

Miranda S. Spivack
Independent Journalist

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Follow me on Twitter @mirandareporter

Professional experience: Reporter, writer, editor. Throughout my career, I have emphasized investigative reporting, with particular attention to data-driven storytelling. My stories have led to changes in the way government conducts its work, especially in an era when state and local governments are following the federal lead and becoming less forthcoming about how they are spending public funds and making decisions. My stories have affected regulation and oversight of development, campaign finance, the environment and public safety, among other areas:

<https://www.revealnews.org/author/miranda-s-spivack/>;

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mirandaspivack/>

Alicia Patterson Foundation Grantee 2021

- Stories on expungement of civilian and police records and impact on law enforcement accountability

Journalist in Residence, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, UofFla. 2019-20

- Working with students in law and journalism on investigative reporting projects

Fulbright Scholar, North Macedonia February to May 2019

- Taught journalism at two universities and conducted workshops in Balkans for journalists

Advising editor, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

- Oct. 2018 to June 2019: Edited stories for Sarajevo-based independent news organization

Independent Journalist, Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting

- July 2016 to Sept. 2018: Published a five-part series, “State Secrets,” on the decline in state and local transparency, and the dangers of the rise in secrecy. Working on follow up stories.

Independent Journalist, various publications

- Oct. 2013 to present: Stories on government and corporate accountability, politics, land use, open government for USAToday, The New York Times, the Center for Public Integrity, Columbia Journalism Review, Bethesda Magazine, and Washingtonian.

Visiting professor, DePauw University

- Aug. 2016 to July 2018: Pulliam Distinguished Visiting Professor of Journalism, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. Developed and taught classes on Campaign Coverage 2016; Uncovering the Uncovered, an examination of poverty in Indiana; Washington and the Grassroots, a post-election assessment of the Trump Effect on states.

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Reporter and Editor, The Washington Post

- Aug. 2010- Oct. 2013: Government/ politics reporter, Prince George's bureau
- Aug. 2005-Aug. 2010: Growth/development reporter, Montgomery bureau
- Aug. 2004-Aug.2005: Government/politics/growth reporter, Howard bureau
- Nov. 1998-Aug. 2004: Editor, Prince George's Extra; supervised up to 12 reporters
- Editor, The Guide (Washington Post zoned community guides for nine localities)
- March 1994-Nov.1998: Deputy Editor, Gazette, Gaithersburg, Md., directed 50 staffers

Other employment

- July 1993-March 1994: Deputy to the Assistant to Secretary of Defense Les Aspin
- Sept. 1983-July 1993: Washington correspondent, The Hartford Courant
- Feb. 1974-Sept. 1983: Washington correspondent, Springfield Daily News (Newhouse News Service); Reporter, Legal Times; Portland Press Herald; Berkshire Eagle.

Education

B.A. Sarah Lawrence College

Master of Studies in Law, Yale Law School, Ford Foundation Fellowship

Honors and awards

- Journalist in Residence, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information 2019-2020
- Rockower Award for Ethnic Understanding, Second Place, for "The sisterhood of Salaam Shalom: finding common ground" in B'nai B'rith Magazine, July 2020
- Fulbright Scholar, North Macedonia 2019
- Sunshine Award, Society of Professional Journalists, Sept. 2017 for "State Secrets," Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting
- First Place, magazine non-breaking news, June 2017, Society of Professional Journalists, DC Chapter, "As local coverage wanes, residents become self-taught watchdogs," Columbia Journalism Review
- First Place, magazine non-breaking news, June 2016, Society of Professional Journalists, DC Chapter, "Grading Joshua Starr," Bethesda Magazine
- First Place, Local Government Reporting, Maryland, Delaware, D.C. Press Association, 2013 for work in The Washington Post
- Honorable mention, SATW Lowell Thomas Award for cultural tourism, 2015

