

Tom Meagher

hello@tommeagher.com / www.tommeagher.com / Github: tommeagher

The Marshall Project, New York, N.Y.

Deputy managing editor

April 2015 - present

Data editor

June 2014 – April 2015

I'm part of the original team that launched this award-winning, non-profit, investigative newsroom covering the U.S. criminal justice system. I run the five-person digital team, which includes data journalists, designers, visual journalists and interactive developers. I work with reporters to find, crunch, analyze and visualize data for stories. I helped create and maintain "The Next To Die," a structured journalism project covering capital punishment and executions in America. And I contributed reporting and writing about the shortcomings of federal rape statistics to the series that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.

Digital First Media, New York, N.Y.

Data editor

August 2012 – May 2014

Led a team of journalist-developers at Project Thunderdome, the centralized news hub for Digital First Media, the nation's second-largest newspaper chain. We built interactive web applications, supported computer-assisted reporting projects in the company's 75 local newsrooms and offered training in data analysis and visualization.

The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.

Data editor

December 2010 – August 2012

News editor

February 2009 – December 2010

As the data editor at the largest paper in New Jersey, I oversaw a team of reporters and researchers charged with developing enterprise stories using computer-assisted reporting techniques. Earlier, at the Star-Ledger's New Jersey Local News Service, I directed reporters covering towns in two counties, breaking dozens of front-page stories, including one on \$30 million in public money squandered on a malfunctioning regional sewage plant.

Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.

City editor

December 2007 – February 2009

Computer-assisted reporter

June 2006 – December 2007

City government reporter

July 2004 – May 2006

As city editor, I led 13 reporters and four editors covering three cities and their surrounding suburbs. Focused on strong watchdog coverage, I coached reporters through stories about imprisoned firefighters forging documents for work-release programs and contractors who duped homeowners into unneeded mortgages. Prior to that, as the paper's CAR reporter, I was responsible for databases and mapping, and one of my stories exposed a deal between Paterson's mayor and a developer that cost the nearly-bankrupt city more than \$10 million.

Early in my career, I worked as a night cops reporter for the Lawrence *Journal-World*, as a sports stringer for the Associated Press, interned in Washington, D.C. for the Spokane *Spokesman-Review*, and, in college, was a reporter and copy editor at the *Columbia Missourian*.

EDUCATION

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Master of Science, 2004

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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data analysis and visualization with R, Python, SQL and relational databases
- Web scraping and data cleaning with Python, R, Ruby, regular expressions and Open Refine
- Mapping and geospatial analysis using ArcGIS and QGIS
- Web development with Python, Flask, Django, Ruby, Rails, HTML, CSS and JS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Teach classes on data reporting and investigative techniques at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. I also regularly teach at conferences on data-oriented topics, including basic programming in Python.
- Graduate of IRE's 2006 Computer-Assisted Reporting boot camp, 2007 Advanced CAR Statistics boot camp and 2011 Django mini-boot camp.

SELECTED HONORS

- "The Next to Die" was honored with a special "Human Rights" award from Malofiej 2016, the world's premier contest for news visualizations and graphics. The project also won a silver medal in the Society for News Design's Best of Digital Design contest.
- During my tenure as city editor, the Herald News won the New Jersey Press Association's 2008 General Excellence award for best small daily in the state.