

FIJ – SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

Grantee Awards

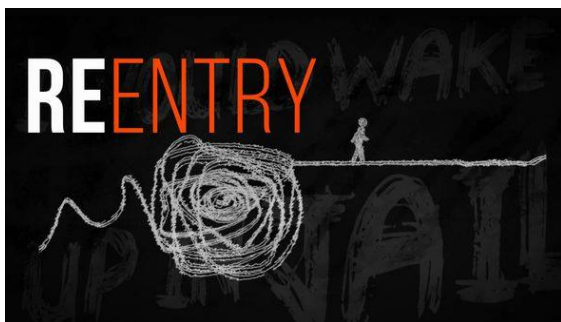


*A Somali National Army soldier patrols alongside African Union Peacekeeping Forces.
Photo by Christina Goldbaum*

- Congratulations to grant recipient **Christina Goldbaum**, who won the **Edwin M. Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence** from the National Press Club for her reporting on suspected U.S. military involvement in the killing of 10 civilians during a mission in Somalia in 2017. This follows her earlier win of a **Livingston Award for Excellence in International Reporting** for the same series of stories [in the Daily Beast](#).

Goldbaum's stories raised questions about the oversight and strategy of U.S. forces in Africa. And Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) mentioned them in his call for a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on counterterrorism efforts in Africa.

– Funding for Goldbaum's reporting provided by the Reva and David Logan Foundation.



- More than half of those released from prison today will return within five years. Last year, 2017 **FIJ/Schuster Institute Diversity Fellow Lottie Joiner** set out to find out why. Her fellowship project examined some of the causes of recidivism — why people return to prison — and reform efforts by those most affected by the criminal justice system. Her fellowship project, titled "[Reentry](#)," was published by **USA Today**. The reporting team included Joiner, USA Today editor Eileen Rivers and

USA Today videographer Jarrad Henderson. They traveled to prisons in Louisiana, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C., to understand recidivism in men, women and juveniles. The team took a grassroots approach, talking to community-based organizations about the obstacles former felons face when they reenter society. Their reporting found significant barriers to reentry, including employment and housing challenges. There are more than 48,000 legal restrictions nationwide that former prisoners have to navigate to rebuild their lives. The USA Today team produced a comprehensive series that included feature stories, news analysis, podcasts, videos and photo galleries that demonstrated the difficult road many former inmates face when they leave the criminal justice system. Check out the entire project [here](#). Henderson won **two Emmy awards** for his work on the Reentry project — one for the video on [men](#) and incarceration and another award for a look at [women](#) in prison.

– Funding for this project was provided by the Ford Foundation.

News from FIJ



- **The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press** is partnering with FIJ to offer legal support to FIJ grantees completing investigative reporting projects across the country.

[Reporters Committee](#) attorneys have already begun working with six grantees as part of a program to review drafts of stories for libel and other legal concerns before they are published, and to provide other pro bono legal assistance related to newsgathering

and the First Amendment.

“Independent investigative journalists are increasingly in need of legal support but are among those who have the least amount of ready access to it,” said FIJ Board President Marcia Bullard.

“We’re thrilled to be partnering with FIJ to help investigative journalists shed light on some of the most pressing issues affecting communities across the country,” said Katie Townsend, legal director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Legal support is available upon request as part of the FIJ grant application process. For more information contact sbergo@fij.org.

SCRIPPS HOWARD
FOUNDATION

- **The Scripps Howard Foundation** has given \$5,000 to fund a second year of the FIJ mentorship program.

During its first year, FIJ developed a roster of 15 investigative journalists to serve as mentors to grant

recipients; so far, 12 grantees have been assigned mentors. Meanwhile, FIJ continues to recruit additional mentors.



FIJ board member Lottie Joiner leads a panel on applying for fellowships and reporting grants at the National Association of Black Journalists.

Photo by Jin Ding of the Pulitzer Center

- FIJ's former operations director, **Bobby Caina Calvin**, attended conventions from Miami to Detroit to Houston to promote FIJ's grant and fellowship programs to journalists of color from across the country.

He participated in panels geared toward freelancers, including a panel he organized for the **National Association of Black Journalists** that also featured representatives from the Pulitzer Center, Freelance Investigative Reporters and Editors (FIRE) and the University of Michigan's Knight-Wallace Fellowship program. He also took part in a similar panel at the joint conventions in Miami of the **National Association of Hispanic Journalists** and the

Native American Journalists Association. At the **Asian American Journalists Association** convention in Houston, Calvin took part in a story-pitching workshop.

News from FIJ *continued*



- And **Bobby Caina Calvin** is stepping down as FIJ's operations director in Washington, D.C., for a new job with [Reveal](#), the California-based nonprofit news organization. "Bobby did an amazing job modernizing FIJ procedures and outreach to independent journalists," said FIJ Executive Director Sandy Bergo. "He deeply cares about the freelancers who work incredibly hard to dig up and tell investigative stories, despite having limited resources. Bobby will be dearly missed. His friends at FIJ wish him well in his new position with Reveal."

Investigation Spotlights



A view of sugarcane fields around Maringouin, Louisiana. Photo by Derrick Arthur

- In 1838, the Society of Jesus in Maryland, an international Jesuit community, sold 272 slaves to plantations in Louisiana. That sale saved Georgetown University, a Jesuit school, from financial ruin. With funding from FIJ, reporters from The Hoya, the student paper at Georgetown, examined [the university's legacy of slavery](#) and its relationship to descendants of the enslaved. Their investigation found that [the university had unearthed human remains](#) in 2014 while constructing the newest dormitory on campus. Those remains were near what was once a segregated graveyard — the final resting place of several Georgetown slaves. The discovery was not

publicized and the space remains unmarked.

Additionally, the student team traveled to Maringouin, Louisiana, where the majority of the population descends from the 272 slaves sold to save the university in 1838. [Maringouin has not had a high school since 2009](#), and students must make a 58-mile daily commute to attend school. Locals told the student journalists that they believed the decision to shut the school was motivated in part by race, and they are calling for Georgetown and the Society of Jesus to support primary and secondary education in the town.

An article at **Poynter** tells [the story behind the story](#) of The Hoya project, giving background on years of reporting. For example, when nine students traveled to Louisiana to report on the descendants of the 272, "they found themselves informing residents about their own family history."

— *The Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation and the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation provided funding for The Hoya investigation.*

Investigation Spotlights *continued*

- Grant recipient **Robin Urevich** has published a series of stories in **Capital & Main** outlining two deaths connected to inadequate medical care at immigration detention centers run by [Emerald Correctional Management](#). Urevich's investigation found that the firm received millions from no-bid government contracts while providing subpar service — this despite a history of poor performance on the part of the company. As of 2016, the company had abandoned or been fired from more detention contracts than it maintained.



Illustration by Define Urban for Capital & Main

The Louisiana-based firm went out of business in 2017, but the abuses uncovered reflect a lack of oversight by U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement in vetting potential prison contractors. Immigration detention has expanded fivefold in the past 23 years, Urevich reports, and with the Trump administration's deportation surge, is growing.

— *Funding for Urevich's reporting provided by the Park Foundation.*

The FIJ Newsletter was compiled by Jerry Redfern.

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