

## 2009 Ohio SPJ Awards

### **Print Winners**

#### Newspapers (circ. Over 100,000)

##### **Best Arts Profile**

FIRST: "Waiting for an Encore," Jeffrey Sheban, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

##### **Best Arts Reporting**

FIRST: Body of work, Kevin Joy, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Body of work, Steven Litt, *The Plain Dealer*.

##### **Best Business Profile**

FIRST: "At 120, Toledo's Libby Looks to its Future," Larry Vellequette, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: "A Barber in Barberton," Paula Schleis, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

##### **Best Business Reporting**

FIRST: "National City Sale," Teresa Dixon Murray, Robert Schoenberger and Sabrina Eaton, *The Plain Dealer*.

SECOND: Body of work, Larry Vellequette, *The Toledo Blade*.

##### **Best Children's Issues Reporting**

FIRST: "Teen Suicides Leave Enduring Anguish, Questions," Ryan E. Smith, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: "System Fails, Kids Die," Randy Ludlow, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

##### **Best Consumer Reporting**

FIRST: "Stretching a Buck," Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

##### **Best Criminal Justice Reporting**

FIRST: "Test of Convictions," Mike Wagner and Geoff Dutton, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: "Fired to Rehired," Daniel Horn, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

##### **Best Deadline Reporting**

FIRST: "Federal Raids," Staff, *The Plain Dealer*.

SECOND: "Plane Crash Kills 6, Including Ex-Lawmaker," Staff, *The Toledo Blade*.

##### **Best Editorial Page Campaign**

FIRST: "Campaign Against Issue Four," Ray Cooklis, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

SECOND: "Ohio Elections," Phil Rudell, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

##### **Best Environment Reporting**

FIRST: "On thin Ice," Tom Henry, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: "Who Owns Our Water," Michael Scott, *The Plain Dealer*.

**Best Explanatory Journalism**

FIRST: "American Divide," Jill Riepenhoff, Stephanie Czekalinski and Todd Jones, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: "Losing Our Homes," Rick Armon, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Government Reporting**

FIRST: Marc Dann Scandal Coverage, Public Affairs Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: "Fight for Control of the Summit GOP," Stephanie Warsmith and Rick Armon, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Headline Writing**

FIRST: Body of work, Andrew Sterling, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Body of work, Patricia L. Bitler, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Human Interest Writing**

FIRST: "Set on Fire and Left to Die," Suzanne Hoholik, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: "Beyond Rape: a Survivor's Story," Joanna Connors, *The Plain Dealer*.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

FIRST: "Not What the Doctor Ordered," Steve Eder and Julie McKinnon, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: "Test of Convictions," Mike Wagner and Geoff Dutton, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Media Criticism**

FIRST: "Garbage in, Garbage Out," Michael Miller, *The Toledo Free Press*.

SECOND: "OSU Tickets," Dennis Willard, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Medical/Science Reporting**

FIRST: "Fixing Mr. Fix it," Diane Suchetka, *The Plain Dealer*.

SECOND: "Not What the Doctor Ordered," Julie McKinnon and Steve Eder, *The Toledo Blade*.

**Best Minority Issues Reporting**

FIRST: "The Ones He Left Behind," and "Out of Iraq," Sherri Williams, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Newsmaker Profile**

FIRST: "An American Hero," Bob Downing, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

SECOND: "Ralph Regula," Stephanie Warsmith and Bob Downing, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Political Commentary**

FIRST: Body of work, Joe Hallett, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Body of work, Dennis Willard, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Political Reporting**

FIRST: "Battle for Ohio," Public Affairs Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: "The Race in '08," Andrew Welsh-Huggins, *The Associated Press*.

**Best Public Records Use**

FIRST: “No Time to Spare,” Doug Caruso, Martin Rozenman and Jim Woods, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: “OSU Tickets,” Dennis Willard and Stephanie Warsmith, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

**Best Public Service Journalism**

FIRST: “Test of Convictions,” Mike Wagner and Geoff Dutton, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND (tie): “The American Dream Project,” Staff, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

SECOND (tie): “Four Lives, Two Worlds,” Eileen Kelley, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

**Best Religion Reporting**

FIRST: Body of work, Meredith Heagney, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Body of work, David Yonke, *The Toledo Blade*.

**Best Rock and Roll Commentary**

FIRST: Body of work, Aaron Beck, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing**

FIRST: Body of work, Bill Thompson, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

SECOND: Body of work, Rod Lockwood, *The Toledo Blade*.

**Best Social Justice Reporting**

FIRST: “Section 8: Subsidizing Suburbia,” Gregory Korte and Jane Prendergast, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

SECOND: “Aid Long Denied,” Cathy Candisky, Alan Johnson and Jonathan Riskind, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Sports Profile**

FIRST: “The Next Round,” Mike Wagner, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: “The Brown Who Never Was,” Bill Lubinger, *The Plain Dealer*.