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Honors and Awards, cont'd

- Honorable mention, Front Page, The Newspaper Guild: county executive's wife's slide into dementia, 2013, The Washington Post
- Ravitch Fiscal Reporting Program grantee, November 2015 and May 2017
- Fund for Investigative Journalism, grantee, March 2015, November 2016, April 2019, Feb. 2021
- O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism, Marquette University, grantee, Sept. 2015-Aug. 2016
- Named to SheSource "expert" roster, November 2015
- Named to Fulbright Specialist Roster, August 2014
- As editor, Prince George's Extra, The Washington Post (1998-2004), I directed coverage that won several awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for stories on growth, development, racial tension, education and the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education
- As deputy editor, Gazette Newspapers, (1994-98) I directed coverage that won several awards from Suburban Newspapers of America and the Maryland, Delaware, D.C. Press Association for investigative stories about police disability abuses in Montgomery County; state and local politics; and community features
- As a Washington correspondent, The Hartford Courant (1983-93) I won awards from UPI, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the National Women's Political Caucus.
- Ford Foundation Fellow: Yale Law School (Sept. 1977-May 1978)

Teaching Experience

- Fulbright Scholar, North Macedonia, spring 2019 taught journalism at State University of Tetovo; Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje
- Pulliam Distinguished Visiting Professor of Journalism, DePauw University, 2016-2018
- Adjunct professor, University of Maryland, Merrill College of Journalism, 2016
- From 1986-1988, I taught media law to undergraduate and graduate journalism students at American University's School of Communication. I have been a guest lecturer in journalism at Columbia College, Chicago; Howard University; University of Maryland; Universidad Complutense de Madrid; Marquette University; Naval War College, Annapolis, Md

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Panel discussions and other public appearances related to publication of “State Secrets,” and freedom of information.

I discussed the five-part series "State Secrets," and FOIA issues at:

- 1) Investigative Reporters and Editors, Phoenix, Arizona, June 22, 2017
- 2) Association of Alternative Newsmedia, Washington, D.C., July 28, 2017
- 3) National Freedom of Information Coalition, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 14, 2017
- 4) Journalism and Women Symposium, Hot Springs, Ark., Oct. 29, 2017
- 5) Maryland, Delaware, DC Press Association, Annapolis, Md., May 11, 2018
- 6) Investigative Reporters and Editors, Orlando, Fla., June 9, 2018
- 7) LION, Local Independent Online News, Chicago, Oct. 11, 2018
- 8) Investigative Reporters and Editors, Houston, Texas, June 13, 2019
- 9) Journalism and Women Symposium, Williamsburg, Va. Sept. 21, 2019
- 10) National Press Club Journalism Institute, Aug, 12, 2020

Other relevant experience

- I have been a regular guest on News Channel 8’s News Talk television program, and have appeared frequently on WAMU, 88.5 radio, The Kojo Nnamdi Show
- Member, National Press Club Press Freedom Committee
- Member, Investigative Reporters and Editors, frequent panelist on open government issues
- Member, Journalism and Women Symposium
- Former board member, The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.
- Languages: English (excellent), French (fair to good), Spanish (good)

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Selected, relevant publications

1) State Secrets: Local governments hide records, face few consequences (Five-part series for Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting), also published by USA Today.

<https://www.revealnews.org/author/miranda-s-spivack/> Late 2016 to early 2017

2) Public colleges hide donors who seek to influence students. Will COVID-19 make it worse? USAToday, 8/13/20

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2020/08/13/covid-college-donations-fall-semester-2020/3314262001/>

3) As local coverage wanes, residents become self-taught watchdogs - Columbia Journalism Review 4/13/2016

http://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/local_watchdogs.php

4) Johns Hopkins vs. MoCo farm: Whose wishes should prevail? - The Washington Post 2/27/14 wapo.st/1Rt6Ozp

5) Prince George's County spent hundreds of thousands to settle suit that alleged vast bribery scheme - wapo.st/1OXwIv3 The Washington Post 5/22/12

6) Against Tough Odds, a High School Arts Program Fosters Success

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/04/arts/design/suitland-high-school-a-maryland-arts-crucible.html> The New York Times 5/3/16

7) An Early Casualty of the Coronavirus

<https://www.newsday.com/opinion/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-government-transparency-1.43925557> Newsday 4/19/20

8) Digital Redlining <https://www.thecrisismagazine.com/single-post/digital-redlining>
The Crisis Magazine 7/9/20