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THE 2018 INSIDER 100

MEDIA



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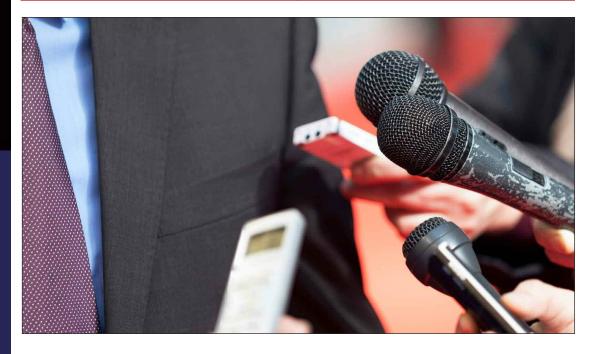
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INSIDER NJ

Message from the Editor

INSIDER 100 MEDIA



Welcome to another edition of the InsiderNJ Media Personalities List, our look at the reporters and writers and some of the editors who cover politics and shape the news narratives in this state.

We had a conversation with NJ Spotlight's John Reitmeyer recently, who mentioned that the legendary Mark Twain got his writing start when he covered a trip to the Holy Land.

That's not good news for those aspiring members of New Jersey's Fourth Estate, desperately toiling away in what amounts to the opposite of God's country.

But we'll take it.

Besides, Newark native Stephen Crane started out covering the Asbury Park boardwalk.

Of course, he didn't last long. But his words endure.

Significantly on this this year's media list, we mark the retirement of two longtime professionals: The Jersey Journal's Agustin "Augie" Torres, one of the most respected political reporters and columnists in the state; and The Record editorial page editor Al Doblin, long a staple of New Jersey political reporting and editorializing. We miss both of them.

Max Pizarro

Max Pizarro

Editor, InsiderNJ

"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy." --Walter Cronkite

Our sincere thanks to NJ's media and journalists for keeping us informed everyday!



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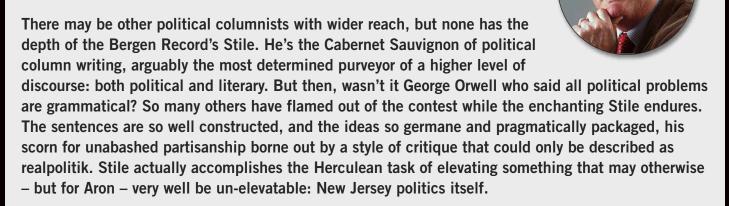


1. MICHAEL ARON, NJTV



The undisputed Scaramouche of New Jersey political reporting and NJTV chief political correspondent, mensch Aron has the biggest treasure trove of institutional knowledge in the state. He has been everywhere and done everything in this business, including writing and publishing books, getting yelled at by then-President Bill Clinton, reporting live from outside the home of an on-the-lam Nick Bissell, breaking political news live nightly and hosting his weekly television shows: On the Record and Reporters Roundtable. He so obviously loves it, the depth of his passion for the work nut-shelled in one recurring Aron quote: "If you're a reporter, New Jersey never lets you down."

CHARLIE STILE Bergen Record





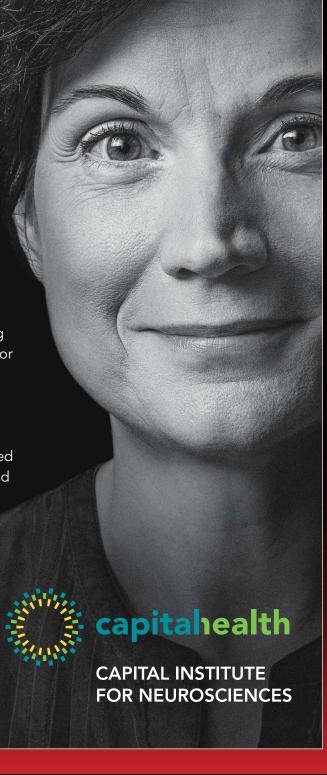
JOHN REITMEYER NJ Spotlight

You can talk to people around the Statehouse and if there's a single respected resource on state budgetary matters, anyone in the know will immediately identify that person as Reitmeyer, the former Bergen Record brain turned online animal. The Clark Kentish Reitmeyer also possesses something else you don't generally find in most pure-blooded nerds. Under a mild-mannered and gentlemanly demeanor, he disguises the very sharp elbows of an unapologetic hockey jock.

