

The Center For Public Integrity
impact
journalism

Progress Report 2009–2010
20TH ANNIVERSARY

“In the end, scrupulous, fair, rigorous observation will always have an impact on whatever it scrutinizes.”

Letter from the board chair



Marianne Szegedy-Maszak

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marianne Szegedy-Maszak'.

In 1927, the German physicist Werner Heisenberg famously observed that it was impossible to precisely measure any particle, because its activity was invariably changed by the simple fact of its being observed. The measuring instrument, he said, interfered with what was being measured to such an extent that it rattled the substance out of its pristine natural state. Heisenberg was talking about subatomic nuclear particles and his discipline was quantum mechanics, but his indeterminacy principle is applicable to much larger life forms. Scrutiny has an impact on the way that particles, or people, or institutions behave.

For 20 years, the work of the Center for Public Integrity has illustrated a link between Heisenberg's principle and the public interest. The Center's hundreds of investigative reports have changed our political institutions, our leadership, our policies and our world for the better by making them more accountable, more transparent and more responsive to their missions.

The Center has scrutinized the well-worn link between money and politics in state legislatures, in Congress and in the White House. Consider the results:

- In 1990, the Center's first report, *America's Frontline Trade Officials*, revealed that nearly half of former politically appointed trade bureaucrats went on to represent the interests of foreign companies and governments. The impact? President Clinton signed an executive order placing a lifetime ban on foreign lobbying by White House trade officials.
- The Center's *Power Trips* investigation revealed that during a five-and-a-half-year period ending in 2005, members of Congress and their staffs spent \$50 million on 23,000 privately funded trips—some educational, others simply boondoggles. The impact? Six months later, privately funded congressional travel plummeted and was eventually banned.
- Our *Private Legislatures: Public Service, Personal Gain* was a five-year investigation into hundreds of conflicts of interests among

state lawmakers. The impact? Twenty-four states have improved their disclosure laws.

The Center's work is not restricted to domestic issues. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists—the first transboundary investigative reporting project in the world—has sparked important changes on a global scale:

- *Tobacco Underground* disclosed details of the global multibillion-dollar cigarette black market. In response, the World Health Organization-sponsored Framework Convention on Tobacco Controls debated tougher measures against cigarette smuggling.
- *Dangers in the Dust* focused world attention on the international manufacture and sale of toxic asbestos to developing countries. Canada's opposition leader, Liberal Party MP Michael Ignatieff, called for an end to his country's asbestos exports, and Brazil's Congress is considering a bill to ban sales of the mineral.

These are only a few examples of how, as a result of the vision and work of the Center's founder Charles Lewis, and under the exceptional leadership of Bill Buzenberg and his team of extraordinary reporters, writers, editors, researchers, and webmasters, the Center has reached its 20th-anniversary year with even greater institutional strength and global influence.

In the end, scrupulous, fair, rigorous observation will always have an impact on whatever it scrutinizes. As the Center's history can attest—and to expand on Heisenberg's principle—even though the impact is usually uncomfortable for whatever we observe, it is positive for our democracy.

Letter from the executive director



Bill Buzenberg

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. E. Buzenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

By every measure, the Center for Public Integrity is completing one of its strongest years yet. More reach. More investigations. More collaboration with media partners. The Center is fulfilling its potential as a watchdog in the corridors of power as never before. And we are poised for even stronger results next year.

As part of our ambitious agenda, I am pleased that the Center will become the new home of the highly skilled staff from the Huffington Post Investigative Fund. The Fund will be folded into the Center in January 2011. I'm happy that Arianna Huffington looked to us when she sought new quarters for her nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative unit.

We've been very busy. The raw number of investigative reports this year will top 400, including hundreds of postings to our multiple blogs—*Paper Trail*, *Daily Watchdog*, *Data Mine*, *Financial Reform Watch*, and *Global Muckraker*. We will also produce 16 major investigative projects.

The Center's environmental reporting has never been as robust, with new international reports on the sale of asbestos to developing countries and the systematic overfishing of bluefin tuna, both produced by the Center's International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Domestically, we've reported exclusive stories on the causes and consequences of the BP oil spill and on thousands of hidden environmental waivers given to some of the nation's worst polluters.

Our money and politics team reported exactly how many thousands of lobbyists were at work on health care and financial reform legislation—who they were and who was paying their bills. We dug into the unseen funding sources behind the midterm elections and reported the top career patrons who bankrolled the top four congressional leaders throughout their careers.

Our partnerships with other media spanned the globe, from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, ABC, CBS and NPR, to the BBC, *Proceso* in Mexico, *Novaya Gazeta* in Moscow, and the *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong.

The Center has been successfully collaborating with the new Investigative News Network—a group of 51 organizations that the Center helped to create in 2009. We also worked with the Carnegie-Knight News 21 project based at Arizona State University to dig into the systemic failures in American transportation safety.

