



Fund for  
Investigative  
Journalism

**September 2019**  
**Next Fellowship Deadline: Oct. 7**  
fundfij@fij.com

## Apply for our Diversity Fellowship

The Fund for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), and the Miami Herald Media Company have a fellowship project that seeks to expand investigative reporting opportunities for diverse journalists. **The deadline is Oct. 7.**

The fellowship includes a \$30,000 grant financed by FIJ and NAHJ, plus editorial support from the Miami Herald Media Company. The fellowship will fund reporting expenses and travel, plus a stipend, during a three-month period.

The content produced will be published by the Miami Herald Media Company's flagship publications – the Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald – in both English and Spanish.

To apply go to [Fij.org](http://Fij.org)

## FIJ at Excellence in Journalism 2019 Conference



Fund for Investigative Journalism Advisory Board Member Ricardo Sandoval Palos and Director of Operations Ana Arana were at the Excellence in Journalism 2019 conference organized by the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Radio Television Digital News Association. Sandoval Palos and Arana led a panel

on how freelance journalists can apply for grants.

Joining them on the panel were FIJ grantees Johnny Magdaleno and Jenni Monet, who shared tips on how they found grant money for reporting expenses. "Independent investigative journalists do not have to go into debt to get a good story," said Sandoval Palos. Monet said journalists should be careful about how they put together their budgets and Magdaleno said he kept applying for grants even after he was initially turned down. "You can always reach out to funders and ask how you can improve your pitch," he said.

Pulitzer Center Communications and Inclusion Manager Jin Ding also participated in the panel.

*Photo: Ana Arana, far left, Johnny Maldonado, Ricardo Sandoval-Palos, Jin Ding, center, and Jenni Monet, far right*

## Our Grantees' Work

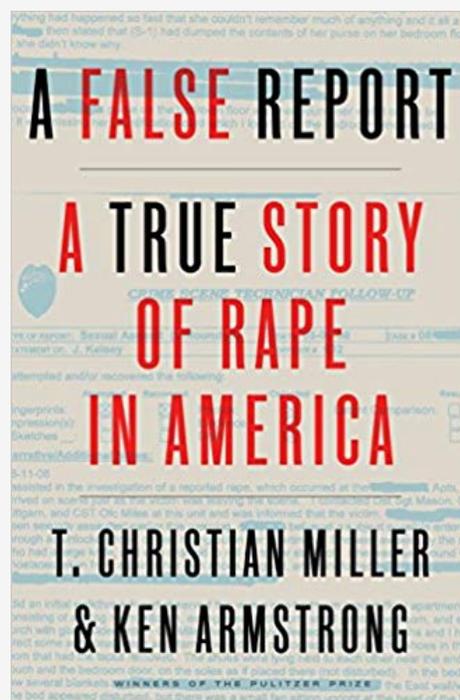


### Rape of Alaska Native Women High; Police Investigations Low

For years, Alaska Native women have urged officials to address a crisis of violence throughout their state: Reported rapes are twice the national average, and child sexual violence is six times the national average.

Alaska's western region has the state's highest rate of felony sex offenses, and the overwhelming majority of victims are Alaska Native. Victoria McKenzie addresses the issue in a story co-published by **Associated Press** and **National Native News**.

In Nome, a city of fewer than 4,000 full-time residents that serves as a regional hub for dozens of smaller



### "An Unbelievable Story of Rape" Made Into a Netflix Series

T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong's award-winning investigation with ProPublica and the Marshall Project, "An Unbelievable Story of Rape," has been made into a Netflix series, "Unbelievable." The investigation detailed the ordeal of a young woman who was coerced by authorities into recanting a claim that she had been

villages across western Alaska's Bering Strait region, rape survivors and their supporters say the city's police department has often failed to investigate sexual assaults or keep survivors informed about what is happening with their cases, even after they underwent invasive rape exams. An analysis of police records shows that, over the past decade, only 8 percent of calls to the department about sexual assaults resulted in an arrest with charges filed. Even fewer made it to court.

*Photo credits: AP Photo/Maye-E Wong*



## Flint's Deadly Water

Frontline has released "**Flint's Deadly Water**," a documentary by FIJ grantee Abby Ellis. The documentary followed a two-year investigation, in which Ellis and her team uncovered the extent of a deadly Legionnaires' disease outbreak during the Flint, Michigan, water crisis — and how officials failed to stop it. The disease's outbreak in Flint was one of the largest in U.S. history, sickening at least 90 people and killing 12, according to state data. But Ellis's investigation strongly suggests the actual toll was much higher.

*Photo: Frontline*

raped.

FIJ provided Miller and Armstrong with a grant when they wrote a book on the same investigation, "A False Report: A True Story of Rape in America." In their acknowledgments, the reporters thanked FIJ for its support: "The Fund for Investigative Journalism—which, in its first year, helped pay for Seymour Hersh's work exposing the My Lai massacre—kindly provided us with a grant to defray our research costs for this book. So many journalists owe the FIJ a debt of gratitude. Count us among them."



## How Washington, D.C. Charter Schools Outmaneuvered Local Scrutiny

For six months, FIJ grantee Rachel M. Cohen investigated the D.C. charter school lobby, tracing the history of how the charter sector has evolved over the past two decades.

Using public records requests, document leaks, countless interviews and hours of archival research, Cohen pieced together for Washington City Paper **How Charter Schools Won D.C. Politics**, a story of how federal intervention, an army of lobbyists, and D.C. taxpayer dollars have all helped local charters successfully beat back government oversight.

*Artwork by Julia Terbrock*

## Help Us Reach Our Goal



FIJ thanks the Herb Block Foundation, the Dykema Law Firm and David and Marina Ottaway for sponsoring our 50th anniversary dinner on October 24 at the National Press Club.

Also, special thanks to **Picador** for donating copies of Eliza Griswold's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America," which will be given to guests at the dinner.

There is still time to become a sponsor to our dinner and to buy tickets. An anonymous donor has pledged \$10,000 to match future sponsorships and ticket sales.

Buy tickets and sponsorships by clicking **here**. Your ticket supports investigative journalists.

## News About FIJ

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### Obituary - George Lardner Jr.

Former FIJ Board Member George Lardner Jr., who won the Pulitzer in 1993 for an investigation into the murder of his daughter, died in Washington, D.C. Lardner, 85, was a former Washington Post reporter and a scholar in residence at the Investigative Reporting Workshop.

### FIJ Has Moved

Our new offices are at the **OpenGov Hub at 1110 Vermont Ave., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005**

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