



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin March 4, 2026



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this March edition of the Bulletin.

This month's issue is headlined by major announcements for the upcoming OPC Annual Awards Dinner. We are thrilled to share that the AP's Julie Pace will deliver the keynote, with NBC News' Richard Engel serving as our awards presenter. We also celebrate FRONTLINE's Raney Aronson-Rath, this year's President's Award winner, who will be introduced by Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Ressa. Additionally, we feature highlights from the 35th Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards, honoring the next generation of international correspondents.

Also inside: a critical look at press freedom as we examine why India's "3-hour Takedown Rule" is being called a kill switch for independent reporting. You will also find an update on the OPC's search for a new Executive Director and a tribute to the legendary Christopher S. Wren in our People Remembered section.

Finally, we have details on our March 17 event, "Exclusion Zones," focusing on how journalists are successfully evading coverage restrictions, along with a warm welcome to our newest members, the latest member updates, and a curated list of new resources.

We hope you find this issue informative and inspiring.

Please note that individual tickets to the OPC's Annual Awards dinner on April 20 [are on sale now](#).

*Honoring the Best
in International
Journalism*

Keynote Speaker

Julie Pace
Senior Vice President
Executive Editor
The Associated Press

President's Award Winner

Raney Aronson-Rath
Editor-in-Chief & Executive Producer
FRONTLINE

Introduced by
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Maria Ressa

Awards Presenter

Richard Engel
Chief Foreign Correspondent
NBC News

Cocktail Reception
sponsored by



Post-Dinner Reception
sponsored by

Bloomberg

TICKETS

Member \$295
Member's Guest \$295
(limit of one at this price)
Non-Member \$900

Mail a check to the
OPC
40 West 45th Street
New York, NY 10036
or buy them online at
bit.ly/OPCDinner2026

**YOU
ARE
INVITED**

CIPRIANI
25 Broadway, New York

BLACK TIE

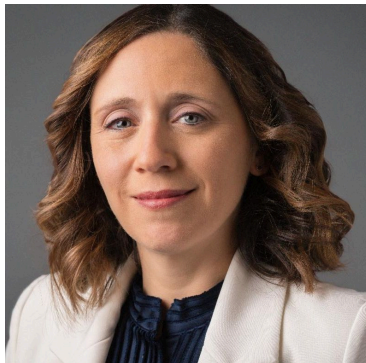
**87th Annual
Awards Dinner**
April 20, 2026

Tickets

For more information, contact OPC
Executive Director Patricia Kranz at
patricia@opcofamerica.org.



**OPC Annual Awards Dinner to Feature
Keynote from AP's Julie Pace; Awards
Presenter is Richard Engel of NBC News;
President's Award Winner is FRONTLINE's
Raney Aronson-Rath**



NEW YORK, Feb. 18, 2026 – Julie Pace, senior vice president and executive editor of The Associated Press, will be the keynote speaker at the Overseas Press Club of America's Annual Awards Dinner on April 20 at Cipriani 25 Broadway.

For more than eight decades, the OPC has stood as the institutional champion of international journalism, honoring the finest global reporting. Richard Engel, NBC News' Chief Foreign Correspondent, will present the 22 awards bestowed by the club this year for coverage of news beyond the borders of the United States in 2025.

Pace leads AP's global news coverage from more than 200 locations around the world. Since she assumed the role in 2021, AP has significantly expanded its digital news offerings for media and technology customers and guided the growth of AP's direct to consumer platforms.

Pace previously was Washington Bureau Chief for AP, directing the news organization's coverage of the presidency, politics and the U.S. government during President Donald Trump's first term in office.

"At a time when truth is under constant threat, Julie Pace has been a vocal and courageous champion for the public's right to know and the safety of journalists working in the world's most dangerous corners," said OPC President Scott Kraft, editor at large for the Los Angeles Times and OPC president. "We are honored to have this dedicated advocate for press freedom and excellence as our keynote speaker.

