

Leonard Downie Jr.

University Address

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
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CURRENT POSITIONS

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

- Teaching Accountability Journalism
- Was teaching and editing News21national investigative reporting projects
- Hosting, presenting and moderating Must See Monday lectures

Kaiser Health News,
Washington, D. C.
Chair, National Advisory Committee
2009 – present

Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc.
Columbia, Missouri
Co-founder (1975)
(Member, board of directors, 2009-2015)

Twentieth Century Fox
Script and on-set movie consultant for “The Post”
2018

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

The Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Vice president at large, 2008 – 2015

Executive Editor, 1991 – 2008

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

Managing Editor, 1984 – 1991

- Managed newsroom day-to-day and expanded coverage under Executive Editor Ben Bradlee.

National Editor, 1982 – 1984

- Supervised coverage of first of seven presidential and thirteen congressional elections as national editor, managing editor and executive editor.

London Correspondent, 1979 – 1982

- Covered Great Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia, European Community and NATO.

Assistant Managing Editor, Metro, 1974 – 1979

- Directed and expanded local news coverage of Washington, D. C., Maryland and Virginia.

Deputy Metro Editor, 1972 – 1974

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

Leave of Absence as Alicia Patterson Fellow, 1970 – 1971

- Studied and wrote about urban development in the United States, Europe and Israel.

Assistant City Editor, 1970 – 1971

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

Reporter, 1964 – 1970

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

The Ohio State Monthly Alumni Magazine
Managing Editor, 1963 – 1964

Center for Investigative Reporting
Member, Board of Directors
Berkeley, California
2009 – 2011

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio
Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, June 1964
Master of Arts, June 1965
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, June 1993

Alicia Patterson Foundation
Traveling Journalism Fellow, 1971-1972

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) (Founding Member)
Society for Professional Journalists (SPJ) (Fellow of the Society)

AWARDS

Award for Editorial Leadership, American Society of News Editors, 2009

William Maxwell Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in the Advancement of the Newspaper Profession, Ohio Newspaper Association, 2009

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

Goldsmith Book Prize, Joan Shorenstein Center, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for *The News About the News* (with Robert G. Kaiser), 2003

John Hancock Award for Business and Financial Journalism

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

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

All About the Story: Power, Politics and The Washington Post, PublicAffairs Books, 2020

The News Media: What Everyone Needs to Know (with C. W. Anderson and Michael Schuedson), Oxford University Press, 2016

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, Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. (e-book reprint), 2010

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

Justice Denied: The Case for Reform of the Courts, Frederick A. Praeger, 1971, Penguin, 1972.

Reports:

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

Making a Difference: Philanthropy and the Future of Local Accountability Journalism, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, Arizona State University, 2012

The Obama Administration and the Press, Committee to Protect Journalists, 2013

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 (Several chapters)

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

Will the Last Reporter Please Turn Out the Lights: The Collapse of Journalism and What Can Be Done To Fix It (edited by Robert W. McChesney and Victor Pickard, The New Press, 2011 (One chapter, with Michael Schudson)

Articles:

“Election 2020 will test media’s role in our democracy,” Boston Globe, October 2, 2020

“Why Universities Like ASU Are Producing Investigative Journalism, Not Just Teaching It,” (with Christopher Callahan), Arizona Republic, September 2018

“Donald Trump’s Dangerous Attacks on the Press,” The New York Times, January 13, 2017

“Four decades of Collaboration”
IRE Journal, Summer, 2015

“A Date With History – June 17, 1972: A burglary which toppled a president”
The World Today, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London, June-July, 2012

“Former Post executive editor Leonard Downie Jr. says Watergate-style investigative journalism is at risk,” Outlook, *The Washington Post*, June 10, 2012

“Big Journalism on Campus,” *American Journalism Review*, Winter, 2011.

“The Reconstruction of American Journalism” (with Michael Schudson), *Columbia Journalism Review*, November/December 2009

Various newspaper stories, essays, book reviews, op-ed columns, *The Washington Post*, 1964 – present.