We just celebrated our 20th anniversary, and I'm confident the Center's best years lie ahead. We have exciting plans for improved distribution and earned revenue streams that will truly distinguish the Center for Public Integrity as a leader in nonprofit investigative journalism. I've never been more optimistic about the future of the Center in the digital age and I thank the Center staff, our media partners and our donors for helping us get to this exciting stage in the journey.

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Crisis in the Gulf

In the summer of 2010, as the world watched in horror at the months-long Gulf of Mexico oil spill, Center reporters dug in to answer the question, “How did this happen?” By tapping official sources and obtaining data through the Freedom of Information Act, they told a series of enlightening, timely stories, supplemented by interactive graphics. This is what they found:

MAY 11, 2010

Training Exercises Showed Gaps in Government Preparedness Before BP Oil Spill

Over the last eight years, the U.S. government has conducted four major drills to prepare for a massive oil spill, the results of which foreshadowed many of the weaknesses in coordination, communication, expertise, and technology that plagued the federal response to the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. According to interviews and after-action reports obtained by the Center and ABC News, the training exercises caused federal officials to express concern about a host of issues.

MAY 16, 2010

Renegade Refiner: OSHA Says BP Has “Systemic Safety Problem” (See page 8)

JUNE 03, 2010

Coast Guard Logs Reveal Early Spill Estimate of 8,000 Barrels a Day

Coast Guard logs we uncovered showed officials grasped the potential threat of a catastrophic spill within hours of the explosion on board the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

JUNE 4, 2010

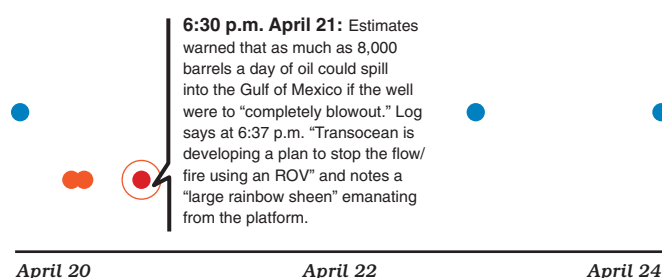
Coast Guard Database Makes Oil Spill Penalties Nearly Impossible to Track

The U.S. government has investigated potentially thousands of BP leaks, spills and other incidents, but the Center found that the information is stored in a Coast Guard database which keeps key details such as investigative findings and penalties out of the public’s reach. More than 8,000 incident reports about BP’s U.S. spills, emissions, and leaks of oil and chemicals have been filed with the National Response Center during the past decade.

JULY 27, 2010

Haphazard Firefighting Might Have Sunk BP Oil Rig

The Coast Guard has gathered evidence that it failed to follow its own firefighting policy during the Deepwater Horizon disaster and is investigating whether the chaotic spraying of tons of salt water by private boats contributed to sinking the ill-fated oil rig, according to interviews and documents we acquired.



▲ TIMELINE: COAST GUARD’S RESPONSE TO THE RIG FIRE

U.S. Coast Guard incident logs show that within hours of an explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon, officials were warning of a massive spill and attempting to repair malfunctioning equipment—events missing from the White House’s official timeline. The blue dots represent the White House’s reported timeline and the orange dots represent entries in Coast Guard logs obtained by The Center for Public Integrity. An interactive graphic can be found online at www.publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2286/



▲ BP’s Deepwater Horizon burns in the Gulf of Mexico

Renegade Refiner: OSHA Says BP Has “Systemic Safety Problem”

Two refineries owned by oil giant BP account for 97 percent of all flagrant industry violations in the U.S. over the past three years, a Center analysis showed.

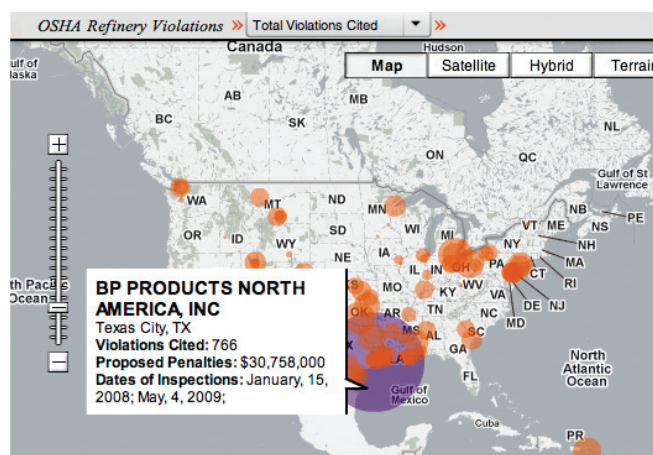
What We Found

Most of BP’s citations were classified as “egregious willful” by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and reflect alleged violations of a rule designed to prevent catastrophic events at refineries.

Top OSHA officials told the Center that BP was cited for more egregious willful violations than other refiners because it failed to correct the types of problems that led to a 2005 oil refinery explosion that killed 15 workers in Texas City, Texas, even after OSHA pointed them out.

