

Philadelphia Society of Professional Journalists

Public Service

FIRST PLACE

Staff, Philadelphia Inquirer

“Justice Delayed, Dismissed, Denied”

Judge’s Comments: Wide-ranging coverage of the sad state of the Philadelphia justice system. Solid reporting, attention to detail and excellent writing. Calls attention to a problem that affects everyone, in one way or another.

SECOND PLACE

Matt Katz, Philadelphia Inquirer

“The Promise and the Price: How the State Takeover Foiled Camden”

Judge’s Comments: Very well-written and documented set of stories about how a state’s takeover of a city did more harm than good.

Investigative Reporting

SECOND PLACE

Mark Fazlollah and Joseph Tanfani, Philadelphia Inquirer

“Tax Travesty Chaos and Cronyism Inside the BRT”

Judge’s Comments: Mark Fazlollah and Joseph Tanfani completely undress the Board of Revision of Taxes, showing just how broken and dysfunctional Philadelphia’s assessment system is—and has been. Their reporting provides a tremendous public service by exposing just how politicized board appointments and assessment decision had become—and those moves ultimately cheated the city’s taxpayers out of tens of millions of dollars.

Ongoing News Coverage (circulation more than 75,000)

FIRST PLACE

Craig R. McCoy and Emily Lounsberry, Philadelphia Inquirer

“Guilty on All Counts”

Judge’s Comments: Amazing story about a politician caught with his hand in too many cookie jars. Excellent writing, reporting and meticulous attention to detail over the time this story was covered really made it stand out. Together, the stories read like a non-fiction bestseller.

Deadline or Spot News Story (circ. more than 75,000)

THIRD PLACE

Bernard Fernandez, Philadelphia Daily News

“Never Had a Prayer”

Magazine Story

SECOND PLACE

Lini S. Kadaba, Philadelphia Inquirer
“Hard-Core Green”

Judge’s Comments: Great, timely topic. “Dark green.” Love it. Kadaba has a gift for description and an eye for the details that bring a story to life.

THIRD PLACE

Melissa Dribben, Philadelphia Inquirer
“Just a Day’s Work for a Hero”

Judge’s Comments: It could not have been easy to get this officer to open up about his tragedy – especially when due to previous media coverage. This was a very nice profile that showed excellent reporting chops. Loved that you reported that he “downed” a multivitamin before going to work that day. Details win awards.

Non-deadline Writing (circ. more than 75,000)

FIRST PLACE

Carolyn Davis, Philadelphia Inquirer
“The Hidden Home Front”

Judge’s Comments: A piercing look at a side of war often overlooked, painstakingly reported and elegantly written.

SECOND PLACE

Kia Gregory, Philadelphia Inquirer
“A daunting struggle for a future”

Judge’s Comments: An ageless take on, alas, an ageless problem.

Local Column

FIRST PLACE

Monica Yant Kinney, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge’s Comments: Best in a crowded field of very good local columnists. Yant Kinney’s entry is a well-rounded selection of columns that represents the breadth a local columnist should strive for: thundering against corruption in the Fumo columns; poking holes in hypocrisy and advocating for the voiceless in the Michael Vick piece; highlighting a colorful and beloved local institution in the Shirt Corner feature. Nice work on all.

SECOND PLACE

Karen Heller, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge’s Comments: Heller has an enviable ear for a finely-turned phrase, which she brings to bear in this strong collection of columns that call out government officials at all levels for things they are doing that they shouldn’t and things they aren’t doing but should. Well-reported and excellently written.

Business Story

SECOND PLACE

Jane M. Von Bergen and Alfred Lubrano, Philadelphia Inquirer
"Jobs--At a Loss"

Judge's Comments: Only newspapers can go to this depth in exploring how the recession has vaporized jobs and how that has hurt the region and the state. These stories over eight months graphically show how the recession has affected people and raises the pertinent questions and issues that policymakers should consider.

THIRD PLACE

Maria Panaritis, Philadelphia Inquirer
"How he rescued Boscov's"

Judge's Comments: This is how to do a profile, business or otherwise. Telling stories shared by a variety of people who know Al Boscov help everyone better understand the man who through force of will seized his family's business from the brink. Combined with apt facts, this was a great read.

Health and Science Story

FIRST PLACE

Michel Vitez, Philadelphia Inquirer
"That Boy's Dead"

Judge's Comments: Amazing story of young man's recovery against all odds. Well-written, well-documented and a great read. Lots of attention to medical detail, as well.