SELECTED SPEECHES, LECTURES AND PANEL APPEARANCES

Various virtual events and interviews for my 2020 book, *All About the Story: Power, Politics and The Washington Post*

Moderator, “Election 2018: Politics and Polling” panel with Dan Balz, Cathy Decker and Scott Clement of The Washington Post, ASU Washington Center, Washington, DC (by video in the First Amendment Forum of the Walter Cronkite School), October 1, 2018

Moderator, “The Legacy of Walter Cronkite” panel with Bob Scheiffer, Leslie Stahl, Gwen Ifill and Scott Pelley, Cronkite Day, The Newseum, Washington, DC, September 29, 2016

Panelist, “The Right to Know versus the Responsibility to Protect: How to Tell the Difference,” with Jill Abramson, Leon Panetta, Gen. Michael Hayden and Steve Coll, “The People, the Presidency and the Press” 100th Anniversary of the Pulitzer Prizes event, George W. Bush Presidential Library, Dallas, June 3, 2016

Panelist, “Press Sources and government Secrets: Striking the Proper Balance,” American Bar Association Forum on communications Law, Scottsdale, Arizona, February 5, 2015

Keynote address, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, April 11, 2014

Participant, author and presenter of paper, “Keeping American Accountability Journalism Alive,” at “Transparency in Government and the Media” conference at Rothermere American Institute and Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University, October 1-2, 2012

Host, keynote speaker and panel moderator, “The Role of Philanthropy in Local Accountability Journalism,” a national symposium for non-profit local news sites and their foundation and other philanthropic funders, at The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, February, 2012

Visiting journalist, University of Texas at Austin Journalism School, November 2011

Moderator and participant, Showcase and other panels, Investigative Reporters and Editors national conferences, Las Vegas, 2010; Orlando, 2011; Boston, 2012; San Antonio, 2013; San Francisco, 2014; Philadelphia, 2015

James Cameron Memorial Lecture, City University London, September 2010

Lectures to senior BBC editors and journalists, BBC Journalism Network and College of Journalism, London, September 2010

Panelist, Reva and David Logan Investigative Reporting Symposium, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley, April, 2010

Scripps Lecture, Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno, April 2010

Helen Edison Lecture (with Michael Schudson), University of California, San Diego, February 2010

Keynote address, Knight Fellowships Reunion and Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, June 2009

Moderator, Showcase Panel interview with Bob Woodward, Investigative Reporters and Editors, annual conferences, Baltimore, June 2009

Hoover Fellowship lecture, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, April, 2009

William Maxwell Award address, Ohio Newspaper Association, Columbus, Ohio, February, 2009

Editor of the Year Award address, National Press Foundation, Washington, D. C., February 2009

Keynote Address, 70th Anniversary Convocation, Nieman Foundation, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 2008

School of Journalism lecture, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, October 2008

Flinn Foundation Centennial Lecture, Barrett Honors College, Arizona State University, Tempe, October, 2008

Terry Sanford Institute for Public Policy lecture, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, September, 2008

Columbia Spectator Blue Pencil Dinner Lecture, The School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York, February 2008

Keynote Address, Opening of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, St. Anne's College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, November, 2006

Joe Creason Lecture, School of Journalism and Communications, University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 2005

Lecture, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York, July 2002

Ann Devroy Memorial Forum Lecture, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, April 2000

Opening Ceremony Lecture, School of Communications, American University, Washington, D. C., September 1997

Contemporary Business Issues Lecture, Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, Cleveland, Ohio, June 1996

Commencement Address, Ohio Stadium, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, June 1993

INTERVIEWS

Scores of interviews about my books, journalism and issues in the news over many years – broadcast on The News Hour and Frontline on PBS, Morning Edition, Fresh Air, The Diane Rehm Show and other programs on NPR, various programs on CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, C-SPAN, BBC, ITV and numerous local commercial and public television and radio stations, and published in The Washington Post, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Boston Globe, Newsweek and numerous other newspapers and magazines, in the United States and other countries, including Britain and Japan.