

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Robert Rosenthal, CIR Executive Director

An award-winning journalist with nearly 40 years of experience, Robert has worked for some of the most respected newspapers in the country, including the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and, most recently, the *San Francisco Chronicle*. As a reporter, his awards include the Overseas Press Club Award for magazine writing, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for distinguished foreign correspondence, and the National Association of Black Journalists Award for Third World Reporting. He was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in international reporting. Robert worked for 22 years at the *Inquirer*, becoming its executive editor in 1998. He became managing editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* in late 2002, and joined the Center for Investigative Reporting as executive director in 2008.

Louis Freedberg, Director

Louis was formerly executive director of the California Media Collaborative, whose goal was to devise new strategies for coverage of key California issues. The Collaborative joined forces with CIR in May 2009. Until August 2007, Louis worked at the *San Francisco Chronicle* in a variety of roles: columnist and member of its editorial board; Washington correspondent during the presidency of Bill Clinton; and higher education reporter. He was a senior editor at *Pacific News Service*, now *New America Media*, where he established and directed *Pacific Youth Press*. He was the founder and director of *Youth News* in Oakland, which trained high school students as radio news reporters. He has written and reported for a wide range of publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *National Public Radio*. He has reported from diverse regions of the world, including Southern Africa, the former Soviet Union and Central America. He was the recipient of a John S. Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford and an Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship. He has a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from UC Berkeley and a B.A. in psychology from Yale University.

Mark Katches, Editorial Director

Mark is the editorial director for California Watch. Previously, he was the deputy managing editor for projects and investigations at the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* where he directed and edited the newspaper's pension project that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. In 2009, he edited a series of stories about dangerous chemicals that was named a finalist for the Pulitzer and also won the George Polk Award, a Scripps-Howard National Journalism Award and the John B. Oakes award. At the *Orange County Register*, Mark twice managed projects that were finalists for the Pulitzer. In 2001, he was part of a reporting team that won the Gerald Loeb, Sigma Delta Chi and IRE awards for a series of stories detailing the rising profits from the human tissue trade.

Robert Salladay, Senior Editor

Robert has covered California politics and government for more than a decade, including most recently as a reporter and blogger for the *Los Angeles Times*. His coverage has included the 2000 presidential recount, the California recall election, the administration of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and numerous analytical and investigative pieces about the state. A California native and graduate of U.C. Berkeley, he received a master's degree from Northwestern University and began his career as a reporter for the *Fremont Argus*, followed by the *Oakland Tribune*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times*. While at the *Times*, he ran the successful Political Muscle blog.

Agustin Armendariz, Data Analyst

Agustin is an investigative reporter specializing in data analysis for California Watch. He previously worked at the San Diego Union-Tribune where he was a database specialist on the watchdog reporting team. While there, he delved into city finances, redevelopment projects and foreclosures. He earned his masters in journalism from American University in Washington, D.C. Agustin worked at the Center for Public Integrity and was a contributor to the publication *The Buying of the President* (2004) which was a New York Times bestseller.

Chase Davis, Reporter, Money and Politics

Chase is an investigative reporter focusing on money and politics for California Watch. Chase previously worked at the *Des Moines Register*, where he had written recently about how weak standards and deception hurt Iowa's ability to monitor air pollution. Before that, Chase worked as an investigative reporter at the *Houston Chronicle*, where he uncovered waste and fraud within NASA and exposed glaring ethics issues within the nation's third-largest county government. He is also a partner in the media-technology firm Hot Type Consulting, alongside Matt Waite, senior news technologist for the *St. Petersburg Times*. Chase is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

Christina Jewett, Reporter, Health and Welfare

Christina is an investigative reporter focusing on health and welfare for California Watch. At ProPublica, she wrote about a chain of psychiatric hospitals plagued by substandard care and about the FDA's failures to regulate medical-device safety. Her stories for ProPublica have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. A native of Indiana, Christina previously worked at the *Sacramento Bee*. Her reporting on criminal justice has been honored with awards from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the National Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Corey G. Johnson, Reporter, Education (K-12)

Corey is an investigative reporter focusing on K-12 education for California Watch. He came from the *Fayetteville Observer* in North Carolina where he covered higher education and criminal justice issues. A native of Atlanta, Corey has exposed secrecy, mismanagement, corruption and abuse of power inside governmental, university and police organizations. He is a graduate of Florida A&M University.

Mark S. Luckie, Multimedia Producer

Mark is a multimedia producer for California Watch. Previously, he worked as a multimedia producer for Entertainment Weekly, the Los Angeles Times and the Contra Costa Times. He is a former crime and justice reporter for the Daytona Beach News-Journal. Mark also is the author of 10,000 Words, a multimedia blog dedicated to trends in technical journalism.

Erica Perez, Reporter, Education (Higher Ed)

Erica is an investigative reporter focusing on higher education for California Watch. She came from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, where she covered the University of Wisconsin system, the Wisconsin Technical College system and private colleges. A California native, Erica previously covered K-12 education for the *Orange County Register*. Before earning her master's degree in journalism, she taught high school English for two years. Erica graduated from Stanford University and the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication.

Lisa Pickoff-White, Multimedia Producer

Lisa is a multimedia producer for California Watch. Before that, she was a print, multimedia and radio reporter in the Bay Area and Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared in the

Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, National Journal, KALX, Bay Guardian and UPI. She won a 2009 Online News Association (ONS) Award in the student competition and also was part of the Chauncey Bailey Project team that won two ONA Awards and an Investigative Reporters and Editors Award. She recently graduated from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism with an emphasis in new media.

Lance Williams, Senior Reporter, Money and Politics

Lance is an investigative reporter focusing on money and politics for California Watch. He previously worked for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, where he helped break many of the newspaper's exclusive stories on the BALCO steroid scandal. With Mark Fainaru-Wada, he wrote *Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO and the Steroids Scandal that Rocked Professional Sports*. In 2006, the reporting duo was held in contempt of court and threatened with 18 months in federal prison for refusing to testify about their confidential sources on BALCO. The subpoenas were later withdrawn. Lance has been a reporter in California for 34 years. He has won the George Polk Award, the Scripps Howard First Amendment Award and the Gerald Loeb Award, among other honors. He graduated from Brown University and the University of California-Berkeley. Before joining the *Chronicle*, he worked at the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Oakland Tribune* and the *Hayward Daily Review*.