

Tom Meagher

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The Marshall Project, New York, N.Y.

June 2014 – present

Senior editor. Previously managing editor for digital and data, deputy managing editor and data editor

I enjoy leading ambitious, highly collaborative projects that expose how our governments and the powerful fail us. I was one of the original employees who launched this nonprofit investigative newsroom. Today I manage The Marshall Project's reporting on prisons, jails and the death penalty, and I oversee our copy desk and standards team.

I edited "[The Next to Die](#)," our effort to systematically track every execution in the country. Relying on a network that I built of journalists in 10 newsrooms, the project ran for more than five years.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I oversaw our work [tracking coronavirus cases and deaths in prisons](#), leading a team of dozens of reporters from The Marshall Project and the Associated Press who tallied outbreaks every week for more than a year.

I edited "[Detained](#)," a multimedia examination of the century-long history of immigration detention in the U.S. And I produced "[The Zo](#)," a series of animated short films illustrated by Molly Crabapple and narrated by Michael K. Williams that explored the surreal nature of life in prison.

As a reporter and data journalist, I worked with two Marshall Project colleagues to report a series of stories co-published with The New York Times on how New York [prison officials fail to fire](#) correctional officers after they are credibly accused of [serious abuse of incarcerated people](#).

And I contributed reporting and writing about the shortcomings of federal rape statistics to a story that was [part of the package](#) that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting with ProPublica.

Digital First Media, New York, N.Y.

August 2012 – May 2014

Data editor

I led a team of journalist-developers at Digital First Media's Project Thunderdome that built interactive web applications and supported computer-assisted reporting in the company's 75 local newsrooms.

The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.

February 2009 – August 2012

Data editor and news editor

At the largest paper in New Jersey, I oversaw a team of reporters using data techniques to pursue enterprise stories.

Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.

July 2004 – February 2009

City editor, computer-assisted reporter and city government reporter

I managed 16 reporters and assistant editors covering three cities and their surrounding suburbs, focusing on strong local watchdog coverage.

Early in my career, I covered night cops for the Lawrence, Kansas, *Journal-World*, soccer for The Associated Press, and Congress as an intern in Washington, D.C. for the Spokane *Spokesman-Review*.

References available on request.

SELECTED HONORS

Projects I edited have won National Magazine Awards, national Edward R. Murrow Awards, Online Journalism Awards, a Society for News Design gold medal, a National Headliner Award, and more.

My reporting has received a Robert F. Kennedy Award for criminal justice reporting, a Nonprofit News Award for investigative journalism, a "Human Rights" award from Malofiej, and a Data Journalism Award, among others.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

I have taught classes on investigative techniques, criminal justice and data reporting at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, and I regularly speak at conferences, including giving a keynote talk at PyCon US in 2025.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

I'm adept at data analysis, web scraping, visualization, and data cleaning, and have experience in web development.

My toolbox includes Python, Observable notebooks, R, SQL, relational databases, Django, Flask, Ruby, Rails, HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

I'm a graduate of IRE's boot camps in [Computer-Assisted Reporting](#), Advanced CAR Statistics and Django.

EDUCATION

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Master of Science, 2004

University of Missouri Bachelors of Journalism and of Arts in English, 1999