



STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Robert Rosenthal, 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.

Christa Scharfenberg, Associate Director

Christa manages the day-to-day operations at the Center for Investigative Reporting, is responsible for budgeting and financial management, and assists with strategic program development and fundraising. She joined CIR in 2003 as communications director and served as acting executive director in 2007 before becoming associate director. She was senior producer of CIR's forthcoming documentary "Dirty Business" and of "Banished," which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and aired on PBS Independent Lens in 2008, and executive producer of "Hot Politics" and "A Dangerous Business Update," documentary co-productions with PBS Frontline. Prior to joining CIR, Christa was associate director at the Film Arts Foundation in San Francisco. Before beginning work in film and journalism, she worked in fundraising and program management at several AmeriCorps national service programs.

Cherilyn Parsons, Director of Development (Consultant)

Cherilyn oversees CIR's fundraising and participates in developing CIR's strategy and programs. She brings more than fifteen years of experience in all aspects of fund development, and has specialized in non-profit journalism and media. She also has led foundation relations at USC and served on USC's faculty. She has a Master's degree in Professional Writing from USC, is writing a novel, and has traveled extensively.

Allegra Bandy, Operations Manager

Allegra works closely with the Executive and Associate Directors to help maintain the operations and functions of the CIR and California Watch offices, and to provide support for development and fundraising efforts. Allegra is a native of San Francisco with an extensive background as an educator as well as a musical performer, recording artist, producer, and director.

Carrie Ching, Multimedia Producer

Carrie produces and manages multimedia reports for the Center for Investigative Reporting, acts as web editor, runs The Muckraker Blog and produces CIR's web-video series, "The Investigators," highlighting investigative reporting around the world. Prior to joining CIR, Carrie was a magazine editor, newspaper reporter, and video journalist. She produced video reports for Washingtonpost.com and Current TV, and her writing has appeared in *FRONTLINE/World*, *Mother Jones*, *California* magazine, AlterNet.org, and *The Honolulu Advertiser*. In 2000 she launched the online youth magazine *WireTap* (which won a Webby Award in 2004). She completed a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley in 2005.

Mark Schapiro, Senior Correspondent

Mark has been an investigative journalist for more than two decades and has built an award-winning track record with a focus on environmental and international affairs. His work has appeared in publications such as *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*; on television as a correspondent for *NOW with Bill Moyers* and *FRONTLINE/World*; and on radio as a correspondent for *Marketplace*. His recent work has had wide impact on international policy discussions relating to environmental, health and safety regulations; these investigations led to his book *Exposed: The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products and What's at Stake for American Power* (Chelsea Green, 2007, paperback 2009). His investigation for *Frontline/World* into the sinking of the Prestige oil tanker sparked significant discussion in Europe and led to an award from the Society of Environmental Journalists. Mark has worked and lived in and out of Europe for some 20 years, as a reporter and as founding editor of InterNation, a consortium of journalists producing international investigative stories.

G.W. Schulz, Reporter

G.W. joined CIR in 2008 and covers homeland security. Prior to joining CIR, he wrote extensively about politics, municipal corruption, workplace safety, criminal justice and the changing national landscape in news media for the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* and *Urban Tulsa*, a weekly newspaper in Oklahoma. He was an early contributor to the Chauncey Bailey Project, which won a Tom Renner Award from Investigative Reporters and Editors in 2008. In 2007, he won a first place prize in the category of investigative reporting from the California Newspaper Publishers Association for a series documenting the mistreatment of tenants by one of San Francisco's largest landlords. He also won the coveted Public Service Award that year from the Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter, for a series on the MediaNews Group's takeover of several Bay Area newspapers. Schulz graduated from the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas.

Andrew Becker, Reporter

Andrew covers the federal judiciary for CIR and is currently reporting on the immigration court system. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, NPR, and many other outlets. Before joining CIR in 2008, he

was a fellow at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, where he reported on the business of human smuggling and corruption along the Southwest border for a joint *New York Times* and PBS *FRONTLINE/World* production. Previously he was a reporter for the *Contra Costa Times* in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also written and reported for the *Dallas Morning News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe*, *FRONTLINE*, *KQED California Report*, and *Los Angeles* magazine. He received a master's degree in journalism from UC Berkeley.