



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Weekly Bulletin: Oct. 23, 2020

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's digital newsletter, which includes:

- A recap of our program this week with winners of this year's Morton Frank Award, including video clips from the event.
- Previews of two more upcoming programs, with Malcolm Forbes Award winners **Nick Kostov** and **Sean McLain** of The Wall Street Journal [on Oct. 28](#), and Cornelius Ryan Award winner **Katherine Eban** [on Nov. 10](#).
- Spotlights on two OPC members covering COVID-19, **Lori Valigra** and **Meghan Sullivan**.
- A call for OPC members to comment on a Department of Homeland Security visa rules changes [by the deadline on Monday, Oct. 26](#).
- The OPC People column, with updates on **Caelainn Hogan**, **Sara Dadouch**, **Calvin Sims**, OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt**, **David Burnett**, **David Hume Kennerly** and **Ian Williams**.
- New resources and training for journalists.
- The Press Freedom Update, featuring updates on a civil lawsuit for the death of **Jamal Khashoggi**, results of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation's (virtual) **Foley Freedom Run**, and calls for **Iraq** to step

up efforts to investigate attacks against journalists.



## Morton Frank Award Winners Discuss Surprises in Reporting on 'Trump's Trade War'

By Chad Bouchard

When an award-winning team from FRONTLINE PBS first started asking questions about the implications of U.S. tariffs against China in the summer of 2018, they had little idea how far and how deep the story would take them.

Rick Young, the writer and director of the resulting film, *Trump's Trade War*, said the team's reporting was a process of "realizing that there was a lot more behind those tariffs, and a lot more behind the relationship between the U.S. and China, and the significance of that relationship, and frankly how that relationship was being upended."

On Oct. 21, the OPC hosted a webinar with Young and other members of the team, including Emma Schwartz, Laura Sullivan and Fritz Kramer, who won this year's Morton Frank Award for best international business news reporting in TV, video, radio, audio or podcast.

Jane Sasseen, executive director of the McGraw Center for Business Journalism, moderated. She served as a judge on the Morton Frank Award jury.

[Read the Full Recap Here](#)

Click the window below to watch a video of the program on our YouTube channel, or [click here to watch a playlist of clips](#).



Upcoming OPC Events

*The following programs will be held online via Zoom. RSVPs are essential. We will send Zoom links to those who register about an hour before each program. Please register early!*

## Oct. 28: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories The Malcolm Forbes Award

**Time:** Oct. 28 at 12:00 p.m.  
(noon) Eastern Time

The OPC will host an online discussion with **Nick Kostov** and **Sean McLain** of The Wall Street Journal, winners of this year's Malcolm Forbes Award for best international business news reporting in newspapers, news services, magazines or digital.



Moderating the panel will be **Tim Ferguson**, business journalist and former editor of Forbes Asia, who served as head judge for the Malcolm Forbes Award jury. Kostov and McLain won for their series of articles, "The Fall of Carlos Ghosn," which you can read on the Journal's website via the links below.

Judges for the award said:

"Through the efforts of two reporters half a world apart, working through headquarters on a third continent, the Journal owned one of the most competitive business stories of the year: The stunning arrest, downfall and, ultimately, escape of a renowned Japanese auto executive. By peeling an onion of ambitions, rivalries and self-dealing, Kostov and McLain revealed the scope of intrigue at Nissan and Renault that set Carlos Ghosn's fate in motion. Their persistent enterprise over the course of the year helped Journal readers solve a great mystery."

[Why Carlos Ghosn Fell: Plotters at Nissan Feared a French Takeover](#)

[Carlos Ghosn Ran a Tech Fund—Using Millions From an Executive at a Nissan Partner](#)

[Without Carlos Ghosn, the Nissan-Renault Alliance Has Started to Crack](#)

[Nissan Lawyers Flag Possible Conflicts of Interest in Ghosn Probe](#)

[Nissan Audit Chief Sought to Expand Ghosn Probe—and Was Shut Down](#)

[Renault's Bolloré Called Foul on Nissan's Ghosn Probe Days Before Ouster](#)

[Renault in Talks on Nissan Stake, Hopes to Revive Fiat Deal](#)

## [How Fiat Chrysler's Proposed Merger With Renault Crashed](#)

[RSVP Now](#)

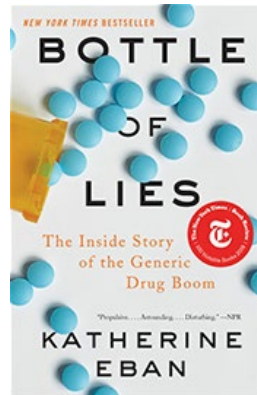
Photo: Nick Kostov, left, and Sean McLain.



