

The **Park CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT MEDIA** presents

the 12th Annual

IZZY AWARD

honoring

News Inside,
Centro de Periodismo Investigativo,
and Matt Taibbi



The Izzy Award recognizes outstanding achievement in independent media — journalism created outside traditional corporate structures.

The award is named for I. F. “Izzy” Stone, the legendary 20th century journalist who for decades exposed government deceit and assaults on civil rights and liberties, notably through *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* (1953-71).

Izzy Award Winners

News Inside, the 2019 print publication of *The Marshall Project*, provides unique reporting on criminal justice issues for circulation within participating prisons and jails. The U.S. currently has more than 2.2 million people incarcerated, with limited access to books, the internet, and news. The information that does reach them rarely covers issues that affect them individually or collectively.

Currently being distributed in more than 510 facilities in 38 states and Canada, *News Inside* was largely the brainchild of Lawrence Bartley, who joined the Marshall Project in 2018 after serving 27 years in prison himself, while taking college courses with sparse reading materials. As director of the publication, Bartley works with prison-based educators to curate a selection of articles most relevant to incarcerated readers.

The award judges said of the project, “Since Izzy Stone loved strong writing and cared about the most marginalized in society, we believe he’d smile upon our honoring this unique publication, which delivers high-quality journalism to prisoners, with articles written by current and former inmates.”

Centro de Periodismo Investigativo (*CPI*, the *Center for Investigative Journalism*) is Puerto Rico’s leading news outlet dedicated to public interest and accountability reporting. Since its founding in 2008, *CPI* has published hundreds of stories in Spanish and English—many of which have won prestigious awards—exposing longstanding governmental and corporate corruption.

In 2019, those stories included the government’s negligent disaster preparedness policies and the true death toll of Hurricane Maria on the island. *CPI* published embarrassing internal documents about Puerto Rico’s governor and his closest aides, revealing deep corruption and the siphoning of public funds, alongside confidential information inappropriately shared through their network. The news led to the governor’s resignation 11 days later.

“The Izzy Award lauds *CPI*’s publication of 900 pages of damaging secret chats between Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló and other top-level officials, sparking island-wide mass protests that ultimately brought down the governor,” said the judges.

Izzy Award Winners *con't*

Matt Taibbi wrote exceptional stories throughout 2019, in part funded directly by readers, focusing on media bias, government misconduct and the presidential campaign. His courage in questioning the so-called “liberal media” and myths surrounding the Democratic Party contributed to national conversations that revealed insights to corporate media not readily available to public outsiders.

“Matt Taibbi’s political journalism is original, irreverent, provocative, highly entertaining and, most of all, invariably based on hard digging,” said the Izzy Award judges. “His analysis of political coverage in news media in 2019 was all of the above and then some, culminating in his book *Hate Inc.*”

The book was published one chapter at a time to Taibbi’s subscribers on Substack. It began as an update of Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman’s seminal work, *Manufacturing Consent*, but then evolved radically in scope and genre. While *Hate Inc.* attacks conservative media, it also exposes the hollowness of liberal media for ultra-partisanship that sidesteps issues of corporate power. Taibbi’s hard-hitting articles were also regularly published by *Rolling Stone* magazine throughout the year.

Previous winners of the Izzy Award are Glenn Greenwald, Amy Goodman, Jeremy Scahill, Robert Scheer, *City Limits*, Sharif Abdel Kouddous, Center for Media and Democracy/“ALEC Exposed,” *Mother Jones*, John Carlos Frey, Nick Turse, Naomi Klein, David Sirota, Jamie Kalven, Brandon Smith, *Inside Climate News*/“Exxon: The Road Not Taken,” Shane Bauer, Seth Freed Wessler, Ari Berman, the producers of the “America Divided” series, Todd Miller, Lee Fang, Sharen Lerner, Dahr Jamail, Laura Flanders, Dave Lindorff, Aaron Maté, and *Earth Island Journal*.

Glenn Greenwald, Jeremy Scahill, and Amy Goodman have been inducted into the I. F. Stone Hall of Fame.

This year’s judges include Director of the Park Center for Independent Media Raza Rumi, former PCIM Director and founder of FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting) Jeff Cohen, communications professor and author Robert W. McChesney, and Linda Jue, executive director and editor at the G. W. Williams Center for Independent Journalism.

Launched in 2008, the Park Center for Independent Media studies journalism-oriented media outlets that create and distribute content outside traditional corporate systems. We deeply appreciate the generous support of the Park Foundation and of Jeremy Stone. Visit us at parkindymedia.org.

I. F. “Izzy” Stone

“All governments lie,” said Izzy Stone, the ultimate unembedded reporter. He launched his first independent publication at age 14 and went on to become a reporter, editor, columnist, and powerful journalistic advocate for FDR’s New Deal at the then-liberal *New York Post*.

As DC editor of *The Nation*, he exposed U.S. corporations doing business with Hitler’s Germany. He was one of the first journalists to sound the alarm about the Nazi holocaust and battled the National Press Club over its exclusion of African Americans.

Founded in 1953, *I. F. Stone’s Weekly* stood against racial discrimination, Senator Joe McCarthy’s witch-hunting, and the lies fueling the Vietnam War.

Izzy Stone has inspired generations of journalists and social-justice activists. “In this age of corporation men, I am an independent capitalist, the owner of my own enterprise . . . beholden to no one but my good readers,” Stone wrote in 1963. He wrote passionately in support of the exodus of Jewish displaced persons from Europe to Palestine, and later criticized Israel’s mistreatment of Palestinians. He advocated peace and negotiations with Soviet Russia, while denouncing its rulers. He despised racists, but defended their civil liberties—as he defended everyone’s.

His books include *Underground to Palestine*; *The Hidden History of the Korean War*; and *Killings at Kent State*. His collected writings are in *The Best of I. F. Stone*. A 2016 documentary celebrates his legacy: *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception and the Spirit of I. F. Stone*. Read more at IFStone.org, established by scientist Jeremy Stone, Izzy’s late son.