How We Did It

Center Staff Writer Jim Morris was tracking down trouble in the refining industry long before the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. In early 2010, he filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, seeking data from a special OSHA inspection program for oil refineries. The data arrived near the time of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. An analysis by Mike Pell, the Center’s deputy data editor, zeroed in on the startling finding that two BP refineries accounted for 97 percent of the most flagrant violations cited by OSHA during the three-year period analyzed.



▲ BP Accounts for Most “Willful” Violations Among Refineries, Regulator Says
 Two refineries operated by BP account for 97 percent of all “egregious willful” citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration since June 2007, according to a Center for Public Integrity analysis. The map above shows past inspections, number of violations the agency cited at the plants, and OSHA’s proposed penalties for the citations. The circles on the map represent the number of violations cited at each refinery. An interactive map is available online at www.publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2085/

The Power of Impact Journalism

The Center’s coverage of BP reflects nimbleness and an eye for enterprise reporting. Our work struck a nerve at the critical time when public officials and everyday Americans were in search of answers. The findings were picked up in hundreds of broadcast and Internet outlets across the globe. The OSHA safety violation data were repeatedly cited by members of Congress during congressional hearings; at the White House and in a class-action lawsuit.

The Center’s International Consortium of Investigative Journalists also digs into environmental issues. It investigated the global climate-change lobby—see page 18

“The only thing you can conclude is that BP has a serious, systemic safety problem in their company.”

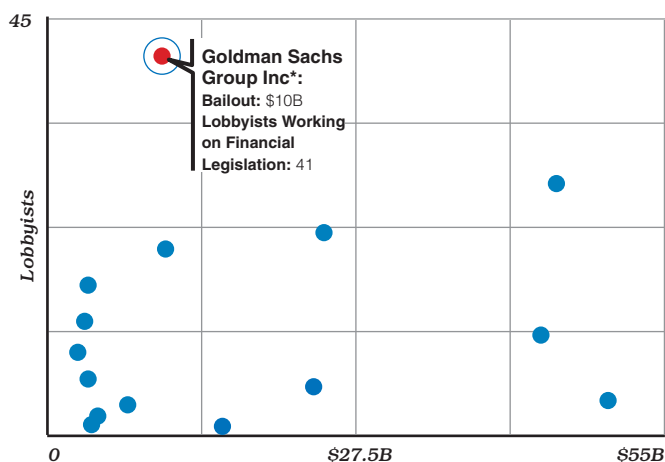
—JORDAN BARAB, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Keeping an Eye on the Financial Sector

While the nation moved through the financial crisis, the Center ramped up its investigations of business and finance. We examined abuse of power by lawmakers via their associations with business lobbyists, market distortions, instances of regulatory breakdown and financial mechanisms that hurt taxpayers.

Five Lobbyists for Each Member of Congress in Financial Reform

Businesses, trade groups and other interests hired more than five lobbyists for each member of Congress to influence financial regulatory reform legislation pending before the Senate, a Center study found. More than 850 banks, hedge funds, companies, associations, and other organizations hired more than 3,000 lobbyists to work on the bills and spent at least \$1.3 billion to influence legislation during 2009 and the first quarter of 2010.



▲ SNAPSHOT: AFTER RECEIVING BAILOUTS, BANKS LOBBY ON FINANCE REFORM
 From January 2009 through March 2010, about 850 businesses and organizations hired more than 3,000 lobbyists and spent at least \$1.3 billion to influence financial reform bills and other issues, according to a Center for Public Integrity analysis of disclosure documents that included “financial reform” or similar wording.

No Guarantees at Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

In November 2009, the federal corporation charged with protecting Americans’ retirement funds, known as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, announced that the amount of pensions at risk inside failing companies had more than tripled during the recession. The agency signaled that it might need tens of billions of new dollars to rescue traditional pensions. At the same time, however, the federally chartered corporation was receiving some bad news of its own: For the first time, it was going to flunk an independent audit of the way it manages its finances.

A Center review of hundreds of pages of memos, audits and internal reports showed the pension guaranty corporation has been unable to make guarantees about its own work; in some cases directly misleading Congress and its inspector general into believing that long-simmering problems were resolved.

- **Policing HUD** Dozens of mortgage lenders with as much as a decade-long history of state and federal legal sanctions still receive billions of dollars in loan guarantees from the government. A dubious nonprofit group, meanwhile, is paid by lenders to make mortgage payments on behalf of distressed borrowers, possibly enabling the lenders to issue riskier loans—a scenario reminiscent of the subprime crisis. Those are the main findings of a six-month investigation by the Center for Public Integrity and *The Washington Post*, which involved exhaustive examination of state and federal banking records and civil and criminal lawsuits for hundreds of mortgage lenders approved to issue mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration.
- **Ginnie Mae’s Troubling Endorsements** documented three dozen Ginnie Mae-approved lenders with a range of federal and state sanctions, fines and suspensions, regulatory actions from banking watchdogs and higher-than-average FHA mortgage default rates, which raised questions about why Ginnie Mae would want to do business with the firms.
- **Straining the FHA’s Umbrella** focused on the Rainy Day Foundation as an ominous sign of additional risky lending practices inside the FHA.