Political Reporting

FIRST PLACE

Thomas Fitzgerald, Philadelphia Inquirer
"The Mood on Main Street"

Judge's Comments: Thomas Fitzgerald provides an up close and personal look at the personal nature of politics today, how the economy crisis has touched so many and how those experiences have shaped—and changed—the way many everyday people view politics and our current president. Political reporting deserves reporting of this depth because our political landscape is so varied, so complex and ever changing.

Sports Story (circ. more than 75,000)

FIRST PLACE

Mike Jensen, Philadelphia Inquirer
"Tackling the Pain"

Judge's Comments: Mike Jensen takes a comprehensive look at how a former Eagles lineman became addicted to painkillers and ended up facing criminal charges over forged prescriptions. The story tells readers the lengths that some players will go in order to play in the NFL.

Sports Column (circ. more than 75,000)

SECOND PLACE

Bob Ford, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Newsworthy topics with an original style of writing that added drama and intensity to the stories.

THIRD PLACE

Phil Sheridan, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Overall very good, easy to follow and well-written stories. They were written in a way that grabs the attention of the reader. Enjoyable read.

Editorial

FIRST PLACE

Paul Davies, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Davies writes just what you want to read in hard-hitting editorials that nail politicians and judges.

THIRD PLACE

Russell Cooke, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Cooke presents reasoned, solid arguments

Editorial Columnist

FIRST PLACE:

Paul Davies, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Davies nails the topic every time with straightforward writing, which gives readers a solid foundation to form their own opinions.

THIRD PLACE

Trudy Rubin, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Rubin is a solid reporter. We know she cares about her topic, otherwise she would not be writing about it. But we would like to read a little more of her opinion.

Editorial Cartoon

FIRST PLACE

Tony Auth, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Tony Auth employs a simplicity of line work that belies the artistic skill he employs to create strong commentary and insight into the events of the day. Congratulations.

SECOND PLACE

Tom Stiglich, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: The Inquirer should be commended for using the work of two talented editorial cartoonists. Tom Stiglich uses his cartooning skill to refine the issues he addresses into creative editorial statements that the reader can identify with.

Criticism

THIRD PLACE

John Timpane, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: Down-to-earth writing and interesting perspectives.

News Headline

FIRST PLACE

Steve Elliott, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Blue collar fraying in Penna.", "Going to bat for old player", "Hello, I must be going: The short-term senator"

Judge's Comments: Simple, straightforward but clever news headlines

SECOND PLACE

Miriam Tauueu, Philadelphia Inquirer

"For legend, no news is good news", "Top shelf meets bottom line", "Making room, but not nearly enough"

Judge's Comments: News heads that simply and accurately describe their stories

Features Headline

SECOND PLACE:

Virginia Delavan, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Insatiable APP-etite", "New crime museum puts you on the case", "Curb your self-absorption"

Judge's Comments: Clever, enjoyable and clear

THIRD PLACE:

Janice Ward, Philadelphia Inquirer

"The wolves are at the multiplex door", "Martha busy with glitter, Twitter", "'Fox' knocks your sox off"

Judge's Comments: Fun eye-catchers

Sports Headline

SECOND PLACE:

Mike Engel, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Where the boys are: A look at the playoffs", "Temptations in Motown, but not the musical kind", "Amid Kansas fields, Morris twins take root"

Judge's Comments: Clever, clear sports headlines.

THIRD PLACE:

Pete Clarey, Philadelphia Inquirer

"A perfect Mets-Phils trade: Insults", "As Vick sips, injured Shawn Andrews stirs", "This depth chart is Birdbath deep"

Judge's Comments: Another good set of fun but clear sports headlines.

Page Design

FIRST PLACE

Kevin Burkett, Philadelphia Inquirer

Judge's Comments: "Inviting pages that are readable and clear, yet still innovative."

SECOND PLACE

John Duchneskie, Philadelphia Inquirer

THIRD PLACE

Sterling Chen, Philadelphia Inquirer

News Photo

FIRST PLACE

Michael Wirtz, Philadelphia Inquirer

"A tough climb for jobs"

THIRD PLACE

Tom Gralish, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Rodin's classic"

Feature Photo

FIRST PLACE

Laurence Kesterson, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Silent sky, hallowed ground"

Sports Photo

FIRST PLACE

Ron Cortez, Philadelphia Inquirer

"Two-out lightning"

SECOND PLACE

Sarah J. Glover, Philadelphia Daily News
“Baseball celebration”

Robert F. Fleischhauer Portrait Award

Online Journalism

Features

SECOND PLACE

Carrie Rickey, Philadelphia Inquirer

Flickgirl--Carrie Rickey's Blog

Judge's Comments: Well-written and funny. An entertaining blog about culture and entertainment.