Engel has reported from the front lines of wars, revolutions, and political upheavals across the globe, including the Syrian civil war, Egypt's 2011 revolution, and conflicts in Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Recently, Engel has led NBC News' coverage of the Israel-Hamas war, reporting from inside Gaza, as well as the war in Ukraine following Russia's invasion and developments in Afghanistan after the U.S. troop withdrawal.

"Richard Engel's career is a testament to the vital importance of being on the ground to report history firsthand," Kraft said. "In every International crisis, he is on the scene, reporting the truth with courage and dedication. We're thrilled that he has agreed to give out this year's awards for the best work of the past year."

As previously [announced](#), Raney Aronson-Rath of FRONTLINE will receive the President's Award for lifetime achievement. She will be introduced by Maria Ressa, CEO of Rappler, winner of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, and professor at the Institute of Global Politics at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Rappler is a digital-only news site that is leading the fight for press freedom in the Philippines. Ressa was the keynote speaker at the OPC's 2024 Awards Dinner.

FRONTLINE and The Associated Press jointly won the OPC's 2023 Peter Jennings Award for the film "20 Days in Mariupol," which also won an Academy Award and a BAFTA. Another joint AP-FRONTLINE project, "Putin's Attack on Ukraine: Documenting War Crimes," won the OPC's 2022 Roy Rowan Award. That same year, AP's "Erasing Mariupol" won the OPC's Hal Boyle Award.

During Pace's tenure, the AP has been awarded three Pulitzer Prizes.

Engel has received multiple duPont, Peabody, and News & Documentary Emmy Awards. He recently received the Radio Television Digital News Association's John F. Hogan Award, a Sigma Delta Chi Award for his coverage of Afghanistan, and an Edward R. Murrow Award for reporting on the January 6 Capitol attack.

Photo above, left to right: Julie Pace, Richard Engel and Raney Aronson-Rath.

35th Annual OPC Foundation Scholar Awards



Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET

Place: 731 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY

The Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Awards are back to celebrate a new class of global storytellers. On March 25, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., OPC members and friends are invited to join the OPC Foundation at Bloomberg for a cocktail and networking reception. We will gather to honor 18 exceptional journalists, committed to excellence in international reporting and global storytelling.

The 2026 Scholar Award recipients are:

Reva Abrol
Columbia University
Graduate School of
Journalism

Gibran Caroline Boyce
Craig Newmark Graduate
School of Journalism at
CUNY

Will Fitzpatrick
New York University

Maggie Grether
Yale University

Fiona Kelliher
London School of
Economics

Josie Reich
Yale University

Yurii Stasiuk
Yale University

Lottie Tellyn
Columbia University
Graduate School of
Journalism

Hyeyoon Cho

University of California,
Berkeley

Kelly Liu

University of California,
Berkeley

Pau Torres Pagès

New York University

Hanna Davis

New York University

Maggie McCabe

Davidson College

Seven Wu

University of California,
Berkeley

Sonya Dymova

Northwestern University

Ben Raab

Yale University

Jinger Zhang

Craig Newmark Graduate
School of Journalism at
CUNY

Hamza Fahmy

University of California,
Berkeley

Their work spans continents and issues from political accountability to human rights, conflict, climate, and beyond. Read more about their backgrounds, aspirations, and reporting focus here:

<https://www.overseaspressclubfoundation.org/2026-opcf-winners>

The future of global reporting is very much in the hands of these scholars, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements and connecting with our community of media professionals. Drinks and appetizers will be served.

Please [pre-register](#) for the event before March 15. [Donations to the Foundation](#) are always appreciated to help support the next generation of correspondents. For those who cannot attend in person, we invite you to catch up on the work of previous winners on the OPC YouTube Channel. Please email foundation@opcofamerica.org with any questions.

RSVP

The names in each column are in the same order as the row of photos displayed above.

