

# LEONARD DOWNIE JR.

Journalist, Professor, Author, Lecturer

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication  
Arizona State University Phoenix, Arizona  
2009 –  
*Weil Family Professor of Journalism*

Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.  
Missouri School of Journalism Columbia, Missouri  
2009-  
*Member, Board of Directors*

Center for Investigative Reporting Berkeley, California  
2009-  
*Member, Board of Directors*

Kaiser Health News Washington, DC  
2009-  
*Chair, National Advisory Committee*

The Washington Post Washington, DC  
2008 –  
*Vice President at Large*

The Washington Post (cont)

1991 – 2008

*Executive Editor*

- Directed newsroom staff of as many as 900 people with annual budget exceeding \$100 million. Staff awarded 25 Pulitzer Prizes, including three Pulitzer Gold Medals for Public Service, during my 17 years as executive editor.

1984 – 1991

*Managing Editor*

- Managed newsroom day-to-day under Executive Editor Ben Bradlee. Oversaw newspaper re-design and wide-ranging expansion of coverage.

1982 – 1984

*National Editor*

- Supervised coverage of politics, government and national affairs, including first of seven presidential and thirteen congressional elections during 26 years as national editor, managing editor and executive editor.

1979 – 1982

*London correspondent*

- Covered Great Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and European Community, including government of Margaret Thatcher in Britain, Rhodesian peace conference in London that created Zimbabwe, IRA hunger strike in Northern Ireland, economic awakening in Ireland, anti-nuclear movement in Europe and formative years of European Community.

1974 – 1979

*Assistant Managing Editor, Metro*

- Directed local news coverage of Washington, D. C., Maryland and Virginia. Expanded staff, suburban coverage and investigative reporting.

1972 – 1974

*Deputy Metro Editor*

- Helped direct coverage of local news, including Watergate investigation. Edited coverage of Senate Watergate Committee hearings and then investigative reporting of Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein during final 18 months before resignation of President Richard Nixon.

1971 – 1972

*Leave of absence on Alicia Patterson Fellowship*

- Traveled across the United States, Europe and Israel researching urban development, including the New Towns movement. Produced monthly newsletters and material for later book, *Mortgage on America*.

The Washington Post (cont.)

1970 – 1971

*Assistant City Editor*

- Assigned and edited local coverage of Washington, D. C.

1964 – 1970

*Reporter*

- Beginning as summer intern in 1964, covered local news. Became an investigative reporter focusing on local courts and law enforcement, home improvement and mortgage fraud, and inner city slum landlords and suburban land speculators. Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1967.

The Ohio State University Alumni Association                      Columbus, Ohio

1963 – 1964

*Managing Editor, The Ohio State Monthly Alumni Magazine*

- Wrote and edited stories, took photographs and designed pages.

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Columbus, Ohio

1962

*Summer intern, public relations department*

- Wrote press releases and speeches, produced promotional brochures.

## EDUCATION

---

1960 – 1965

The Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, 1964

(with minors in political science and economics).

Master of Arts, 1965.

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, 1993.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

American Society of News Editors (ASNE).

Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) (founding member).

The Authors Guild

Random House Speakers Bureau

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Books:

*The Rules of the Game* (a novel), Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.

*The News About the News* (with Robert G. Kaiser), Alfred A. Knopf, 2002; Vintage (paperback), 2003.

*The New Muckrakers*, New Republic Books, 1976; Mentor (paperback), 1978.

*Mortgage on America*, Frederick A. Praeger, 1974, (paperback) 1975.

*Justice Denied: The Case for Reform of the Courts*, Frederick A. Praeger, 1971; Penguin (paperback), 1972.

### Report:

*The Reconstruction of American Journalism* (with Michael Schudson), Columbia University, 2009.

### Contributor:

*Ten Blocks From the White House: Anatomy of the Washington Riots of 1968* (Ben Gilbert and the staff of The Washington Post), Frederick A. Praeger, 1968.

*Inside the System* (Washington Monthly book edited by Charles Peters and John Rothchild), Frederick A. Praeger, 1973.

### Articles:

Various in *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The New Republic* and *Washington Monthly*.

## AWARDS RECEIVED

---

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, The Ohio State University.

Goldsmith Award, Joan Shorenstein Center, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for *The News About the News* (with Robert G. Kaiser).

2008 Ben Bradlee Editor of the Year Award, National Press Foundation.

2009 Award for Editorial Leadership, American Society of News Editors

Overseas Press Club Citation for Excellence for coverage of Britain.

Gavel Award of the American Bar Association for coverage of the courts.

John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business and Financial Journalism.

Front Page Award, Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild.