



Our Mission:

Founded in 1977, the Center for Investigative Reporting is the nation's oldest nonprofit investigative news organization. Our mission is to produce and distribute multimedia reporting that reveals injustice and abuse of power, has an impact, and is relevant to people's lives.

CIR conducts national and international reporting on stories of critical importance, including the environment, money and politics, health care, immigration, human rights, and government oversight. In 2009, CIR launched California Watch to produce watchdog reporting on California; with a 13-member news team, it is now the largest investigative unit in the state.

Our History:

CIR was founded by a small group of investigative reporters, including Lowell Bergman (*60 Minutes*, *The New York Times*, *PBS Frontline*, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism), David Weir (KQED, *Wired Digital*, *Salon*, *Excite@Home*, *MyWire*, *Rolling Stone*, *Mother Jones*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*, among others), and Dan Noyes, who was on the CIR staff for 30 years, serving as reporter, editorial director, and, on a few occasions, acting executive director. Their goal was to create a home where investigative reporters could thrive.

Hundreds of journalists have worked with CIR over the years, on staff and as contractors, producing reports that have reached millions here and overseas, on television, in print, on the radio and through the web. Our stories have appeared in outlets such as *60 Minutes*, *PBS Frontline*, *NPR*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Politico*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Mother Jones*, *Salon.com*, *ABC News*, *CNN*, and many others.

CIR's original mission and goals remains the same, but we are thinking more ambitiously than ever before. As newsrooms shrink across the state and the nation, CIR is uniquely positioned to ensure that credible in-depth journalism, crucial to a functioning democracy, flourishes. Building on its long track record, CIR is working to develop a sustainable model for investigative reporting that takes advantage of cutting edge storytelling, high-impact collaborations, and revenue producing strategies to provide citizens – local and global – with actionable information.

Our Impact:

CIR stories have received numerous journalism awards including the Alfred I. du Pont-Columbia University Silver Baton, George Polk Award, Emmy Award, Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, and National Magazine Award for Reporting Excellence.

More importantly, its reports have sparked congressional hearings and legislation, United Nations resolutions, public interest lawsuits and change in corporate policies.

Our Approach:

Journalism demands flexibility to follow a story where it leads, but as a small news organization, CIR attempts to ferret out the most promising investigations. Generally, stories we pursue will:

- Reflect CIR's core mission by offering strong potential to reveal injustice or abuse of power.
- Add new information, a fresh angle or depth of reporting not found elsewhere.
- Have broad relevance and potential for impact.

Whenever possible, we tell our stories through multiple media, use data and documents to localize the stories, and distribute our reporting as widely as possible through partnerships with multiple news organizations and social media tools. With California Watch, we have begun experimenting with solutions-based reporting and creating online tools and forums for community engagement.

CIR Management:

CIR is led by Robert Rosenthal, former managing editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and executive editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He leads a small management team and a newsroom made up of veteran award-winning investigative journalists and editors who work alongside up-and coming reporters and multimedia producers to produce high-impact stories.

CIR Boards of Directors and Advisors:

CIR's board is comprised of financial, legal and fundraising professionals, along with journalists, including former *Washington Post* Executive Editor Len Downie, *Seattle Times* Executive Editor David Boardman and *San Francisco Chronicle* Editor-at-Large Phil Bronstein.

PBS Frontline correspondent Lowell Bergman (CIR co-founder), PBS NewsHour's Judy Woodruff, Seymour Hersh, Bill Moyers, and other journalism luminaries sit on the advisory board.

For More Information:

Contact: _____