

# Connor Sheets

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## Experience

### **ProPublica Local Reporting Network** - Reporter

Birmingham, AL - Jan. 2019 to Present

- Partnering with ProPublica on a year-long investigation of Alabama sheriffs.
- Exposed that Alabama sheriffs destroyed government property, pocketed public funds, and wasted taxpayer money after losing 2018 reelection bids.
- Revealed that sheriffs across the U.S. are increasingly finding ways to release inmates in medical crisis from county jails just before they are hospitalized in order to keep jail healthcare costs low.

### **Alabama Media Group** - Investigative Reporter

Birmingham, Ala. - Jan. 2015 to Present

- Published a series on misconduct by an Alabama sheriff that led to his electoral defeat, prompted federal, state and local investigations, and spurred state and local lawmakers to pass new laws.
- Wrote a story that drove Alabama to clarify its voter disenfranchisement policies, restoring the voting rights of thousands of low-income felons who had been improperly denied the franchise.
- Exposed severe understaffing at an Alabama prison, prompting the state to boost staffing levels.
- Revealed that the University of Alabama funneled "dark money" to political campaigns.
- Served on a small team that led the reporting that drove Gov. Robert Bentley to resign in disgrace.
- Broke the story of author Harper Lee's death.
- Produced and co-produced data and multimedia projects.

### **IBT Media / Newsweek** - Senior Reporter

New York, N.Y. - Oct. 2011 to Jan. 2015

- Reported from Africa, Asia, Europe and the U.S.
- Published numerous impactful investigations, including one on alleged Hatch Act violations at the Cincinnati IRS office that prompted the IRS to investigate.
- Served as editor of the International Business Times' Traffic & Trends desk for nearly a year.

### **TimesLedger Newspapers** - Staff reporter

Queens, N.Y. - Oct. 2009 to Oct. 2011

- Created niches covering immigration communities, real estate, and federal terrorism trials.

### **The Gazette** - Staff reporter

Frederick, MD - March 2008 to Sept. 2009

- Covered key beats including Frederick County government, crime and business.

## Education

### **University of Maryland** - B.A.

Philip Merrill College of Journalism - 2007

## Fellowships

**Journalist Law School** - Loyola Law School - 2019

**Justice Reporting Fellowship** - John Jay College of Criminal Justice - 2018-2019

**Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellowship** - University of Missouri - 2016-2017

**Fellowship on Immigrant Children and Education** - Georgia State University - 2016

**U.S.-Nigeria Exchange Program** - International Center for Journalists - 2013

## Key awards

- **Sidney Award** - 2019
- **Roy Bain Distinguished Special Achievement in Journalism Award** - 2019
- **Sigma Delta Chi Awards**, First place, Investigative reporting - 2019
- **Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting**, Finalist - 2019
- **Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting**, Finalist - 2019
- **Worth Bingham Award for Investigative Journalism**, Finalist - 2019
- **Livingston Awards for Young Journalists**, Finalist - 2019
- **Tom Renner Award**, Finalist - 2019
- **Michael Kelly Award**, Finalist - 2019
- **National Headliner Awards**, Investigative reporting, Third place - 2019
- **Green Eyeshade Awards**, Investigative reporting, First place - 2016
- **New York Better Newspaper Contest**, Writer of the Year - 2011
- **Eagle Scout Award** - 2001

## Skills

- FOIA & public records
- SQL
- Excel
- Data visualization
- HTML
- SEO
- Audience engagement
- Social media reporting
- Photoshop
- Photography
- Basic video and audio production