the Torrance, Calif., Daily Breeze, [here](#).

## News About FIJ

### FIJ leaders Speak on Panel About the Future of Investigative Broadcast Journalism



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FIJ Board President Mark Greenblatt, advisory board members Ricardo Sandoval-Palos and Chuck Lewis were part of a panel discussion about the future of investigative broadcast journalism at American University's School of Communications and Journalism, on Feb. 22.

Greenblatt, a senior national investigative correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau, said he was encouraged to see so many journalists connected to FIJ invited to participate in the discussion on the future of broadcast investigative journalism. "FIJ's role in supporting the continued vibrancy of broadcast investigative reporting was on full display at the symposium, where it was also reassuring to see how many leaders in our industry are working to find new ways to connect audiences to critically important stories."

Sandoval-Palos, public editor at PBS, said the panel addressed ethical dilemmas that new broadcast investigative journalism formats, like podcasts, bring to the table, and how we could address them.

The panel included investigative journalists from CNN, ABC News, and independent documentary producers.

*Photo by: Allie Ngo, AU Film and Media Arts student*

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## **The Fund for Investigative Journalism is pleased to announce three new grants to support our grant-making program**

THE  
**REVA & DAVID LOGAN**  
FOUNDATION

The Reva and David Logan Foundation has awarded FIJ \$75,000.

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The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation board of directors approved a \$75,000 grant.

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The Herb Block Foundation approved a \$5,000 grant.

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