Whistleblower: Fannie Mae Bungled Anti-Foreclosure Program

Fannie Mae executives bungled their stewardship of the federal government's massive foreclosure-prevention campaign, creating a bureaucratic muddle characterized by "mismanagement and gross waste of public funds," according to a whistleblower lawsuit obtained by the Center.

What We Found

Caroline Herron, a former Fannie vice president who returned to the mortgage giant in 2009 as a high-level consultant, claims that the homeowner-relief effort was marred by delays, missteps and executives preoccupied with their institution's short-term financial interests.

Herron alleges that Fannie Mae officials terminated her \$200-an-hour consulting work in January because she raised questions about how it was administering the federal government's effort to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, known as the Home Affordable Modification Program, or HAMP.

How We Did It

This report grew out of Center Staff Writer Michael Hudson's reporting on whistleblowers in the financial sector, including interviews with mortgage industry insiders who had never before spoken publicly about widespread fraud in the home-loan business. Hudson got a tip about the whistleblower's lawsuit, which had not been reported by any

news organization. He fleshed out the details presented in the lawsuit by tracking down and interviewing key sources with knowledge of Fannie Mae's work on HAMP and by sifting through government reports that raised questions about the program's success.

The Power of Impact Journalism

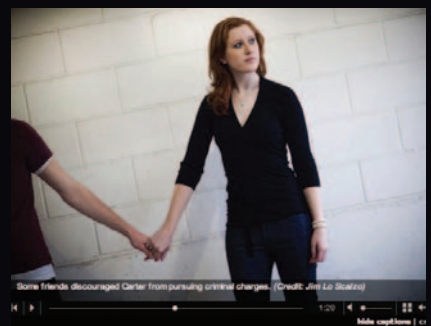
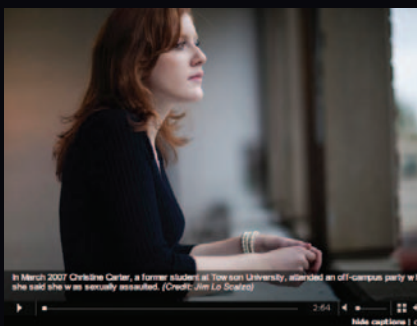
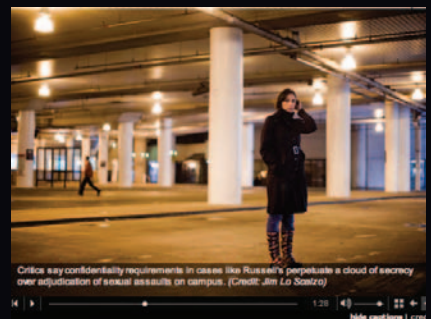
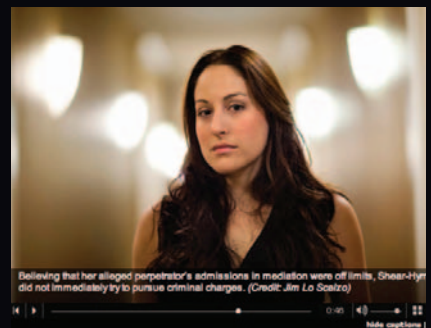
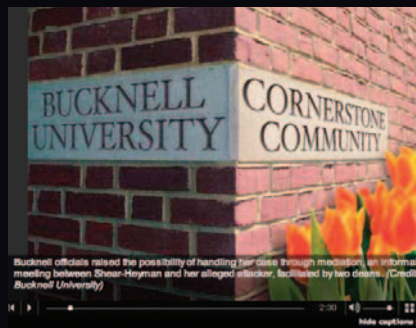
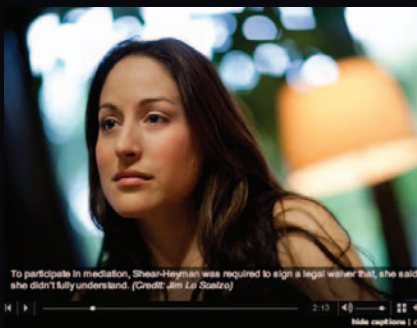
Homing in on the intersection of business and government paid substantial dividends. Hundreds of media outlets jumped on these investigations to inform their audiences. Center staff writers appeared on broadcasts to explain the intricacies of the reports. More important, the newly exposed facts were used to hold those in power accountable:

- Four days after the Fannie Mae whistleblower story ran, Rep. Spencer Bachus of Alabama, the top Republican on the House Financial Services Committee, asked Chairman Barney Frank, D-Mass., to hold a hearing to investigate allegations made in a lawsuit filed by Caroline Herron.
- Since publication of *Ginnie Mae's Troubling Endorsements*, six of the lenders identified in the report have been kicked out of the FHA program, subpoenaed by investigators or closed by regulators. In congressional testimony, the Housing and Urban Development Department's inspector general used findings from the investigation to warn about Ginnie Mae's weak oversight of lenders.

“It appeared that Fannie Mae officers were focused on maximizing incentive payments available to Fannie Mae under various federal programs—even if this meant wasting taxpayer money and delaying the implementation of high-priority Treasury programs.”