## Nov. 28: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories The Cornelius Ryan Award

**Time:** Nov. 10 at 6:00 p.m.  
Eastern Time

Please RSVP to join an online program with **Katherine Eban**, author of *Bottle of Lies: The Inside Story of the Generic Drug Boom*, which won this year's Cornelius Ryan Award for best non-fiction book on international affairs.



Moderating the panel will be **Dan Hertzberg**, freelance journalist and former senior deputy managing editor and later deputy managing editor for international news at The Wall Street Journal, who served as head judge for the Cornelius Ryan Award jury.

Judges for the award said:

"Generic drugs are critical to the U.S. health system, making up 60 per cent of the country's drug supply—and 40 per cent of those generics are manufactured in India. In a shocking and masterful work of global investigative reporting, Katherine Eban documents the massive fraud by which Indian drug makers have evaded a fumbling U.S. FDA to sell billions of dollars in unsafe and ineffective drugs to the U.S. Eban turns it into a page turner, focusing on key figures like the courageous Indian executive turned whistleblower at the big Indian drug maker Ranbaxy and a dogged FDA inspector in India who rips aside the curtain of fraud."

[RSVP Now](#)

## Deadline Monday for Submissions on I Visa Restrictions

by Ian Williams, OPC member and Foreign Press Association President

The Overseas Press Club and the Foreign Press Association oppose proposed rule changes by the Department of Homeland Security that would restrict the freedom of foreign journalists to work in the United States, and could invite retaliation by other governments against U.S. journalists overseas.



The DHS proposal would require foreign journalists holding I visas in the U.S. to apply for renewal every 240 days. Currently, I visas are valid for five years, and allow journalists who cover the United Nations or other U.S. organizations the right to move freely in and out of the U.S. with their families.

Please consider using the following bullet points to make your views known to DHS and the State Dept. by **Monday, Oct. 26** on the following link.

[Comment Here on the Proposed Rule on the Federal Register >>](#)

Read the full statement, with an outline of reasons we oppose the proposed changes, on the OPC website via the button below.

[Read More](#)

## Welcome New Member

### **Steve Stecklow**

Global Investigative Reporter  
Reuters  
London  
Active Overseas

## OPC Members Covering COVID-19

**Meghan Sullivan**, winner of the OPC Foundation's 2020 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship, continues to cover COVID-19 stories in Alaska with a focus on Indigenous communities. She [wrote](#) for Indian Country Today about an increase in coronavirus cases in a remote Siberian Yupik village in Alaska. The village on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea had a total case count of 19 in a town of only 681 residents. The stakes of even small outbreaks are high in remote areas, she reported - it costs around \$500 to fly to the nearest hospital in Nome, which only has about 10 respirators to serve more than a dozen villages. The outbreak also has knock-on effects as those exposed to people who test positive have to shut down essential facilities, such as the town's general store being closed while managers wait for their own test results.



OPC member **Lori Valigra** has been reporting on COVID-19 in Maine extensively for articles in the Bangor Daily News, with a focus on the effect on businesses and the economy. Recent pieces include [an Oct. 22](#) piece reporting that prices for the state's home sales jumped 20 percent in September as out-of-state buyers search for a safe haven to ride out the pandemic. The trend is driven by low interest rates and a glut of buyers, according to a state realtors' association. Maine's viral load so far is among the lowest in the country, hovering in the bottom five for number of deaths per million population. Valigra also reported [in September](#) on the pandemic's effect on two iconic state retailers, L.L. Bean and Renys, amid an uncertain holiday season and some supply manufacturers shutting down. In September she also [reported](#) Maine economists and retailers concerns about "federal stimulus uncertainty, ongoing pandemic, recession, November election, the regular flu season and cold weather that will force businesses that had expanded outside to move inside."

***Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 to [info@opcofamerica.org](mailto:info@opcofamerica.org), and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).***

## People by Chad Bouchard

### SCHOLARS

*Republic of Shame*, a book and deep-dive investigation into Ireland's institutionalization of unmarried pregnant women and forced separations by **Caelainn Hogan**, winner of the 2014 H.L. Stevenson Fellowship, is [newly available in the U.S.](#) The book tracks the legacy of a joint effort between the Catholic Church and the Irish government to operate a network of institutions for the concealment, punishment and exploitation of so-called fallen women. The book's cover is adorned by an endorsement by Margaret Atwood, who said: "At least in *The Handmaid's Tale* they value babies, mostly. Not so in the true stories here."