**Best Sports Reporting**

FIRST: Body of work, Tom Archdeacon, *Dayton Daily News*.

SECOND: Body of work, Tom Reed, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

**Best Web Site**

FIRST: [www.toledoblade.com](http://www.toledoblade.com), Staff, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: [www.dispatch.com](http://www.dispatch.com), Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

## **Best of Show**

### **Newspapers (circ. Over 100,000)**

#### **Best Columnist in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Bob Dyer, *The Akron Beacon Journal*.

SECOND: Body of work, Regina Brett, *The Plain Dealer*.

#### **Best Daily Newspaper**

FIRST: Staff, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Staff, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

#### **Best Defense of the First Amendment**

FIRST: “Blade Sues for Port Records,” Staff, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: “Sunshine Week: Your Right to Know,” Gregory Korte and Staff, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

#### **Best Graphic Designer in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Sean McKeown-Young, *The Toledo Blade*.

SECOND: Body of work, Pat Kastner, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

#### **Best Monthly in Ohio**

FIRST: Staff and Freelancers, *St. Anthony Messenger*.

#### **Best Page One Design**

FIRST: Body of work, Design Desk, *The Columbus Dispatch*.

SECOND: Body of work, Staff, *The Plain Dealer*.

#### **Best Photographer in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Gus Chan, *The Plain Dealer*.

SECOND: Body of work, Lisa DeLong, *The Plain Dealer*.

#### **Best Reporter in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Dan Horn, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*.

SECOND: Body of work, Steve Eder, *The Toledo Blade*.

#### **Best Special Publication**

FIRST: “Joe Nuxhall: The life, Legacy and Words of a Cincinnati Icon,” Staff, *Enquirer Media*.

SECOND: “Little Book of Canty,” Dave Murray, Kirk Walters and Doug Koerner, *The Toledo Blade*.

#### **Best Special Section**

FIRST: “Beyond Rape: A Survivor’s Story,” Joanna Connors, *The Plain Dealer*.

SECOND: “The 44th President,” Staff, *The Plain Dealer*.

**Best Weekly Newspaper**

FIRST: Body of work, Michael Miller and Tom Pounda, *The Toledo Free Press*.

**NO WINNER:**

Best Critic in Ohio

**NO ENTRIES:**

Best Defense of Literacy

## **Print Winners**

### **Newspapers (circ. Under 100,000)**

#### **Best Arts Profile**

FIRST: "The Man, J," David "D.X." Ferris, *Cleveland Scene*.

SECOND: "Stranger Than Fiction," Michael McLeod, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

#### **Best Arts Reporting**

FIRST: Body of work, Fran Heller, *Cleveland Jewish News*.

SECOND: Body of work, David "D.X." Ferris, *Cleveland Scene*.

#### **Best Business Profile**

FIRST: "Force of Nature," April Johnston, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

SECOND: "Men of Steel," Andy Netzel, *Cleveland Magazine*.

#### **Best Business Reporting**

FIRST: GM Plant coverage, Staff, *Dayton Business Journal*.

SECOND: Fifth Third Bank coverage, Steve Watkins, *Cincinnati Business Courier*.

#### **Best Consumer Reporting**

FIRST: "Broken," Charu Gupta, *The Cleveland Free Times*.

SECOND: "Skybust," Julanne Hohbach, *Columbus CEO*.

#### **Best Criminal Justice Reporting**

FIRST: "Police Destroyed Rape Kit," Brad Dicken, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: "Needle and the Damage Done," Eric Lyttle, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

#### **Best Deadline Reporting**

FIRST: "Nat City Gets the Hook," Staff, *Crain's Cleveland Business*.

SECOND: "General Industries Burns," Cindy Leise, Lisa Roberson and Stephen Szucs, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

#### **Best Editorial Page Campaign**

FIRST: "Morrow Countys Ghost Towns," Mark Phillips, *Morrow County Sentinel*.

#### **Best Environment Reporting**

FIRST: "The Madison County Megafarm," Jared Klaus, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

SECOND: "Rescue," Jill Sell, *EarthWatch Ohio*.

#### **Best Explanatory Journalism**

FIRST: "The Final Days of Skybus," Dave Ghose, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

SECOND: "Appetite for Destruction," Rick Perloff, *Cleveland Free Times*.

**Best Government Reporting**

FIRST: "Township Freezes Books," Kelly J. Kaczala, Pat Eaken and Melissa Burden, *Press Newspapers*.

SECOND: Westerville School Facilities coverage, Lisa Aurand and Joe Meyer, *Westerville News & Public Opinion*.

**Best Headline Writing**

FIRST: Body of work, Kevin Aprile, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: Body of work, Jim Vickers, *Cleveland Magazine*.