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MATT FRIEDMAN Politico NJ

The peerless Friedman really doesn't write about something unless it's politically important. In a way, the decade-plus

veteran's shaping into the most

easily recognizable heir to Aron: superior political intellect, no-nonsense, just-the-facts prose style, television or radio-ready insightfulness, and a considerable resume, including tours of duty with the website previously known as PolitickerNJ, the Star-Ledger and now as the political anchor leg to Politico NJ. Author of the must-read Playbook. And he's still just a pup in his 30s.

JOHN MOONEY NJ Spotlight

The textbook case of an intractable intellect refusing to get chewed up in hackland, the former Star-Ledger scribe co-founded NJ Spotlight, hammering the

not-for-profit website into easily the most (maybe lone?) substantive destination. The key to Mooney's success? He doggedly writes about policy, and shuns the dumb subjects that form the backbone of most political media. And he scorns the ego trip that claws to too many in this business.



RYAN HUTCHINS Politico NJ

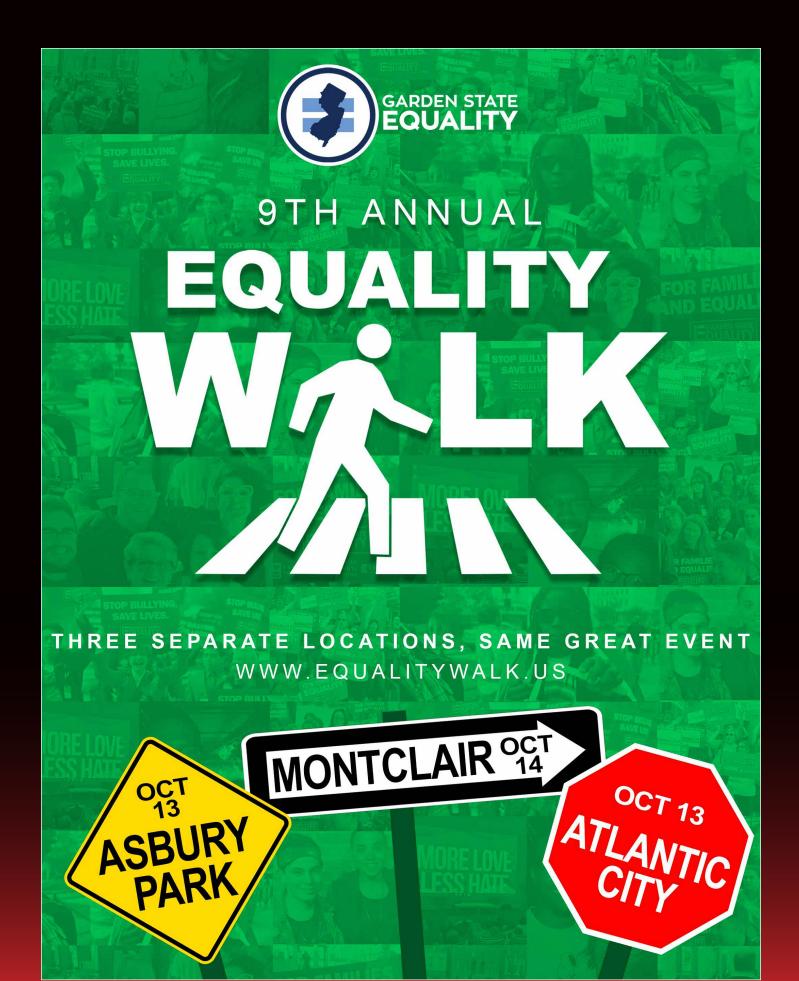
Hutchins cut his teeth at the Star Ledger before signing on with Politico NJ. where he and Friedman provide a strong one-two punch. An elegant

written word reporter, Hutchins also excels as a fierce and uncompromising inquisitor in political gaggles. If you're a politician with a sweaty hand in the cookie jar, you don't want to see Hutchins trooping up the hall with a recording device.

MIKE KELLY Bergen Record

Distinguished author and prose stylist Kelly really is as close as the state has left to the pure beat reporter, the kind of guy who sports a fedora and sits at the end of a

long, poorly lit bar scratching notes on a notepad. This is the real deal. This is the guy with a conscience and an intellect, a sleuthing and crusading dedication and a generally fearless Irish, Conor McGregor-like disposition under the civilizedlooking package. His dispatches are for North Jersey what his colleague Stile is to the Statehouse.



