



MARCH 2019
FIJ.ORG
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FIJ – SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

People in this Issue

Jeremy Loudenback
Robin Urevich
Ana Arana
Daffodil Altan
Andrés Cediel
Barbara Bernstein
Jenifer Frank
Jimmie Briggs

Jim Morris
Max Blau
Rachel Cohen
Julia Harte
Angie Newsome
Andrew Engelson
Nicholas Chrastil
Daryl Khan

Miranda Spivack
Mardi Link
Mark Betancourt
Anna Kuchment
Clair MacDougall
Robert McClure
Andrew Stelzer

Reminder from FIJ



• The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, a long-standing supporter, has awarded \$75,000 to support its grant-making program for domestic investigations in 2019. This amount includes \$25,000 to be awarded if FIJ raises an additional \$25,000 in new funding before December 31. [Help us](#) reach that matching goal – because, as always, all of it helps to fund even more watchdog journalism. And thanks!

News from FIJ

• The Fund for Investigative Journalism has hired **Ana Arana** as director of operations. Arana is an award-winning veteran investigative journalist and media trainer with experience covering international organized crime. She is the former director of Fundación MEPI, a Mexico City investigative journalism project that carried out long-form U.S.-Mexico investigations from 2010-2015, pairing up with U.S. news outlets and Latin American news organizations. A former U.S. foreign correspondent who reported from Central America and Colombia for CBS News and The Miami Herald, Arana has worked most recently as a freelance journalist and editor. She has received several awards for outstanding journalism, including a team award from the Online News Association, a Third Coast Audio Festival Silver Award, a Peabody and two Overseas Press Club awards, among others.

“I am very excited that someone of Ana’s caliber is joining us,” said FIJ’s executive director, Sandy Bergo, in making the announcement. “Her proven track record mentoring young journalists is particularly valued. She will also bring new ideas and energy to the organization.”

• The FIJ Board of Directors has awarded \$99,800 for 17 grants to investigative journalists in its most recent round of funding.

The grants will help investigative reporters cover the costs of reporting work, such as travel, document fees, and other out-of-pocket expenses.

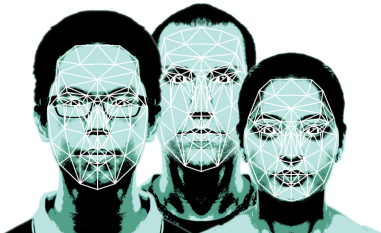
The grant recipients are:

FIJ GRANT DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 13, 11:59PM EST

News from FIJ *cont'd.*

Barbara Bernstein, a Portland, Oregon-based independent radio producer,
Jenifer Frank, a Hartford, Conn.-based freelance writer,
Jimmie Briggs, a New York City-based author and journalist,
Miranda Spivack, an independent journalist,
Mardi Link, a northern Michigan-based journalist,
Mark Betancourt, a DC-based multimedia journalist,
Jim Morris, acting CEO of the Center for Public Integrity,
Max Blau, a journalist with The (Macon, Ga.) Telegraph,
Rachel Cohen, a DC-based freelance journalist,
Julia Harte, a DC-based investigative reporter,
Angie Newsome, a journalist with Carolina Public Press,
Andrew Engelson, executive editor of Seattle's Cascadia Magazine,
Nicholas Chrastil, a New Orleans-based freelance reporter,
Daryl Khan, a New York City-based reporter and documentary filmmaker,
Clair MacDougall, a West Africa-based independent journalist,
Anna Kuchment, science reporter, The Dallas Morning News,
Robert McClure, of Seattle's InvestigateWest.

Investigation Spotlights



*Illustration by Reid Brown for
San Francisco Public Press*

- In November, San Franciscans voted to amend their city charter to add data protection guidelines for city entities, contractors, businesses and individuals. Since then, city supervisors have introduced legislation to restrict or ban the use of most surveillance and facial recognition technology in the city. But the most controversial proposal is the ability to use online services in San Francisco without providing any personal details.

Writing in the [San Francisco Public Press](#), **Andrew**

Stelzer explores the quickly evolving regulatory environment around digital privacy in California, and in particular looks at the proposed changes in San Francisco. City leaders have made bold, but so far not very specific, claims about their ability to limit the personal information free-for-all that is at the heart of the business model for data brokers, many startups, and other digital enterprises.

Those proposals are potentially disruptive to a tech industry that reaps riches from “disruption.” And critics warn that aggressive regulation could chase data mining companies out of San Francisco, or into the courts to battle regulators.



- Congratulations to **Daffodil Altan** and **Andrés Cediell**! Their FRONTLINE project “Trafficked in America” was a finalist for this year’s [Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting](#).

The story tells of Guatemalan teens forced to work on an Ohio egg farm, and exposes a criminal network that exploits

Investigation Spotlights *cont'd.*

undocumented minors, the companies that profit from forced labor, and the role of the U.S. government.

The [documentary](#) originally aired in April 2018 on PBS.



*Illustration by Define Urban for
Capital & Main*

Investigative reporter **Robin Urevich** has added four stories to her series *Deadly Detention at Capital & Main*. The series reveals both [the politics behind](#) and the life inside Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers, and focuses on the often-preventable deaths that have occurred in ICE lockups. Her most recent stories cover the suicide of 40-year-old Efrain de la Rosa at the Stewart Detention Center in Southwest Georgia last July, and the struggle to obtain the investigative documents that reveal how and why he died. These include a story on efforts by the private prison firm CoreCivic to convince the Georgia Bureau of Investigation [to keep its investigation of de la Rosa's death under wraps](#); a story on [ICE's most recent release](#) of less-than-revealing reports on detention deaths; and [a look at de la Rosa's death](#) and its eerie parallels to a death that occurred at the Stewart Detention Center a year earlier.

Urevich has more stories in the works for this series, so stay tuned.



Jacob McCleary spent his high school years in a series of group homes. Now he is out. Photo by Jeremy Loudenback

In 2010, California launched a pilot project to fix one of the most troubled aspects of the state's foster care system: youths languishing in institutional group homes. They often struggle later in life with mental health issues, lower educational achievement and a higher risk of entering the criminal justice system. Plus, they are far more likely to exit foster care without a stable home. The project showed striking success at first. In Los Angeles County, home to the largest county-run child welfare system in the country, youth exited institutions and became rooted in family homes. And the project saved the county more than \$7 million. This success inspired a massive child welfare reform effort in the state. The ideas in the project also made their way to federal group home reform legislation in 2018.

But the larger promise of the project never arrived. Writing for [The Chronicle of Social Change](#), **Jeremy Loudenback** looks at how California's group home reforms deteriorated and what lies ahead for youth heading into adulthood after institutionalization.

This FIJ Newsletter was compiled by Jerry Redfern.

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