

THE INNOCENCE NETWORK

2017 Innocence Network Journalism Award

The Innocence Network is an affiliation of organizations dedicated to providing pro bono legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove innocence for crimes for which they have been convicted, working to redress the causes of wrongful convictions, and supporting the exonerated after they are freed.

The Innocence Network Journalism Award was created to honor investigative reporting that brings to life the process of identifying and exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals. The winner of the award will be the author or creator of an article, program or series that in discussing wrongful convictions:

- best demonstrates the failures and successes of the criminal justice system;
- provides the best account of the plight of the wrongfully convicted, whether while in prison or after they are released; and/or
- best highlights the reforms needed, and where appropriate, the ways in which the public can take action to improve the criminal justice system.

All entries for the 2017 Innocence Network Journalism Award must be submitted to Norah Scanlan, Innocence Network Operations Associate (nscanlan@innocencenetwork.org), no later than **December 15, 2017 at midnight EST**. Entries will be screened by a jury of nationally respected journalists, who will select the winner. The members of the jury will be announced at a later date. The winner will receive complimentary conference registration and will be honored during the Innocence Network Conference on March 23-24, 2018 in Memphis, Tennessee. The winning submission's lodging and travel expenses will be covered up to \$1,000 by the Innocence Network. Please note that the Innocence Network will handle reserving and paying for the winner's hotel room directly. Winners must make their own travel arrangements and reimbursement for travel expenses will be provided following the conclusion of the conference. There are no restrictions regarding how many individuals may be included in one submission; however, only one physical award will be provided and reimbursement of conference expenses for the entire group will be capped at \$1,000. Any questions about the award criteria or application should be directed to: Norah Scanlan, Innocence Network Operations Associate, at 212-364-5370 or nscanlan@innocencenetwork.org.

CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Submissions may consist of a single story or series (two or more related stories on one narrow or specific topic i.e., three articles covering the same case) published in a newspaper, magazine, online news outlet, or on television or radio. Academic works (scholarship articles, entries in textbooks, etc.) and books are not eligible.
2. Documentary films and podcast series will also be accepted, but the submission may not exceed 120 minutes. In the case of a documentary series or podcasts, please select one episode that best represents the submission or provide a collection of highlight clips.
3. Entries may be submitted by the story writer/creator or team of writers/creators, or by any other person with the approval of the story writer/creator or team.
4. Only one entry by or on behalf of each story writer/creator or team will be considered.
5. Entries must be submitted in English or with a translation into English.
6. Only original work published between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 will be considered. For a series submission, one substantive segment of the series must have been published in this time period. For a documentary film, the film must have been shown at a film festival, in theaters or on television in this time period.
7. Submitted stories or series must focus on issues related to wrongful convictions.
8. All submissions must also include a completed nomination certification and acceptance form (see last page) providing consent for submission. The form must be executed by each journalist credited for the piece as well as by any submitter(s) who compiled the materials for consideration.
9. Entries will be retained by the Innocence Network and may be cited to or displayed at Innocence Network events. No materials will be returned.

10. The nominator is responsible for confirming with the winner their willingness to accept this award within **three days** if/when he or she is chosen.
11. In the event that the original winner is unable to accept the award, the jury reserves the right to choose another recipient.
12. Entries must be submitted by **December 15, 2017, at midnight EST**. No entries will be accepted after that time.
13. All submissions should be sent with a letter to the jury and the application and nomination certification and acceptance form to Norah Scanlan, Innocence Network Operations Associate, at nscanlan@innocencenetwork.org. Submission of hard copies (DVD or CD-ROM) of television reports, radio reports, podcasts and films must include five (5) copies and should be sent to:

Innocence Project
Attn: Norah Scanlan
40 Worth Street, Ste. 701
New York, NY 10013



2017 Innocence Network Journalism Award Application Form

The Innocence Network Journalism Award was created to honor investigative reporting that brings to life the process of identifying and exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals. The winner of the award will be the author or creator of an article, program or series that in discussing wrongful convictions best demonstrates the failures and successes of the criminal justice system, provides the best account of the plight of the wrongfully convicted, whether while in prison or after they are released, and/or best highlights the reforms needed.

Please submit all materials (submission, letter to the jury, application form, and nomination certification and acceptance form [see third page]) in one packet to Norah Scanlan, Innocence Network Operations Associate, at nscanlan@innocencenetwork.org. Electronic submissions are preferred. If possible, please do not just include links to any online submissions, particularly for articles. A copy (i.e., PDF) of the story or series in the same packet with the other materials is preferred.

- Submission of hard copies (DVD or CD-ROM) of television reports, radio reports, podcasts, and films must include five (5) copies and should be sent to:
 Innocence Project
 Attn: Norah Scanlan
 40 Worth Street, Ste. 701
 New York, NY 10013

Application Deadline: December 15, 2017, at midnight EST

APPLICATION FORM

Title of Entry: _____

Journalist(s): _____

Mode (Check Appropriate):

Newspaper: ___ Magazine (print or online): ___ Online News Outlet: ___ Television: ___ Radio: ___ Film: ___
Podcast: ___ Other (please specify): _____

Media Outlet Name: _____

Single Story or Series (Check Appropriate):

Single Story/Episode: ___

Series: ___ Series Subject/Topic (i.e., unreliable roadside drug tests resulting in untold wrongful convictions across the country): _____

Publication/Premier/Air Date(s) (for a series, please list the date of each story):

Nomination submitted by: Journalist: ___ Nominator: ___

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

If not submitted by journalist, please provide contact information for journalist:

Name: _____

Title, Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Person to be contacted for follow-up, including awards notification, awards applications, etc.:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

***In a separate letter to the Innocence Network Journalism Awards Jury, please explain why the nominee(s) should be considered for the 2017 Innocence Network Journalism Award. Also, please note any individuals who may have contributed to the story who have not already been noted.**

NOMINATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE FORM

To Be Completed By the Nominator:

I, _____, certify that I have informed the nominee(s), _____, prior to the submission of these materials, of my intent to nominate him/her/them for the 2017 Innocence Network Journalism Award.

Signature of Nominator

Date

Name (Printed)