OPC Seeks Executive Director

Location: New York City

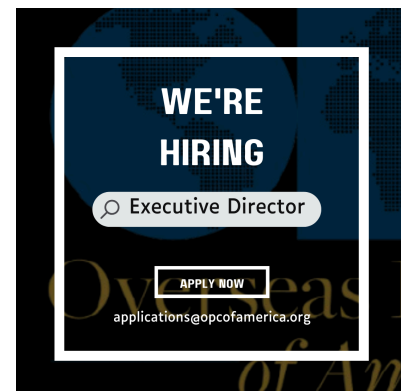
Reports To: Board of Governors

Type: Full-Time, New York City

Expected salary range, depending on experience:
\$120,000-\$130,000. No benefits. Bonus eligible.

Apply: Submit a resume and cover letter to
applications@opcofamerica.org

Deadline: June 1



The Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) seeks a dynamic and experienced leader to serve as Executive Director, overseeing the organization's mission to promote excellence in international journalism and foster connections among foreign correspondents, editors, and media professionals.

Founded in 1939, the OPC is the oldest and most prestigious association of international journalists in the United States. Its mission is to uphold the highest standards in foreign reporting, support press freedom, and foster a global community of journalists. The OPC annually honors excellence in international journalism through its prestigious awards and provides networking, educational, and advocacy resources to members worldwide.

Position Overview:

The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of the Overseas Press Club, reporting to the president and responsible for strategic leadership, operational and financial management, member engagement, and representing the Club to the public and key stakeholders. The role requires a seasoned professional with deep understanding of international media, strong business acumen, and passion for supporting journalists who cover global affairs. This position manages a part-time employee.

[Read Full Job Description](#)

Upcoming Events

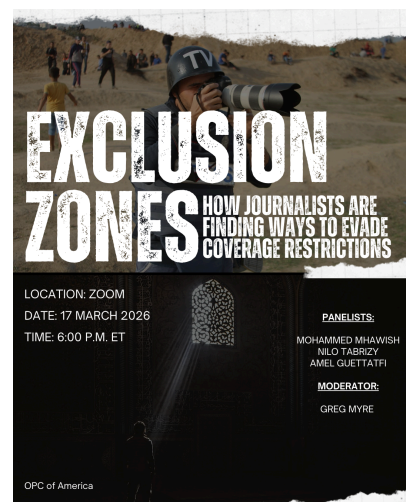
March 17: Exclusion Zones- How Journalists are Finding Ways to Evade Coverage Restrictions

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Zoom

Governments go to great lengths to keep journalists away from the frontlines of many conflicts. Join us for a conversation on Exclusion Zones, where we'll hear from reporters who find ways around these restrictions.

They include **Mohammed Mhawish**, a Palestinian from Gaza who's covered the war there from both inside and outside the territory. **Nilo Tabrizy** is an investigative journalist who's worked extensively with open-source material to report on Iran for The Washington Post and The New York Times. **Amel Guettatfi** is an Emmy Award-



winning Algerian-American documentary filmmaker who's reported from Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Russia and the Congo.

The panel will be moderated by NPR National Security Correspondent **Greg Myre**.

RSVP Now

People Remembered: Christopher S. Wren

By **Cathy Manso**

Christopher S. Wren, a veteran foreign correspondent for The New York Times for nearly three decades, died on Sunday at his home in Thetford, Vermont, at 89.



Wren was a highly decorated journalist throughout his long career. In 1969, while at Look magazine, he received the [OPC award for Best Magazine Reporting From Abroad](#). During his 28-year tenure at The Times, he served as bureau chief in Moscow (1974–1977), Cairo (1977–1980), Beijing (1981–1984), and Johannesburg (1988–1992), providing essential dispatches from the front lines of the Cold War and the end of apartheid.

Joining The Times in 1973 after nearly a decade at Look magazine, Wren covered the civil rights struggle in the South and the Vietnam War. And many still study his coverage of the trial of [Ramzi Yousef](#), the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Born on February 22, 1936, in Hollywood, California, Wren began his academic journey at the Trinity-Pawling School before graduating from Dartmouth College in 1957. He continued his education at the University of Edinburgh on a Rotary fellowship and received a master's degree from the Columbia School of Journalism in 1961. He spent years at Look magazine before transitioning to the metropolitan desk at The Times.