—CAROLINE HERRON, WHISTLEBLOWER

Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice



Students who have been the victim of sexual assaults on campus face a depressing litany of barriers that often either assure their silence or leave them feeling victimized a second time. From the beginning, our project aimed to break new ground by trying to quantify a previously unquantified problem: Campus sexual assault remains a hidden crime, in part because there is no central clearinghouse for colleges to report cases and record their dispositions, and for citizens to access that data.

◀ **SHROUDED IN SECRECY**

The Center interviewed 33 women who reported being sexually assaulted by other students. Video and audio slideshows can be viewed online at www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/campus_assault/

FEATURE: SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

What We Found: A Culture of Secrecy and Indifference

The first series of reports, released in December 2009, examined the culture of secrecy that envelops sexual assault on campus—from limitations and loopholes in the federal mandatory campus crime reporting law to a host of institutional barriers that students say they face in pursuing on-campus remedies.

Our second installment of stories, during February 2010, featured the culture of indifference that surrounds this sensitive subject matter, including these facts:

- Students found “responsible” for sexual assaults on campus often face little or no punishment from school judicial systems, while their victims’ lives are frequently turned upside-down.
- The Department of Education is charged with enforcing laws on how schools deal with sexual assault, but its Office for Civil Rights rarely investigates student allegations of botched proceedings.
- Repeat offenders account for a significant number of sexual assaults on campus, and school authorities are often slow to realize they have such “undetected rapists” in their midst.

How We Did It

Testimony from an array of victims, along with data from a unique survey of clinics and crisis centers, helped us to create compelling reports. Staff Writer Kristen Lombardi and intern Kristin Jones fused hard-nosed investigative digging—featuring multiple federal and state Freedom of Information Act requests—and computer-assisted reporting in developing a social science framework that provided a fresh view into this challenging issue.

They also produced a variety of multimedia resources on the topic—audio slideshows of student victims, a webinar, a student reporter’s toolkit, and an e-book.

The Power of Impact Journalism

Diverse, in-depth coverage of the entire series has reached an estimated audience of more than 40 million people with a mix of online and print, public radio, and college newspapers from coast to coast. Highlights include a full-length interview on CNN and two-day spread on CNN.com, an MSNBC interview with anchor Alexandra Witt, four write-ups

in the *Washington Post*, four by *The Huffington Post*, and 65 by college newspapers—from large state universities to small private schools.

To expand the reach of project’s findings, the Center created key media partnerships. One with National Public Radio’s investigative team resulted in stories on five nationally renowned NPR broadcasts. Another, with six nonprofit journalism organizations that are part of the Investigative News Network, generated localized investigations in many regions of the country and represented the first collaborative effort between the Center and INN.

More Than News Coverage

Spurred by the series, national advocacy organizations, such as Security on Campus and Students Active for Ending Rape, have unveiled the Campus Sexual Assault Free Environment (SAFE) Blueprint, a legislative proposal to amend the two federal laws requiring schools to respond to sexual assaults. The proposal consists of two dozen amendments meant to close loopholes in those laws. Meanwhile, some college administrations have begun rethinking their policies; the project sparked policy overhauls and blue-ribbon commissions at the state university systems in Wisconsin and Massachusetts. The National Center for Risk Management in Higher Education held three summer “institutes” for administrators designed around our series. And the Department of Education cited two universities with Title IX violations as a result of this series and new legislation was introduced in Congress to address the campus assault issue.

THE PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

152 surveys of crisis-services programs and clinics on or near college campuses

48 interviews with experts familiar with the college disciplinary process, including student affairs administrators, conduct hearing officers, assault services directors, and victim advocates

33 interviews with female students who reported being raped by other college students

10 years’ worth of complaints reviewed by Center reporters filed against institutions with the Education Department under Title IX and the Clery Act—two laws requiring schools to respond to assault claims and to offer key rights to alleged victims

5 databases built to track findings and help identify larger trends and commonalities in how schools handle rape claims

MEDIA COVERAGE BY THE NUMBERS

135 student newspapers and college-related media outlets

100 NGOs and college/student-related associations

57 broadcast outlets and programs featuring the report

49 newspapers and magazines online and in print

“*The Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice* series not only brought the epidemic issue of college and university campus community sexual assault to the forefront of national attention, it empirically documented just how widespread the problem is and where the biggest challenges lie in how institutions respond to it. As a result of this work, the nation’s leading experts and policymakers are better equipped to shape policies and resourcing to respond to acquaintance sexual assaults involving college and university students.”

—S. DANIEL CARTER DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY FOR SECURITY ON CAMPUS, INC.