**Sara Dadouch**, the 2017 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2017, wrote for The Washington Post [on Oct. 19](#) about reports indicating two senior U.S. officials visited Damascus in August for secret talks about the fate of missing American journalist Austin Tice. She wrote that according to the Syrian newspaper Al Watan, "U.S. Ambassador Roger Carstens, an envoy for hostage affairs, and Kash Patel, a top White House counterterrorism adviser, met with Ali Mamlouk, the head of Syria's intelligence agency, in his office in Damascus." The visit coincides with increasing White House pressure to release Tice. Tice is a freelance journalist who was abducted in Syria in 2012, believed to be detained by the Syrian government or its allies.



## AWARDS

OPC member **Christiane Amanpour** of CNN is slated to speak at the virtual Courage in Journalism Awards [on Dec. 1](#) at 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The celebration honors “brave women journalists who refuse to step aside or be silenced in their pursuit of the truth.” Awardees this year include **Jessikka Aro** of the Finnish Broadcasting Company, broadcast journalist **Yakeen Bido**, **Gulchehra Hoja** of Radio Free Asia, multimedia reporter **Solafa Magdy**, **Susan Goldberg** of National Geographic and **Yamiche Alcindor** of PBS NewsHour.

The **United Nations Correspondents Association** (UNCA) has decided to postpone its Annual Awards for a year to December 2021. The awards were to mark the occasion’s 25th anniversary this year. In an emailed statement about the decision addressed to “ambassadors, officials, colleagues and friends,” the UNCA also announced that it will establish a new UNCA Award for coverage of COVID-19 and its affect worldwide.

## UPDATES

OPC member **Calvin Sims** has [started](#) his new post at CNN as executive vice president of standards and practices. Sims is a veteran journalist with three decades of experience in news, foreign affairs and philanthropy. He most recently served as president and CEO of International House, a non-profit program aimed at cross cultural understanding and peace. He has also served in senior positions at The New York Times, the Discovery Times Channel, the Ford Foundation and the Council on Foreign Relations. Sims will replace CNN’s outgoing head of standards and practices, Rick Davis, who is slated to retire in January next year. “I look forward to building on the great legacy of CNN’s news standards and ethics established by my predecessor Rick Davis and forging new and innovative ways to tell the truth with zeal and fidelity,” Sims said in a CNN release. “I am thrilled to have this opportunity to return to my professional passion - quality journalism, especially at a time when it’s needed most and at a network that is as essential as CNN is today.”



OPC Governor **Vivienne Walt** wrote for TIME magazine [on Oct. 21](#) about political and cultural implications of the brutal murder of schoolteacher Samuel Paty in France. Paty, a middle-school history and civics teacher, was attacked on his way home in the Paris suburbs on Oct. 16. He was stabbed to death and then decapitated. The murder was reportedly retribution for showing his students cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. Walt wrote that the murder “cracked open a deep schism, that is rarely far from the surface in France,” and that it raises questions about “how the country’s 5.7 million Muslims - the largest Muslim population in the European Union - assimilate, or not, in a country whose constitution is based on an unyielding principle of secularism and which has seen multiple terrorist attacks by jihadists since 2015.”



OPC members **David Burnett** and **David Hume Kennerly** are among the photographers who will be honored at a virtual celebration hosted by the Los Angeles Center of Photography [on](#)

[Oct. 24](#) during the center's 5th annual fundraising gala. Guests at the ticketed event will have access to a virtual gallery of over 100 photographs from artists, galleries and institutions, with audio clips of artists talking about their work. Photo, right, David Burnett; below left, David Hume Kennerly.



Separately, **Kennerly** spoke at the **Center for Creative Photography (CCP)** [on Oct. 15](#) at the University of Arizona about a range of topics as part of a celebration of the one-year anniversary of his archive launching in October 2019. Kennerly won a Pulitzer Prize at the age of 25 and became President Gerald Ford's official White House photographer two years later. He joined the OPC in April 1992. A YouTube video of the talk [is available here](#).