DAVID CRUZ N.JTV

The NJTV political news correspondent muscled his way into contention as one of the most sporting reporters in politics. In a word: aggressive. If you're a politician, don't let him catch you napping or sticking your foot in your mouth. He'll be on top of you like a hungry hound – with rolling cameras in tow.

TOM MORAN Star-Ledger

A veteran presence, the **Essex County-based** Moran writes political columns and editorials for the state's paper of record. He has an erstwhile

following among those who appreciate his willingness to jump onto the frontlines of political debates.



JONATHAN SALANT NJ Advance Media

Salant is NJ.com's go-to for DC political coverage: like Herb Jackson at the Record. Salant can take a national story and bring it

back to home and give it a Jersey-focus.

JONATHAN DIENST NBC 4

The stuffed and mounted head of Paterson Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres forms the basis of NBC reporter Diest's political contribution to New Jersey's political

coverage, the result of his investigative news series about Silk City corruption.

TOM MARTELLO Star-Ledger

The veteran Star-Ledger editor anchors the Statehouse Bureau.
A veteran with veteran's chops, like Moran he spans the void back to a more literate newspaper time.

PAUL MULSHINE Star-Ledger

The conservative
Star-Ledger columnist
brings to mind that line
from Hemingway's
Death in the Afternoon:
"All right, you get the hell
out of here," when someone
complains that bullfighting is boring. Like
bullfighting, Mulshine's columns gore – but
never bore.

BRENT JOHNSON NJ Advance Media

Solid. Reputable.
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The Star-Ledger's
Johnson has hung
around long enough to
become one of the papers
of record's go-to political resources. He's meat
and potatoes personified.

DUSTIN RACIOPPI Bergen Record

The Bergen Record reporter does the job with a touch of elegance. Impatient with pretenders and non-fact-based nebulae that fronts as New Jersey's intellectual capital, Racioppi is a genuine throw-back, the kind of guy who will one day take the reins of Mike Kelly's buckboard.

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BRIAN THOMPSON

The NBC News 4 vet still snags the big stories, and will forever live in the annals of New Jersey politics as that extraordinary inquisitor during the 2004 U.S. Senate contest.

HARRY HURLEY WPG

You like breaking news out of Atlantic City and South Jersey? Then you must be familiar with the well-connected. well-sourced, and popular Hurley, who breaks most

(or at least many) of the dock-front political stories – and has a must-read column with Shore News Today.



HERB JACKSON Bergen Record

The agile veteran Bergen Record columnist and correspondent owns the federal beat in D.C. among New Jersey reporters. He's the gold standard.



STEVE ADUBATO, JR. NJTV

Now with an Emmy, the master communicator, and author of Leadership will undoubtedly have even more media heft. Watch one of Adubato's shows. To listen to him speak the language is almost akin to enjoying a Miles Davis record when what you seek is a smooth instrument that doesn't trip itself up on the squeaks, bumpy passages or false notes that routinely bedevil lesser horn players.



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MICHAEL HILL NJTV

The NJTV reporter has pro's pro ability. Equally adept playing the grand inquisitor in the streets or handling studio talking head duty, Hill – with deep roots in Newark – is one of the state's best.

MATT ARCO NJ Advance Media

A dedicated student of the game, Star-Ledger political reporter Arco got his start at PolitickerNJ before taking the Friedman career path to the Ledger. He specializes in

covering Governor Phil Murphy, and will presumably carry on as a Drumthwacket-centric beat reporter.



LEVON PUTNEY WCBS News Radio 880

He's on the case. Relentless, Visible, He had a career highlight moment last year when he sat on one of the panels quizzing gubernatorial candidate Murphy and Kim Guadagno.

KEVIN RIORDAN Philadelphia Inquirer

Riordan has been in the journalism game since the Byrne administration and has a wealth of institutional and historic knowledge, and is a mustread columnist for South Jersev and beyond.



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FRED SNOWFLACK InsiderNJ

It's the detail. He doesn't just go to an event. The former Daily Record political columnist and Bergen Record editorial page writer gives you



impressions, observations, insights; in short, everything you don't get from anywhere else. That's why we love him.