By providing a rare window into the world's most closed societies, Wren elevated the craft of foreign reporting to a high art, leaving a lasting legacy for any correspondent venturing into the unknown.

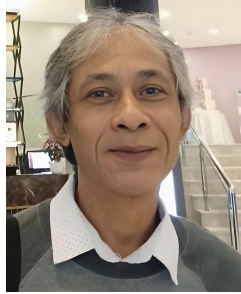
[Read more about his career and legacy in the New York Times' obituary here.](#)



Welcome New Members

Arpan Rachman

Reporter
GlobalVoices.org
Jakarta, Indonesia
Active Overseas



Paul Haven

VP & Head of
Global
Newsgathering
Associated Press
New York
Active Resident



Avril Silva

Student
Journalist
NYU
New York
Student



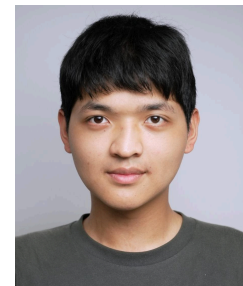
Philip Wood

Writer, Producer
Freelance
Maine
Active Non-Resident



Callum Foote

Fellow
Columbia Journalism Investigations
New York
Student



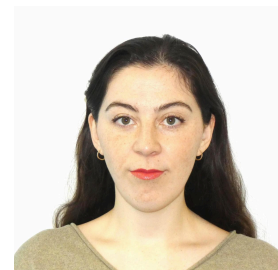
Faisal Bashir

Photo Journalist
Freelance
India
Active Overseas
Young (29 and
under)



Rose Gilbert

Reporter
WPLN Nashville
Public Radio
Tennessee
Young Active
Resident



Mark Schoofs

Investigation Editor
Reuters
Mexico
Active Overseas



Samuel Wands

Graduate
Student
NYU
New York
Student



Umar Farooq

Multimedia Journalist
Freelance
India
Active Overseas



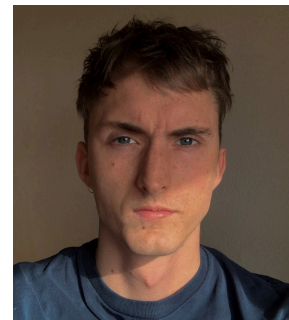
People by Cathy Manso

SCHOLARS

Daniel Shailer, the 2023 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Fellowship winner, swept the [Highlands & Islands Press Ball and Media Awards](#), taking home four trophies for his work with The Shetland Times. Most notably, Shailer was named the Diageo Journalist of the Year, alongside honors for Business Reporter, Young Reporter, and Best Feature of the Year. Head judge Nicola McAlley praised Shailer as an "exceptionally gifted reporter," citing his "sharp news judgement and ability to dig deep into stories that truly resonate with local communities." Since his OPC Foundation fellowship with the Associated Press in Mexico City, Shailer has established himself as a rising star in Scottish journalism, blending a tireless work ethic with a distinct flair for storytelling.



Euan Ward, recipient of the 2022 OPC Foundation Rick Davis-Deb Amos Scholarship, continues his deep coverage as a contributor for The New York Times. A former Times international reporting fellow, Ward was previously based in Beirut reporting for The Guardian and CNN. His recent dispatch, "[Life in Beirut Beneath the Drones](#)," captures the psychological toll of Israel's air campaign. Ward describes the "mechanical whir" of drones as an "inescapable fixture" and an "intermittent soundtrack to daily life" in the Lebanese capital. Even a year after a cease-fire, he writes, the "unrelenting buzz" serves as a vibrating reminder to residents that, despite official agreements, "the war never really ended."