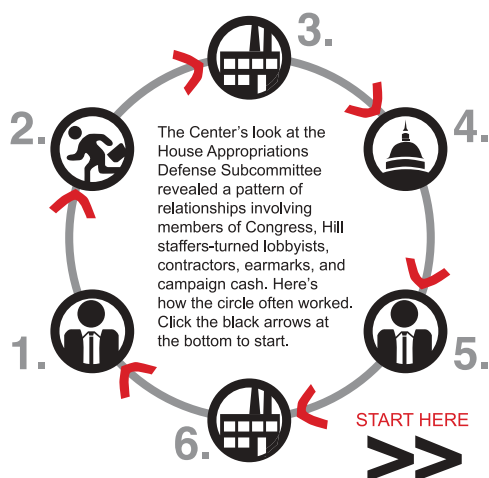
Business As Usual

Our connect-the-dots reporting on the federal government—the cornerstone of the Center’s journalistic mission—starkly illustrates the reformer’s oft-repeated lament: In Washington’s business-as-usual culture, what shocks is not the actions that are considered illegal but those that are considered legal. Reports in 2009 and 2010 were no exception:

The Murtha Method

In our 2009 investigation *The Murtha Method*, the Center used new technologies and disparate public disclosure databases to reveal a pattern of controversial behavior by members of Congress, lobbyists and earmark recipients. Through our analysis, we documented that the vast majority of members of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee have been involved in similar patterns of behavior—in circles of relationships fraught with potential conflicts of interest, involving former congressional staffers-turned-lobbyists, earmarks and campaign cash. In these circles, former staffers became lobbyists for defense contractors and nonprofits; the contractors and nonprofits received earmarks from the representatives; and the representatives received campaign contributions from the lobbyists or the earmark recipients.

This investigation used newly available software to bring together an array of databases to compare hundreds of disclosed earmarks, thousands of lobbying records and hundreds of thousands of campaign finance disclosures. By looking at these together, we were able to find connections in a way no one has before and to shed significant new light on a practice that, according to some members of Congress, should be banned under House rules.



▲ Committee's Circle of Influence

An interactive graphic walking you through the system of lobbyists, earmarks, and campaign cash is available online at www.publicintegrity.org/assets/swf/090909_circle/

Washington Lobbying Giants Cash in on Health Reform Debate

While patients, taxpayers and lawmakers debated the impact of the health care reform law that President Obama signed in 2009, one result of the epic battle was clear: a bonanza for K Street. About 1,750 businesses and organizations spent at least \$1.2 billion in 2009 on lobbying teams to work on health reform and other related issues, according to our analysis of Senate lobby disclosure documents.

Blue Dogs Fill Their Bowls with Cash

In 2009, whether the subject was health care reform, climate change or pay-as-you-go budgeting rules, almost everyone, it seems, suddenly wanted to talk with the Blue Dogs—the 52-member voting bloc of moderate Democrats in Congress. As the coalition's clout grew, its fundraising mushroomed: In the first half of 2009, the Blue Dog Political Action Committee raised over \$1.1 million. Nearly 54 percent of the PAC's contributions during that time period came from three sectors: health care, energy and financial services.

The Curious Spending of Republicans for Choice

Many citizens sending contributions to the Alexandria, Virginia-based political action committee Republicans for Choice expected that their money was going to help elect Republican candidates who support abortion rights. A 2010 Center analysis showed that since its formation in 1990, the RFC PAC raised and spent more than \$5.5 million. We also revealed that over the past decade, less than 5 percent of the committee's spending has gone to political candidates, other political committees or independent expenditures. Where did RFC's money go? Two-thirds of the group's spending went to consulting companies owned by the PAC's chairwoman; to reimburse her expenses for travel, entertainment, automobile repairs; and to paying hundreds of dollars' worth of her parking tickets.

Who Bankrolls Congress?

The Center’s four-part *Who Bankrolls Congress?* investigation provided a comprehensive look at the top donors to Washington’s most powerful lawmakers and their interests—not just in the most recent election cycles but over the entire course of these politicians’ careers.

What We Found

Financial services interests were on the top-10 lists of all four congressional leaders—Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. John Boehner, Sen. Harry Reid and Sen. Mitch McConnell. Tobacco companies were among the most generous contributors to McConnell, Boehner and Reid. Our research revealed that a single contributor was the top career backer of Boehner, McConnell and Reid: telecommunications giant AT&T.

Individual pieces on these congressional leaders detailed each of their top donors, and what the contributors received for their money.

How We Did It

Through computer analysis of three decades’ worth of *CQ MoneyLine* records, Center reporters calculated the top 10 PAC donors and five top individual contributors to the four leaders. They also examined lobbying disclosure forms, floor statements, press releases and

news stories to probe the often-cozy relationships between the donors’ interests and the actions of these powerful politicians.

The Power of Impact Journalism

This body of work goes beyond the typical he-said, she-said, tit-for-tat, surface-level reporting that marks much of today’s news coverage of our federal government. As the findings worked their way through traditional and new media outlets alike, they fostered a depth of understanding in a wide audience and contributed to a more meaningful conversation about this vital part of our society. Highlights include:

- Within a day of the release of *The Murtha Method*, a Pentagon spokesman was asked about our findings and responded that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is “trying to break that tight bond between” the “iron triangle of Congress and industry and the bureaucracy in” the Pentagon.
- Findings of the *Who Bankrolls Congress?* series were cited by NPR, *USA Today*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *The Huffington Post*, Gannett News Service, *PolitiFact*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *The Boston Globe*, *the San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *The (Louisville) Courier-Journal*, *the Lexington Herald-Leader*, *The Columbus Dispatch*, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, *The Fresno Bee* and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.