BRENDA FLANAGAN NJTV

The top notch throw-back pro covers Statehouse and street politics for NJTV. Tenacious? Flanagan's the kind of reporter who shows up in a driving, state-debilitating

snowstorm to tackle a disguised politician on the tarmac of Newark Airport before he can get out of town on that flight to Miami. She's the Dorothy Parker of New Jersey political reporting.



ANDREW SEIDMAN Philadelphia Inquirer

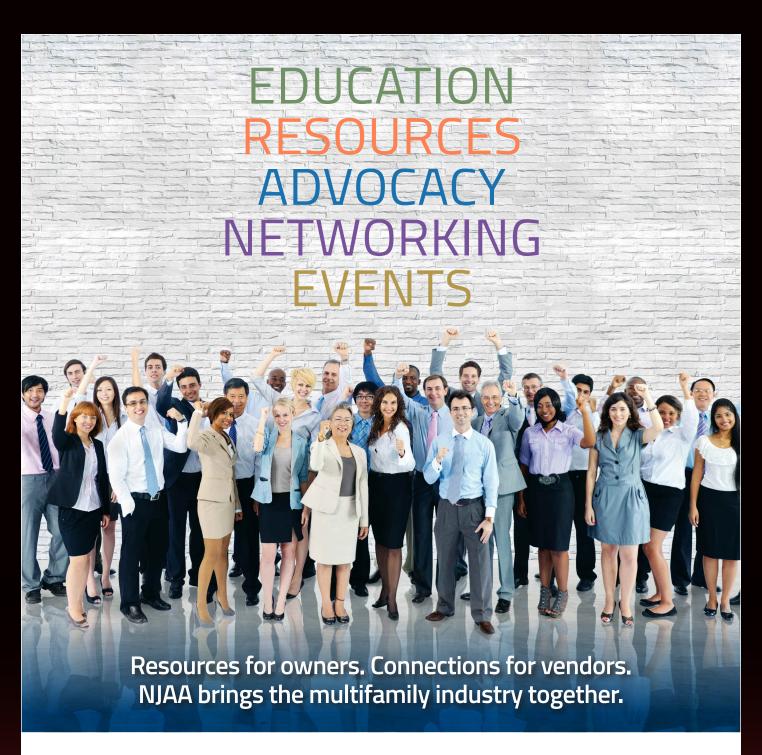
Previously covering the Statehouse, Seidman widened his focus on politics to hone in on that most-important figure in Jersey politics: the power broker.



ERIC SCOTT NJ 101.5

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COLLEEN O'DEA NJ Spotlight

She's just one of those bread and butter reporters who will give you substance over style, what you need as opposed to what you want.

JILL COLVIN AP

She's on the beat. She's done the work. Formerly of the New York Observer, she transferred to her just the facts, ma'am reporting during the Christie era and stuck.



MIKE SHAPIRO **TAPinto**

As founding editor, the businessman/attorney spent ten years building the TAPinto network of hyper-local news site into one of New Jersey's most trusted sources for local news.

TOM BERGERON ROI NJ

The founding editor and content officer of ROI writes about business as a matter of course, but is just as at home doing political reporting. A real gem.





THE POLITICAL VOICE OF NEW JERSEY WOMEN

the 2018 Insider 100

The Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey (WPCNJ), founded in 1972, is a chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus and is the authoritative voice for women in New Jersey politics. WPCNJ is a *multi-partisan* organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in elected and appointed positions in government, protecting reproductive freedom, and promoting equal rights for women.

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MATT KATZ WNYC.

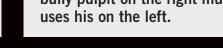
The author of the definitive boom about **Chris Christie, "American** Governor", commands one of the most soughtafter platforms for all things

New Jersey politics. Don't ever underestimate him or be thrown by the boy next door routine. This is the guy who wraps a chummy arm around you at the bar. Next thing you know you hear that charming radio voice calming telling the world how you're finished. Need proof? Just ask Mike Saudino.

BILL SPADEA NJ 101.5 and Chasing New Jersey

A politician turned political journalist, workaholic Spadea has made himself an immovable radio force with his daily morning broadcast, reinforced by his evening TV

alter ego as ring leader of MY9's Chasing. To his credit, Marine Corps vet (and, to this point, anyway, Trump-loving) Spadea chews voraciously into issues and champions causes, using his bully pulpit on the right much the way Moran



JULIE BRIGGS WMTR

The class act hosts "Your New Jersey Connection" and "Ask the Expert" on WMTR. She's the Diane Rehm of New Jersev radio.