2022 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner **Humza Jilani** is currently serving as the Pakistan correspondent for the Financial Times based in Islamabad. He joined the FT in November 2023 as an editor on the world news desk in London, where he focused on the global economy. Previously, he completed internships with The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Reuters, and Foreign Policy. His latest dispatch for the FT investigates the lives of millions

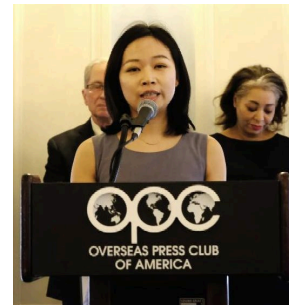


of Afghan refugees returning to Taliban-run Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran. [Read more about it here.](#)

Noelle Harff, the 2024 Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholar Award winner, has been hired by the San Diego Union-Tribune as a technology reporter. Her latest reporting for the San Diego Union-Tribune serves as a "wake-up call" for the U.S. biotech industry. The [piece explores](#) how China is transitioning from a hub for cheap research to a leader in genuine pharmaceutical innovation, highlighted by record-breaking licensing deals with global giants like AstraZeneca and Pfizer in early 2026.



Echo Jing Wang recipient of the 2019 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship, has joined the Reuters deals team as editor-in-charge of M&A coverage. Previously the head of Reuters' IPO coverage, Wang recently broke what could be the largest M&A deal ever: SpaceX's acquisition of xAI. Her high-profile reporting also revealed OpenAI's plans to go public and the sale of OnlyFans. Wang joined Reuters through an OPC Foundation fellowship. Originally a travel writer for Lonely Planet from outside Shanghai, she has also reported for NPR's The Indicator and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.



UPDATES

Miceál O'Hurley, PhD, editor of *Diplomacy in Ireland*, has coauthored a timely new volume, [Wolves in Sheep's Clothing: The Russian Orthodox Church's Threat to European Security and Democracy](#) (Columbia University Press, 2025). The book examines the church's devolution into a state intelligence instrument and a syndicate of social influence serving Vladimir Putin's imperial ambitions across Europe. An internationally acclaimed mediator in conflict resolution, O'Hurley brings a multi-disciplinary background in theology, philosophy, and law to his analysis. Beyond his editorial work, he serves as the Envoy of the Royal House of Ghassan to the United Nations and has been widely honored for his humanitarian efforts sustaining Christian communities in the Levant. This latest work follows his previous best-seller, *The Passionate Steward*.



OPC Governnor **Laura Zelenko**, Bloomberg News' global head of editorial standards and senior executive editor, recently explored the "quiet quitting" of U.S. assets in her latest newsletter. Zelenko highlights a growing trend among leading asset owners to diversify away from U.S. bonds amid "uneasy times" and ballooning deficits. While the U.S. still accounts for roughly 70% of benchmarks like the MSCI World Index—making it "virtually impossible to



avoid"—the article notes that even the world's largest sovereign wealth funds are being warned to brace for geopolitical turmoil. [Read more here.](#)

OPC Governor **John Avlon** recently published a critique in Rolling Stone titled "War Is Peace: Trump's Regime-Change Reversal." Analyzing U.S. and Israeli strikes on Tehran, Avlon dismantles the "Donald the Dove" narrative, calling the administration's foreign policy a "sycophantic kakistocracy." He argues that exiting the Iran nuclear deal created a "self-inflicted state of emergency," leading to regime change without a viable stabilization plan. Avlon warns that this "might makes right" approach establishes a dangerous global precedent, demolishing American moral authority in favor of chaos and crony capitalism. [Read more here.](#)



India's 3-hour Takedown Rule is a Kill Switch for Press Freedom

By Pakhi Dixit

As of 20 February 2026, India has imposed a three-hour compliance window for platform takedowns under amended IT Rules. Any intermediary hosting controversial content—including news platforms—now has exactly 180 minutes to comply with a government takedown notice before losing Section 79 safe harbour immunity.

This isn't merely regulation; it's an operational kill switch on press freedom. For independent newsrooms relying on platform distribution, judicial review becomes impossible within such a window, forcing a "delete first, question never" posture. The broad definition of "Synthetically Generated Information" provides convenient pretext to scrub investigative data visualisations or conflict reporting under national security claims.