▲ Sen. Harry Reid, Sen. Mitch McConnell, Rep. John Boehner, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi

“Congress is for sale, and the Center’s must-read investigation *Who Bankrolls Congress?* confirms it. Although members of Congress routinely deny contributions are linked to legislative action, this report proves otherwise. The Center’s reporting is indispensable in helping organizations like CREW fight corruption in Washington.”

—MELANIE SLOAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

100 Journalists, 50 Countries

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists is an active global network of reporters who collaborate on in-depth investigative stories. Founded in 1997, ICIJ was launched as a project of the Center for Public Integrity to extend the Center's style of watchdog journalism, focusing on issues that do not stop at national borders.



ICIJ is dedicated to investigating cross-border crime, corruption and the accountability of power. Backed by the Center and its computer-assisted reporting specialists, public records experts, fact-checkers and lawyers, ICIJ reporters and editors provide real-time resources and state-of-the-art tools and techniques to journalists around the world.

Training and Outreach

In the past year, ICIJ staffers conducted trainings in six countries. They ran workshops and provided presentations at the Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, Latin America's largest investigative reporting conferences in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires, the U.S. Investigative Reporters and Editors conference, and other gatherings in London and Caracas. ICIJ and Center staffers have also held briefings with more than 100 visiting journalists, NGO staffers and public officials at our Washington, D.C., headquarters. In addition, we have hosted three international fellows: Roman Shleynov, investigative editor of Russia's *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper; Ana Avila, a respected Mexico City-based free-lance journalist; and Scilla Alecci, an Italian journalist who works with Reuters.

Pearl Awards

The Daniel Pearl Awards for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting recognize and reward excellence in cross-border investigative journalism. The 2010 winners of the biennial laurel were announced in April at the sixth Global Investigative Journalism Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, with more than 500 journalists from 80 countries in attendance. The winners were

- *Trafigura's Toxic Waste Dump*, which exposed a powerful offshore oil trader's attempts to cover up the poisoning of 30,000 West Africans—Kjersti Knudsson and Synnove Bakke, Norwegian Broadcasting Corp.; David Leigh, *The Guardian*; Meirion Jones and Liz MacKean, BBC Newsnight; Jeroen Trommelen, *De Volkskrant* (Western Europe)
- *How the U.S. Funds the Taliban*, about Pentagon military

contractors in Afghanistan that routinely pay millions of dollars in protection money to the Taliban to move supplies to U.S. troops—Aram Roston, *The Nation* (United States).

The judges also awarded a special Certificate of Recognition to T. Christian Miller, *ProPublica*; Doug Smith and Francine Orr, *Los Angeles Times*; and Pratap Chatterjee, freelance (United States) for their impressive series *Disposable Army*, on Washington's abandonment of injured civilian contractors working for the U.S. military

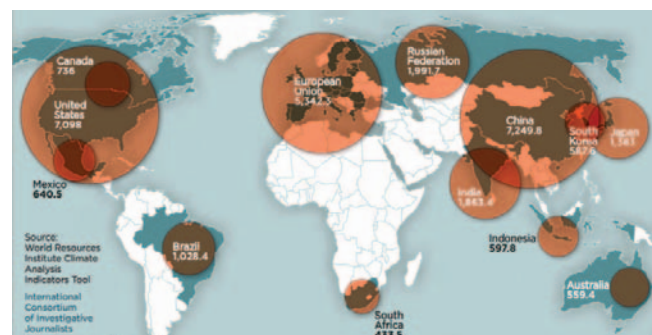
Journalists in dozens of countries submitted a total of 85 entries for consideration of the world's only award for cross-border investigative journalism.

Global Climate Change Lobby

ICIJ's multinational team of journalists reported from eight countries and uncovered the special interests attempting to influence negotiations leading to the December 2009 talks on a climate-change treaty in Copenhagen, Denmark. The ICIJ team reported from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, and the United States.

The project relied on more than 200 interviews with lobbyists, representatives of business associations and environmental groups, and key climate negotiators to explore what interests would be pushed in Copenhagen—and who was behind them.

The project garnered extensive international media coverage and shed light on areas not broadly reported by mainstream outlets, such



▲ DIFFERING VIEWS CLOUD CLIMATE TALKS

Fast-growing China has edged the United States as the world's top contributor to greenhouse gases. The U.S. Congress is under pressure from industries that fear they will face higher energy costs if the U.S. commits to fossil fuel emissions cuts and its global competitors don't. An interactive map is available online at www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/global_climate_change_lobby/map/

as lobbying and campaign contribution records in four countries and the European Union. Through partner publications, our work was published and cited in at least 12 languages worldwide.

In the process, the series became part of the policy debate as climate-action advocates called for a simpler and more straightforward climate-policy approach that didn't rely on handouts to gain the support of interest groups.