JAY LASSITER InsiderNJ

The Cherry Hill-based progressive columnist and activist has one of the sharpest wits in New Jersey politics. He poured his considerable energy and talent into writing the Insider Out

100: LGBT list in September, which was widely read and celebrated.

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and salute all the journalists pursuing truth in the face of adversity.





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JAYED RAHMAN Paterson Times

The fearless – and relentless - Paterson Times reporter regularly breaks Silk City government and campaign stories - and follows up on leads that require digging and lead to bigger stories His coverage was a major factor in the Paterson mayoral race earlier this year.

BRIANNA VANNOZI NJTV

The veteran NJTV reporter is a New Jersev star. Look, you could make the case for putting her in the top ten, the top five. She may yet absolutely inherit the mantle

of Aron, which would be better than Barry Bonds taking the career home runs record from Henry Aaron. She's a great (and fair) reporter.

JONATHAN TAMARI Philadelphia Inquirer

The Philadelphia Inquirer reporter is equally capable of producing deep dive content on federal as state issues. A details-oriented, precision-

driven professional, Tamari is also one of the best writers of politics in the business.

It's the typical combination. Mild-mannered - and lethal.

PHIL GREGORY **WBGO**



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In an era of shriveled-up local news coverage, the **Jersey Journal reporter** is that rare bird who actually aggressively seems to relish the City Hall beat. The Joe Fili-schooled Real Man's Club vet has been invaluable as that front-line source in New Jersey's most populous city.

NICK ACOCELLA Politifax

The founding editor of Politifax and host of **NJTV's Pasta and Politics** endures as one of the great characters in New Jersey politics. He's the media mensch from Hoboken whose ring must be kissed by any out-of-towner who sets forth to examine politics in Hudson.

JOHN HEINIS Hudson County View

If politics is a contact sport in New Jersey, or a blood sport, as Kim Guadagno once said, then the founding editor of Hudson County View

comes well prepared. He's a competitive jujitsu fighter, and that expertise translates into his hard-hitting pieces. One of the state's great reporters.

L.A. PARKER The Trentonian

The veteran Trentonian reporter/columnist routinely breaks Trenton politics-centric political stories. Parker is as powerful an on-the-ground player in New Jersey's capital city as anyone, and his columns required reading for those who govern who care about local politics and government.



MICHAEL SYMONS NJ 101.5

The Statehouse veteran cut his teeth at Gannett prior to moving over to 101.5 FM as a can't miss play caller.



DAVID LEVINSKY **Burlington County Times**

The Burlington County Times reporter is go-to media source for politicos in BurlCo. What a pro. If you want to read about Burlington, you read Levinsky. He wrote the



blockbuster piece detailing the backstory of the troubled candidacies of Burlington's Democratic freeholder candidates, throwing the entire campaign down there into disarray.

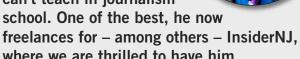
MARY ALICE

Consummate pro Williams serves as the nightly news anchor at NJTV. And she's got a good voice, too.



BOB HENNELLY InsiderNJ

The veteran reporter, a Paterson native, comes equipped with that pepper-immune nose for investigative news they can't teach in journalism





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MATT ROONEY Save Jersey

The founding editor of Save Jersey has carved out a space for himself as the state's go-to **GOP** commentator and opinion-crafter.



STACIE SHERMAN AND ELISE YOUNG Bloomberg News

The veteran Sherman, the New Jersey Bureau **Chief for Bloomberg** News, is one of the state's leading experts on the intersection of politics and business.

Elise Young is now **Bloomberg's New Jersey** overview reporter in residence.



LARRY MENDTE Jersey Matters

The sharp host of his own show once anchored Access Hollywood. A great out-of-the-box interviewer who loves to dive deep and test his subjects.



ALAN STEINBERG InsiderNJ

A veteran of the Bush Administration, the InsiderNJ columnist now offers center-right perspectives, and routinely appears on TV as a political prognosticator.



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ANJALEE KHEMLANI ROI-NJ

Reporter Khemlani has the ability – like mentor Bergeron - to hone in on the business-andindustry focus of the political landscape in New Jersev.