OPC member **Ian Williams**, president of the **Foreign Press Association (FPA)**, got a mention during a U.N. press briefing for his statements about how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's "I" Visa proposals would severely affect journalists' work. Journalist James Bays, diplomatic editor for Al Jazeera, asked Stéphane Dujarric de la Rivière, the spokesperson of the Secretary-General on Homeland Security, during a press briefing [on Oct. 19](#) about the possible consequences. De la Rivière answered that he "asked that we check that exactly, and how it impacts journalists that cover the U.N., if it does," and pledged to answer Bays when he had a response.

## PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Former CBS News foreign correspondent **Bert Quint** and OPC Award winner died at the age of 90 in Washington DC. Quint spent three decades with CBS News, most of that time based in Rome, covering a range of posts including Cambodia and Vietnam. Walter Cronkite had dubbed Quint "The Fireman" because of his exceptional work under pressure. He was part of a CBS team that won the 1971 Ben Grauer Award. During a reunion of Vietnam War correspondents in 1994, he said "I think we can all recall those exhilarating moments, in the midst of feeling scared and miserable, when we felt intensely alive." His speech is archived on C-SPAN [here](#) (Quint starts at 19:00).

**Erika A. Niedowski**, a former Baltimore Sun foreign correspondent and Moscow bureau chief who was a 2004 Pulitzer Prize finalist and later worked for The Associated Press, died [on Oct. 2](#) of undetermined causes at Rhode Island Hospital. She died two days before her 47th birthday. A family member told the Sun that she had previously tested negative for COVID-19, but suffered coronavirus-like symptoms before her death. Niedowski took over as the Sun's Moscow bureau chief in 2005.

People Column October 2020



## New Resources

### RESOURCES

The **European Journalism Centre** has collected a one-stop PDF listing safety resources from the ACOS Alliance, Frontline Freelance Register and The Rory Peck Trust. The Safety Tool-Box for Freelance Journalists is [available for direct download here](#).

### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Oct. 26, the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** and the **International Journalists' Network (IJNet)** will host a panel on the impacts of the pandemic on journalism with Maria Ressa, CEO and executive editor of Rappler; Jay Rosen, media critic at New York University; Emily Bell, director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University; and Julie Posetti global director of research for the ICFJ. The panel is part of the ICFJ's Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. [Read more and register here](#).

Applications are open to attend a **Mediterranean Water and Journalism Forum** on Oct. 28 and 29, covering water scarcity and energy challenges – the session will be hosted online by the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation. [Read more and apply here](#).

The application deadline has been extended to Oct. 23 for road safety training offered by **ICFJ** and the **World Health Organization**. The training sessions are aimed at “deepening participants’ knowledge” and expanding access to experts on “critical – yet underreported – road safety issues.” [Read more and apply here](#).

## More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives here](#).
- **Columbia University's Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here](#).
- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only [Resources](#) page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at [chad@opcofamerica.org](mailto:chad@opcofamerica.org) for credentials.

OPC Resources Page

## Press Freedom Update

by Chad Bouchard

**Hatice Cengiz**, the fiancée of slain Saudi journalist **Jamal Khashoggi**, along with a human rights group that Khashoggi founded, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), filed a civil lawsuit in U.S. court [on Oct. 20](#) alleging that Saudi Arabia's crown prince ordered him killed. The suit seeks unspecified damages against Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and named more than 20 other Saudis as defendants.



The **James W. Foley Legacy Foundation** hosted its 6th annual **Foley Freedom Run** virtually on Oct. 17 with more than 1000 runners and walkers, passing its \$100,000 goal with more than \$117,000 raised. The annual event, held virtually for the first time, is held in honor of James W. Foley, a journalist and native of New Hampshire who was killed while held captive by ISIS 2014, "as well as all Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms."

**Human Right Watch (HRW)** [is calling](#) for Iraq to mobilize a long inactive committee charged with investigating assaults against journalists. HRW's call comes amid ongoing attacks, the burning of a Baghdad TV station in August, and no action taken since the government group formed in 2016. When protesters torched Dijlah TV station, which has links to Sunni politician Jamal Karbouli, on Aug. 31 for broadcasting a music concert on a holiday, officials responded by issuing an arrest warrant for Karbouli, claiming the concert broadcast offended religious views. HRW [reported](#) recently that the number of prosecutions of journalists under defamation and incitement laws in the country is on the rise, examining 33 cases involving the prosecution of 21 activists and 14 journalists who suffered attacks, 13 cases involving support of protests on social media, and 7 involving coverage of government corruption in mainstream or social media.