**Best Human Interest Writing**

FIRST: "Georgianna's Choice," Heide Aungst, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: "The Sound of Silence," Aiesha Little, *Cincinnati Magazine*.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

FIRST: "Overpaid/Underpaid CEOs," Lisa Biank Fasig, Dan Monk, Steve Watkins and Jon Newberry, *Cincinnati Business Courier*.

SECOND: "Empty Promise," Lucy May and Dan Monk, *Cincinnati Business Courier*.

**Best Media Criticism**

FIRST: "Plain Dealt," David "D.X." Ferris, *Cleveland Scene*.

SECOND: "Sex for Sale," Kitty McConnell, *The Other Paper*.

**Best Medical/Science Reporting**

FIRST: "White Coats," Jacqueline Marino, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: "Coping with Canavan Disease," Marshall Weiss, *The Dayton Jewish Observer*.

**Best Minority Issues Reporting**

FIRST: "Drawn Together," Erick Trickey, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: "Back in the Shadows," Kitty McConnell, *The Other Paper*.

**Best Newsmaker Profile**

FIRST: "Mason's Mean Machine," Charu Gupta and James Renner, *Cleveland Scene*.

SECOND: "Rev. Wheeler's 30 - Year Urban Ministry," Dan Yount, *Cincinnati Herald*.

**Best Public Records Use**

FIRST: "Chief Alleges Misconduct," Larry Limpf, *Press Newspapers*.

SECOND: "Tower Play," Erick Trickey, *Cleveland Magazine*.

**Best Public Service Journalism**

FIRST: "Conventional Wisdom," Charu Gupta, *Cleveland Scene*.

SECOND: "You're Welcome," Lyndsey Teter, *The Other Paper*.

**Best Religion Reporting**

FIRST: "Jewish Perspectives on Abortion," Rabbi Bernard Barsky, *The Dayton Jewish Observer*.

SECOND: "Ground Parsley," Erik Johns, *The Other Paper*.

**Best Rock and Roll Feature Writing**

FIRST: Body of work, David "D.X." Ferris, *Cleveland Scene*.

SECOND: Body of work, Chris DeVille, *Columbus Alive*.

**Best Social Justice Reporting**

FIRST: "Early Education: Neediest Moms and Kids Miss Out," Joy Brewington, Rachel Abbey and Charlise Lyles, *Catalyst Ohio*.

SECOND (tie): "A Death on the West Side," Suzanne Goldsmith-Hirsch, *Columbus Monthly Magazine*.

SECOND (tie): "Waiting for Help," Lisa Nicely, *Crescent News*.

**Best Sports Profile**

FIRST: "The Reconstruction of Bruce Drennan," Andy Netzel, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: "The Hero," David "D.X." Ferris, *Cleveland Scene*.

**Best Sports Reporting**

FIRST: Body of work, Chris Galoski, *Suburban News Publications*.

**NO ENTRIES:**

Best Political Reporting

Best Rock and Roll Commentary

Best Web Site

**NO WINNER:**

Best Children's Issues Reporting

Best Political Commentary



## **Best of Show**

### **Newspapers (circ. Under 100,000)**

#### **Best Columnist in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Cynthia Dettelbach, *Cleveland Jewish News*.

SECOND: Body of work, Rick Noland, *The Medina County Gazette*.

#### **Best Critic in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, G.A. Benton, *Columbus Alive*.

SECOND: Body of work, Richard Ades, *The Other Paper*.

#### **Best Daily Newspaper**

FIRST: Staff, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: Staff, *Record Herald*.

#### **Best Defense of Literacy**

FIRST: "Celebrate the Arts Writing Contest," Staff, *Westerville News & Public Opinion*.

#### **Best Graphic Designer in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Jennifer Kessen, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: Body of work, Frida Kon, *Cleveland Jewish News*.

#### **Best Monthly in Ohio**

FIRST: Staff, *Cleveland Magazine*.

SECOND: Staff, *Ohio Magazine*.

#### **Best Page One Design**

FIRST: Body of work, Staff, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: Body of work, Mark Froelich, *Crescent News*.

#### **Best Photographer in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Jeffry Konczal, *Suburban News Publications*.

SECOND: Body of work, Chuck Humel, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

#### **Best Reporter in Ohio**

FIRST: Body of work, Cindy Leise, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: Body of work, Dan Yount, *The Cincinnati Herald*.

#### **Best Special Publication**

FIRST: "Welcome, NAACP," Staff, *The Cincinnati Herald*.

SECOND: November/December 2008, Staff, *Sophisticated Living Magazine*.

#### **Best Special Section**

FIRST: "New Beginnings," Sports Staff, *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

SECOND: "Vacations & Getaways," Staff, *Cleveland Magazine*.

**Best Weekly Newspaper**

FIRST: Staff, *Cincinnati Business Courier*.

SECOND: Staff, *Crain's Cleveland Business*.

**NO ENTRIES:**

Best Defense of First Amendment