ERIC LANDSKRONER News 12

The sartorially gifted television newsman hosts Power and Politics on News 12. One of the smooth and smart people in the game. A fair host and solid pro.



ANTHONY BIRRITTERI NJ Business Magazine, VP and

Birritteri edits the influential deep-business dive publication of the New Jersey Business and **Industry Association.** He personally conducted the magazine's widelyread sit-down interviews with both major party U.S. Senate candidates this year.

JAMES NASH Bergen Record

You don't really get very far if you don't read Nash, who covers government and politics from the Statehouse.

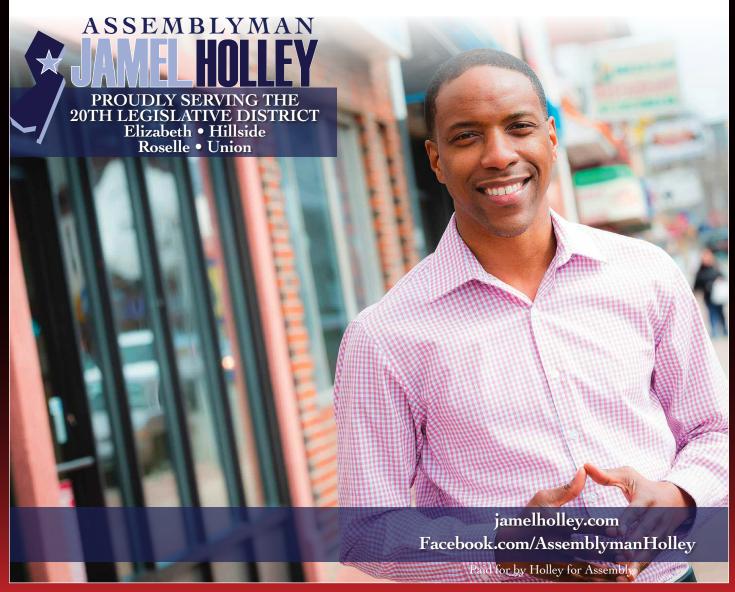


Assemblyman Jamel Holley Congratulates the Media Leaders Who Are Keeping New Jersey Informed!

The free press plays an important role in keeping New Jersey residents informed about the important issues happening in our state. I'm proud to support the true journalists who are working hard to speak truth to power and tell important stories, especially now when they are under constant assault from President Trump.

- Jamel Holley **)**





SP SULLIVAN NJ Advance Media

You never know when he's going to pop up, but when he does, it's like the camo covered special ops guy suddenly on the scene.



In a word: a pro.

KATHERINE LANDERGAN Politico NJ



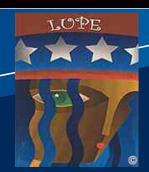
ROSALIE EFTHIM Blue Jersey



JOEY NOVICK Blue Jersey



The founding editor of Blue Jersey, Efthim will no doubt continue to project as a strong and relevant voice, especially next year as Democrats look to make a midterm statement in opposition to President Donald J. Trump, while Novick's political humor columns appear on Blue Jersey and elsewhere.



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FI Y LUPEPAC

LUPEPAC is a non-partisan political action committee whose mission is to increase the number of Latinas in elected and appointed office in the State of New Jersey.

We promote and support progressive Latinas running for local, state and federal office.

KATIE KYROS News 12

She's that professional touch amid the decrepit, dirty river town environs of Trenton as News 12's Statehouse reporter.



CARL GOLDEN NJ Spotlight and InsiderNJ

The press secretary for Governor Tom Kean, Golden offers the insight of an insider and has no equal when it comes down to getting the politics underlining New Jersey state government.



ALEX ZDAN News 12

He wrote an investigative piece for InsiderNJ this year that was one of our best and most read stories. We wish we could have held onto the former



Chasing reporter, but are pleased to now see his fine reporting on News 12.

ROB JENNINGS NJ Advance Media

No one knows Sussex and Warren county politics better than this veteran columnist.





Between New Jersey Business magazine and the NJBT e-news service, I stay informed about what's going on in the state and how it affects my company. It's my main resource for information in New Jersey.

— Dean

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BOB JORDAN Asbury Park Press

Few do it better. The veteran Asbury Park Press reporter provides politics watchers with that delicate balance of substance, style and pure unadulterated dredged up NJ madness.



