

2009 DATELINE AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL JOURNALISM
Sponsored by the Washington, D.C., Pro chapter

GENERAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

More than one entry may be submitted in each category, but each separate entry must be accompanied by its own nomination form and entry fee. Please do *not* submit the same entry in more than one category. The names of all entrants and the title of the entry should be listed on the entry form. Please include two copies of all print entries.

The fee is \$30 per entry, except for a Distinguished Service Award nomination, for which there is no charge. Make checks or money orders payable to Washington, D.C., Pro chapter, SPJ.

For all categories, the Washington metropolitan area is defined as the District of Columbia; Alexandria and Fredericksburg cities and Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Stafford and Prince William counties in Virginia; and Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties in Maryland.

NOMINATIONS & DEADLINES

Nominations may be made by anyone. Nominees need not be SPJ members.

Only work by journalists working in the Washington metropolitan area qualifies. News must be of local interest, except for reporting considered in the Newsletter Washington Reporting and Washington Correspondence categories.

Work published, Webcast or broadcast between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2008, is eligible. For a series, the majority of the work must have appeared in 2008.

All entries shall be in their original form as published or broadcast and must be hand delivered or postmarked no later than **Feb. 20, 2009**. Subsequent corrections or clarifications to the work must be included in the entry or it will be disqualified. **Distinguished Service Award entries also must be submitted by Feb. 20.**

JUDGING

Materials submitted will be judged by journalists and related professionals whose primary assignments do not include local news. An award in any category may be withheld if the judges so decide. Judges' decisions are final. Entries become the property of the Washington, D.C., Pro chapter of SPJ.

DATELINE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

Awards will be announced at the annual Dateline Awards dinner on June 9, 2009. The chapter will provide a press statement following the awards presentation listing all winners. No advance notice of winners will be given, except for the Distinguished Service Award and Robert D.G. Lewis Award.

SPECIAL AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The Washington, D.C., Pro chapter of SPJ annually presents four additional special awards and honors during the Dateline Awards banquet

NEWSLETTER--WASHINGTON REPORTING

A business-to-business publication produced by an independent publisher for profit will be honored for enterprise reporting, from Washington for a national audience, that contributes to a better understanding of the federal government.

Nominations should be submitted for this award.

CORRESPONDENT AWARD

The award shall be for distinguished coverage of the Washington area published or broadcast outside the Washington, D.C., area.

Nominations should be submitted for this award.

\$1,000 ROBERT D.G. LEWIS WATCHDOG AWARD

The Robert D.G. Lewis Watchdog Award will be presented to an applicant in any award classification whose entry best exemplifies journalism aimed at protecting the public from abuses by those who would betray the public trust.

Mr. Lewis served SPJ over the years in a number of prestigious leadership positions, including national president and chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee. Mr. Lewis, who also served as the chairman of the board of governors of the National Press Club, retired from Newhouse Newspapers.

Direct nominations are not accepted for this award, which the judges may give to a worthy entry for any category.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN LOCAL JOURNALISM

This award is for distinction in any medium of local journalism not involving a particular story or series. Nominees should be cited for their contribution to the development of local journalism or to the development of other journalists. They should also be recognized for their contributions to the metropolitan Washington community or to a specific community within the metropolitan area.

Editors, producers, administrators and managers who are not always eligible for reporting awards will be considered, as well as journalists who have made more visible contributions to the profession.

Letters of nomination may be made by individuals or groups who need not be members of SPJ. The nominator should describe the candidate's qualifications and achievements, but is not required to include samples of his/her work. There is no entry fee.

The executive committee of the chapter board of directors will select the winner, who will be notified in advance and honored at the Dateline Awards banquet.

Nominations for the Distinguished Service in Local Journalism Award should be e-mailed to Steve Taylor at taylor@comcast.net.

DATELINE AWARDS - LOCAL MEDIA DIVISIONS:

Daily newspapers/wire services/Web site, includes dailies published five or more days a week, wire services and web-only publications.

Weekly newspapers, published fewer than five days a week.

Magazines, covering local issues, published in the Washington, D.C., area.

Television, including on-air and cable channels, appealing solely to local audiences. Each entry should clearly labeled. DVDs are preferred; VHS tapes will be accepted.

Radio, including city and suburban stations. Each entry should be clearly labeled. CDs are preferred; audio cassettes will be accepted.

Web sites, see online entry guidelines below.

DATELINE AWARDS CATEGORIES:

(Within Newspaper, Magazine, Radio and TV divisions)

Spot News – A story or group of stories (no more than five) on the same breaking news event written or produced under deadline pressure by a reporter or reporting team.

General News – A story or group of stories (no more than five) on a single topic by a reporter or reporting team, including analysis and news stories on subjects other than a breaking news event.

Investigative Reporting – A story or group of stories (no more than five) displaying enterprise and uncovering harmful or dangerous conditions, corruption, incompetence, conflict of interest, abuse of the public trust or public harm. Judges will consider accuracy, extent and thoroughness of reporting, importance of the subject, extent to which the entry reveals previously unknown problems and impact of the work.

Features – A story or group of stories (no more than five) on a single subject of general human interest, including profiles and consumer pieces. Judges will consider enterprise, obstacles overcome, style, clarity, accuracy and thoroughness.

Sports – A story or group of stories (no more than five) on a single sports subject — excluding broadcast play-by-play.

Editorial, Columns, Commentary – Up to five pieces on a single topic by an individual writer. Judges will consider the writer's grasp of the subject, style, clarity and impact. (Newspaper and magazine awards only.)

Business/Financial Reporting – A story or group of stories (no more than five) on a single subject in the area of business or finance by a reporter or reporting team.

Arts Criticism – A single critical review covering any art form: literary, performing or visual arts. Judges will consider the writer's grasp of the artist's message, understanding of the art form, creativity, clarity and assessment of the work's possible impact on the audience.

Photojournalism – A photograph or series of photographs or a television broadcast on a single subject of local news by an individual photographer. Judges will consider creativity, emotional impact, obstacles overcome and the technical quality of the photo(s).