[Continue Reading](#)

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **Journalist's Resource** site published a tipsheet on Feb. 12 for journalists reporting on crime data. The piece includes key facts and data sources to assist on "how to use a new crime data repository, where to turn for numbers since federal funding for public safety research has been gutted, and how to use data to both check statements from public officials and identify crime trends." [Read more here.](#)

The Coalition for Women in Journalism and WIJ Institute released the report, "[Safety & Reporting Protocol for Journalists Covering ICE Actions](#)," on Feb. 3. The report reviews risk assessments, situational awareness, legal safeguards, and press freedom recommendations. [Read more here.](#)

IREX's Risk Mitigation Support is a vital rapid-response mechanism offering immediate, free, and confidential assistance to media and human rights professionals. Designed for those protecting freedom of expression, this service provides critical support in physical safety, digital security, psychosocial resilience, and risk mitigation planning. Whether you are currently facing challenges or anticipating risks due to your work, IREX typically responds within 24 hours to help you navigate threats proactively. This support is available for both individuals and organizations aiming to strengthen their safety and well-being. We encourage early engagement to address concerns before they escalate. To access this essential resource, please contact contact@risksupport.net.

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **Incubator for Media Education and Development** and the **International Journalism Forum** are offering a unique program designed specifically for journalists and reporters with little or no experience in investigative journalism. The objective is to empower journalists to undertake thorough investigations, fostering a media environment where truth prevails, and the public remains informed and engaged. By the end of this program, journalists will be equipped with the tools and know-how to conduct their own investigations. [Apply here](#) by March 6 at midnight US EDT or [click here](#) for more details.

The Jordan Center for Journalism Advocacy and Innovation is convening national thought leaders for a one-day event to address one of the most pressing challenges facing our democracy: restoring trust in American journalism. This event is designed for anyone, including civic leaders, policymakers, journalists, students and educators. Join the symposium at the University of Mississippi on April 17, for "How the News Media Can Regain Public Trust." [Click here learn more and RSVP.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Protect Democracy is seeking an **Editorial Specialist** to join their exceptional in-house editorial team. Formed in 2016, Protect Democracy mission is urgent: to prevent democracy from declining into authoritarianism. In this fast-paced, writing-heavy role, you will translate legal and policy expertise into accessible content for our flagship newsletter, *If you can keep it*, as well as their website and social media platforms. The ideal candidate brings exceptional writing skills and experience distilling complex policy issues for a broad audience. You can collaborate with a team of 120+ experts to shape public debate and advance actionable insights. They encourage candidates from across the political and ideological spectrum who are passionately committed to preserving democratic

norms to apply. **To Apply**, please submit a resume, cover letter, and a 1-3 page writing sample on a policy or legal topic via our [application form](#).

Applications are now open for the Spring 2026 **McGraw Fellowships for Business Journalism**, an initiative of the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY. The Fellowships provide experienced journalists with a grant up to \$15,000 and the editorial support needed to produce deeply reported enterprise and investigative stories that “Follow the Money.” The deadline to apply is April 13, 2026. Previous McGraw Fellows have explored a wide variety of issues -- and you don't need to be a business reporter to apply! Many have been generalists, or covered stories in areas such as health care, immigration or the environment that have a strong economic or financial angle. The Fellowship is open to both freelance and staff journalists in all forms of media with at least five years' professional experience. Journalists from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. If you'd like to learn more, go to www.mcgrawcenter.org or contact us at mcgrawcenter@journalism.cuny.edu.

Nominations are open for the **2026 Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism Award**. The deadline to apply is March 31. The award honors the life and work of Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photographer and IWMF Courage in Journalism Award winner Anja Niedringhaus, with a \$1 million gift from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. [Read more and apply heree](#).

More Resources

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Cathy Manso at cathy@opcofamerica.org.

OPC Resources Page



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