

*Maryland Excellence  
in Journalism Awards*

Sponsored by the Maryland Chapter of  
The Society of Professional Journalists



**Entry Postmark Deadline: March 6**

## General Rules

1. Two copies of a completed entry form must accompany each submission.
2. Entries must have been published or broadcast in 2008 in Maryland.
3. The same entry may be submitted by the same person in more than one category.
4. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual can submit in any category.
5. Entry must be postmarked or hand delivered by March 6, 2009.
6. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$20 fee (for SPJ members) \$25 (for non-members). Checks should be made payable to Maryland SPJ. Organizations can submit one check for multiple entries.

## Eligibility

The Maryland Excellence in Journalism Awards are open to staff members of newspapers, wire services, magazines, television and radio stations. Freelance journalists based in Maryland are also welcome to enter. All entries must have been published during the 2008 calendar year.

## Entries and Judging

Any journalist or news organization can enter. Entrants need not be members of SPJ. Individuals can submit multiple entries in any category. Team entries, of no more than three, must include the names of all participants. Entries are judged by professional journalists in SPJ chapters throughout the country. All decisions are final. An award can be withheld should judges decide none of the entries merit recognition.

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## Divisions & Categories

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### *Newspaper*

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- Daily newspapers 100,000+ circulation
- Daily newspapers less than 100,000 circulation
- Weekly newspapers 10,000+ circulation
- Weekly newspapers less than 10,000 circulation
- Wire services

1. Awards will be made separately for each of the divisions.
2. Entries should be clipped from newspapers and presented in an 8 1/2 by 11 inch format. Photocopies of originals are acceptable.
3. Judging will be based on significance, clarity, enterprise, effectiveness, originality and other criteria judges deem appropriate.

**Breaking News:** Coverage of breaking or spot news.

**General News:** Stories other than breaking news.

**Feature Reporting:** May include personality profiles, coverage of lifestyles, adventure or humorous articles.

**Specialty Reporting:** Coverage of environment, medical, health or other specialty issues.

**Public Service Reporting:** Includes coverage of significant community issues or consumer interest topics.

**Column Writing:** Must submit two (other than sports) that were published consecutively.

**Investigative Reporting:** Must show depth of research, initiative and enterprise.

**Business Writing:** A single article or series.

**Editorial Writing:** Can include up to three pieces of unsigned or by-lined editorial opinion.

**Sports Reporting:** Single story or series covering a sport or event.

**Sports Commentary:** Must contain two of the author's published columns.

**Arts/Entertainment:** Criticism or reviews of theater, concerts, television, movies, entertainment and creative arts.

**Headline:** Submit story with headline.

**Cartooning:** Includes editorial and sports.

**Illustration:** May be black and white or color.

**Graphic Design:** Must include two full-page tear sheets.

**Web Page Design:** Must include hard copy of home page and Web address.

## *Magazine*

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- General Circulation
- Trade & Professional Magazines

1. Judging will be based on significance, clarity, enterprise, effectiveness, originality and other appropriate criteria.

**General Reporting:** Can include but not limited to articles on politics, public officials, law enforcement, science and environment.

**Public Service Reporting:** Coverage of significant community issues and resources and consumer interest topics.

**Human Interest Reporting:** May include personality profiles, coverage of lifestyles and adventure humor.

**Editorial Commentary:** Must be written by a staff member and appear as a regular feature in the publication.

**Departments:** Must be a regular feature.

**Graphic Presentation:** Include tear sheets for entire presentation under consideration.

## *Photography*

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1. Entries may be single or more than one related photograph and must include a tear sheet showing how/when published along with photo outline. Prints may be submitted in addition to tear sheet.

2. There will be no distinctions made between black & white and color photographs.

3. Judging will be based on artistic appeal, visual impact and other appropriate criteria.

4. Photographer's name, publication and category must be listed on the back of each tear sheet.

**Breaking News:** Coverage of breaking or spot news.

**General News:** Coverage other than breaking news.

**General Feature/Human Interest:**

**Sports:**

**Fashion/Food/Pictorial:** A studio photo, or one that has emphasis on illustration.

## *Broadcasting*

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- Television

- Radio

1. Entries should be submitted on VHS tape, standard cassette, CD or DVD.

2. Each entry should be made on a separate tape or disk.

3. Judging will be based on significance, effectiveness and originality.

**Breaking News Reporting:** Coverage of breaking or spot news.

**General Reporting:** Coverage other than breaking news.

**Public Service Reporting:** Coverage of an event of significant community issue or consumer interest topics.

**Specialty Reporting:** Coverage of environment, medical, health or other specialty issue. Must be original reporting.

**Commentary/Analysis/Editorial:**

**Documentary:** In-depth coverage of a significant issue by an individual or team.

**Sports Reporting/Commentary:**

**Investigative Reporting:** Coverage must involve an original story or series of stories illustrating exceptional enterprise.

**Photography:** Spot news, general news, human interest or sports.

**Videotape Editing:** News event or in-depth story.

## *New Journalist Award*

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This award is given to a reporter, writer, freelancer or photographer who has been working three years or less in the profession. Submit no more than three samples of work. This is a separate entry.

# Entry Form

(Submit two copies of this form with each entry.)

Entries must have been originally published or broadcast during 2008.

Entries must be postmarked no later than March 6, 2009.

Candidate(s) for award: \_\_\_\_\_

SPJ Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

News Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check appropriate divisions and categories:*

## Newspapers

- Daily, 100,000+
- Daily less than 100,000
- Weekly 10,000+
- Weekly less than 10,000
- Wire services

- Breaking News
- General News
- Feature Reporting
- Web Page
- Public Service Reporting
- Headline
- Column Writing
- Cartooning
- Investigative Reporting
- Illustration
- Business Writing
- Graphic Design
- Editorial Writing
- Sports Reporting
- Sports Commentary
- Arts/Entertainment
- Specialty Reporting

## Magazines

- General Circulation
- Trade & Professional

- General Reporting
- Public Service Reporting
- Human Interest Reporting
- Editorial Commentary
- Departments
- Graphic Presentation

## Broadcast

- Television
- Radio

- Breaking News Reporting
- General Reporting
- Public Service Reporting
- Specialty Reporting
- Commentary/Analysis/  
Editorial
- Documentary
- Sports Reporting/Commentary
- Investigative Reporting
- Photography
- Videotape Editing

## Photography

- Breaking News
- General News
- General Feature/  
Human Interest
- Sports
- Fashion/Food/Pictorial

## New Journalist Award

- For journalists with three or less years of professional experience. Include three samples of 2008 work. Separate awards will be given to print and broadcast winners.

## Send entries, entry forms and fees to:

SPJ  
C/O Bryan Sears  
1575 Doxbury Road  
Towson, MD 21286

## Entry Fees:

- \$20 per entry for SPJ members.
- \$25 per entry for non-members.
- \$5 for each additional name over three on an entry.

## For more information:

contact Bryan Sears  
— bpsears@gmail.com