DANIEL MUNOZ N.JRIZ

Great, go-to political reporter with NJBIZ, Munoz is front and center at all of Governor Phil Murphy's press conferences.



TED SHERMAN Star-Ledger

The Star-Ledger's deepdive investigative reporter rides into town whenever there's a crisis. He's the man in black with the pearl-handled Colts who

puts on the white gloves when there's real work to be done. You could make a case for him being number one.

CLAUDE BRODESSER-AKNER NJ Advance Media

It's hard enough being literate in New Jersey. To be both literate and literary accomplishes a rare feat that tests the limits of credulity where resembling a mobster means

more than knowing how to read or speak. But the Star Ledger reporter has managed to stay on his feet here and do something unthinkable: educate.



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BILL SPROUSE Route 40



The Route 40 reporter puts together the bulk of the local blog's political stories that are widely read in Atlantic – both city and county. With the Press of Atlantic City's repeated downsizings – and the new mayoral administration of Mayor Gilliam – they're more important now than ever.

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SAMANTHA MARCUS NJ.com



The Paterson Press editor/reporter is a force to be reckoned with in Paterson politics, one of the best local beat guys in the business.







Michael Aron and NJTV cover the politics and public affairs that affect the lives and livelihoods of New Jersey residents. From the State House to the house next door to businesses down the block, NJTV is in your neighborhood.



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WALT KANE News 12

News 12's Kane in Your Corner fearlessly crawls into the nooks and crannies of New Jersey's most offensive political stories.



ERIK LARSEN Asbury Park Press

A shore rat diehard.



DAVID DANZIS Press of Atlantic City

The Press of AC reporter a former award-winning reporter from the New Jersey Herald— is the master of covering all AC political moves and happenings.



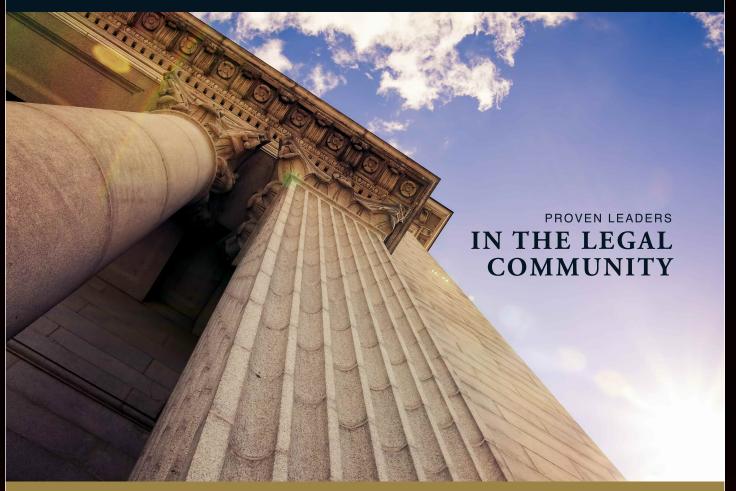
The 101.5 FM reporter has an inimitable style. Take a listen to that broadcast. There's something very distinctive about the way he signs off on every broadcast.

DAVID MATTHAU NJ 101.5



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LORI COMSTOCK New Jersey Herald

An award-winning reporter, she and Danzis (see above) won a New Jersey Press **Association First Place Better Newspaper award** for their investigative series

they did on a Sussex County Jail beating.

JEFF EDELSTEIN The Trentonian

The long-serving Trentonian politics topical columnist also sometimes sits in for Spadea on 101.5 FM.



He's the AP's one-two punch factor with Colvin.

MIKE CATALINI Associated Press



Tough, aggressive, unrelenting, Avilucea writes about capital city politics during a time of real transition.

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The Politico New Jersey reporter specializes in education.

LINH TAT Politico NJ



STEVE STRUNSKY NJ Advance Media

The scrappy Star-Ledger reporter can dig deep into Hudson County's underbelly and pull out meaningful insights and stories.



DAVID FOSTER The Trentonian

The Trentonian reporter covers local and regional politics based out of the state's capital city.



