

# Ian T. Shearn

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## Professional Experience

### Freelance Journalist/Consultant

2009 - present

- **Freelance** pieces for *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, *ABC News 20/20*, *Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Dallas Morning News*, *New Jersey Monthly*. Grant recipient from The Fund for Investigative Journalism, The Nation Institute and the Food and Environmental Reporting Network
- Strategic marketing **consultant** for public and private sector clients, including the Edward J. Bloustein School of Public Policy and Planning (Rutgers University), Humane Society of the U.S., U.S. Strong, NJ Reapportionment Commission.
- **Producer/Director/Writer** for film documentary, *When We Were Hela*.

### The Star-Ledger, Newark, NJ

1998 -2008

#### Investigative Reporter 2004 -2008

- Pulitzer nominee for a series exposing Newark corruption, resulting in the indictment and conviction of Newark Mayor Sharpe James.
- Several investigative pieces on political corruption in Union County, NJ, leading to state and federal probes.
- Investigative piece on fundraising practices of then NJ U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie, and his brother.

#### Statehouse Bureau Chief 1999 -2004

- Supervised the largest statehouse bureau in the country.
- Led Pulitzer winning statehouse coverage of the resignation of NJ Gov. James McGreevey.

- Supervised several award winning investigative pieces, spanning three governors.

**Night Metro Editor 1998 –1999**

- Supervised three editors and several reporters, responsible for page-one stories, breaking news and rewrite.

**The Herald News, Passaic, NJ****1995 -1998****Executive Editor**

- Resuscitated a struggling, ineffective daily into a respectable publication.
- Oversaw comprehensive graphic redesign and won more writing awards than any paper in the state.
- Sent on four-month special assignment in 1997 as Acting Executive Editor to restructure Lowell Sun news operation in Massachusetts after acquisition by owner of the Herald-News.

**The Houston Post, Houston, TX****1992 -1995****Special Projects Editor**

- Led coverage of the Branch Davidian siege near Waco, TX.
- Hired as assistant metro editor, coordinating political coverage.

**The Herald-News, Passaic, NJ****1995 -1998****Executive Editor**

- Hired as reporter, promoted to Metro Editor and then Editorial Page Editor before assuming the top editorial position.

- Led investigation that led to the federal indictment and conviction of a Passaic mayor

**Freelance, New York, NY**

- Head researcher for New York Times best-seller, *Johnson v. Johnson*, as a result of a story I broke at The Trenton Times.
- Unit Publicist for feature film, *Bright Lights, Big City*.

**The Times, Trenton, NJ****1983 -1986**

- Police reporter, local government reporter, court reporter.
- Broke national story regarding the will contest of the Johnson & Johnson family.
- Traveled throughout Central America on special assignment to cover civil war in El Salvador.

**The Trentonian, Trenton, NJ****1981 -1983**

- Police reporter. Left to work for Trenton Times.

**Education/Affiliations****The College of New Jersey, Hillwood Lakes, NJ**

- Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, minor in Spanish. Left 18 credits shy to pursue newspaper career. Returned in 2009 to earn degree.
- Adjunct Professor, Rutgers University. 1999
- Guest Faculty, Poynter Institute, 1997

References and writing samples upon request.