SUSANNE CEREVENKA Asbury Park Press

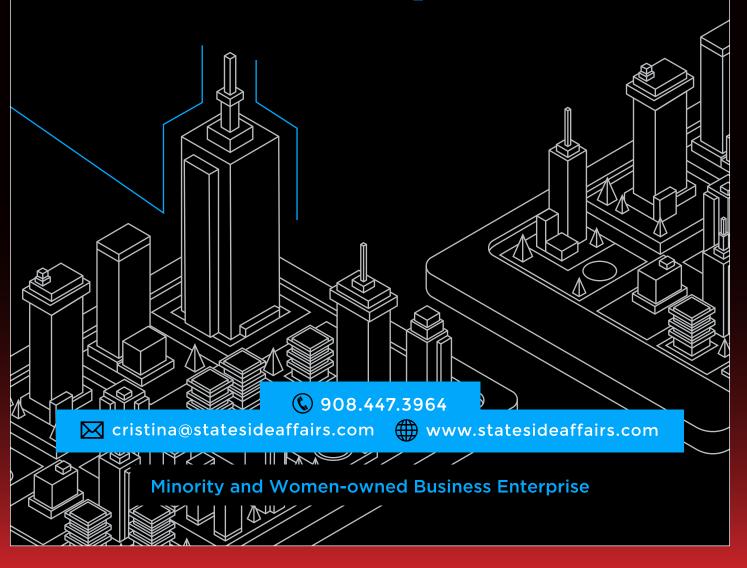
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ROBERTO BUSTAMANTE Ahora News

The Ahora News reporter is all over Essex, Hudson, Union and Middlesex. Not only an attack dog when he needs to be, but also a gentleman.



DAVID WILDSTEIN & NIKITA BIRYUKOV NJ Globe

The Globe editor founding editor of PoliticsNJ (and later PolitickerNJ) is covering New Jersey politics again after a long hiatus.

Nikita Biryukov covers politics statewide and at the Statehouse for The Globe.



RICH COWEN Herald News

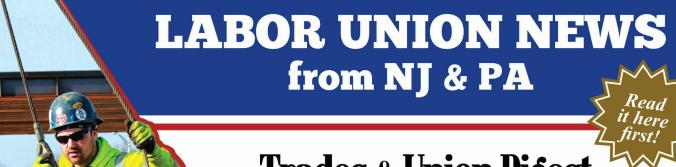
One of the best. Born in Newark, the selfprofessed "fact-based" reporter for North Jersey Media Group specializes in Passaic County.



MONSY ALVARADO Bergen Record

The local reporter for the Bergen Record can dig deep with investigatory pieces.





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KAREN YI NJ Advance Media

The NJ.com reporter covers the goings-on in Newark and Essex.



HANK KALET NJ Spotlight

The NJ Spotlight reporter is well-respected.



OSCAR ALBERTO QUINTANA Americano News

Reporter in New Jersey for Americano News. Hard-working.



ADRIANA VARGAS Univision 41

The reporter is on the ground in New Jersey for Univision.





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NICK MUSCAVAGE Home News Tribune

The Central Jersey reporter is the watchdog investigative journalist for MyCentralJersey.com and generates some of MCJ's most-read political content.



NICK CORASANITI New York Times

They unleash him in here, and when they do there's hell to pay.



DANIEL GARCIA La Voz

The La Voz owner and editor is tough and relevant.



LILO STAINTON NJ Spotlight

The NJ Spotlight reporter and policy expert can delve into and dissect health issues into readable and informative articles with few peers.



Congratulating all those named to the InsiderNJ Media 100 Power List



AMY ROSENBERG Philadelphia Inquirer

The Inky reporter follows and writes South Jersey and Jersey Shore news, with an eye on Atlantic City.



SUSAN LIVIO NJ Advance Media

The respected Star-Ledger reporter covers Statehouse policy issues.



NICHOLAS PUGLIESE Bergen Record

A protégé of Charlie Stile, the young Pugliese is honing his skills in Statehouse reporting and produced solid coverage during the government shutdown of 2017.



ERIC OBERNAUER NJ Herald

The local beat reporter covers municipal government and politics in Sussex County, along with Lori Comstock (also on this list).



MARK BONAMO TAP into Newark

The TAPinto Newark editor and reporter **knows Brick City** politics and has a deep source network in North Jersey.



ART GALLAGHER More Monmouth Musings

Only editor Gallagher has persevered to shape his longstanding Republican blog, More Monmouth Musings, into must read material for anyone interested in the local dynamics of shoreline politics.



If you want to know about Ocean County politics, you have to read Rozzi.

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