Looting the Seas

The ICIJ fisheries project released its first series in November, *Looting the Seas*. It reveals a decade-long history of rampant fraud and lack of official oversight that have devastated the bluefin tuna fishery and allowed thousands of tons of the threatened animals to be illegally caught and traded each year. The seven-country inquiry documented a \$4 billion black market that accounts for one of every three fish caught. The entire supply chain of companies involved in the bluefin trade, ICIJ's reporters found, was riddled with illegal or unaccountable behavior, from fishing fleets and sea ranches to top distributors and regulators. The team relied on a combination of extensive fieldwork and computer-assisted reporting and the series was cited by more than 400 media outlets in 14 languages. In the wake of ICIJ's findings, European regulators agreed to cut tuna fishing quotas and computerize their outmoded paper record system.



▲ Bluefin tuna at a fish market in Japan

International Tobacco Lobby

ICIJ's latest investigation into the tobacco industry focuses on its lobbying efforts around the world. Facing stagnant markets in North America and Europe, the world's top tobacco companies are spending millions of dollars in emerging markets and developing countries, using hardball lobbying, legal intimidation and backroom dealing to undermine hard-fought campaigns against smoking. The series looks at countries vital to Big Tobacco's future, including India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. The story received 70 media citations in six languages.

Dangers in the Dust: Inside the Global Asbestos Trade

In the fall of 2009, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists began tracking asbestos, a cancer-causing fiber banned or restricted in much of the industrialized world but aggressively marketed in developing countries. What evolved was a nine-month investigation of an international lobby, much of it coordinated from Canada, which promotes the use of asbestos in construction materials and other products.

ICIJ joined with reporters and producers from the BBC's International News Services to document the asbestos industry's activities in Brazil, Canada, China, India, Mexico, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

What We Found

Our investigation concluded that the industry has spent nearly \$100 million since the mid-1980s to keep asbestos in commerce. The team's reporting reveals close relationships among industry, governments and scientists, and cites predictions from health experts that new epidemics of asbestos-related disease will emerge in the coming decades.

How We Did It

The project was based on extensive research in eight countries. The team relied on thousands of pages of documents, including court filings, scientific studies and financial records, as well as interviews with health officials, industry representatives, scientists, victims, lawyers and activists.

The Power of Impact Journalism

More than 250 news outlets, blogs and websites in at least 20 languages have picked up *Danger in the Dust* findings. Completed in partnership with the BBC's International News Services, the series reached an estimated audience of nearly 30 million on the first day of broadcast. BBC media outlets included BBC News Online, BBC World Television and, on radio, the BBC World Service. A BBC television documentary appeared the following weekend and was broadcast worldwide. ICIJ's joint release included nine stories on the BBC World Service, two stories on BBC World Television, six stories on BBC News Online, and seven stories, syndicated worldwide, by ICIJ reporters.



▲ The Jeffrey Mine in Asbestos, Canada

The project also sparked international controversy:

- Canada's opposition leader, Liberal Party MP Michael Ignatieff, called for an end to his country's asbestos exports, and nearly 1,500 people sent letters to top Canadian officials demanding that the trade stop. The Canadian Press news agency described *Dangers in the Dust* as a "public-relations tsunami" for the asbestos industry.
- Brazil's Congress is considering a bill that will ban sales of the mineral, while newspaper editorials have called for an end to the trade.

"Dangers in the Dust: Inside the Global Asbestos Trade was a remarkable and vitally important exposé of the machinations of global asbestos pushers. The investigations carried out for this series by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the BBC were wide-ranging, incisive and thorough. In this day of shallow reporting and 15-second sound bites, it is of enormous importance for civil society that such projects be brought to fruition."

—LAURIE KAZAN-ALLEN, COORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAN ASBESTOS SECRETARIAT



Tapping Into Social Media Networks

The Center's social media strategy continues to bear fruit. The biggest success story this year is the continued growth and engagement of the Center's Facebook community.

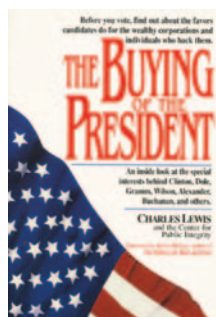
Our Facebook page currently has more than 12,000 fans. Facebook is among the top traffic drivers to the publicintegrity.org website. By implementing both Facebook Connect's commenting option and the network's OpenGraph technologies, we've made great strides in allowing users to engage with our work, whether through sharing, "Liking" Center content or commenting on particular articles.

The new commenting feature makes it easy for users to sign in with their Facebook account and immediately add to the conversation, which is in turn published to their own News Feed for their friends to see. In the near future, we're planning to expand our commenting functionality to allow users to share their comments on the social network of their choice, optimizing their opportunity to spark discussion about our work.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has also experienced great success with Facebook over the past year. By leveraging Facebook's advertising platform, ICIJ has directly targeted and distributed its work to Facebook users around the world. The success of this community led ICIJ to start its own blog, *The Global Muckraker*, on the ICIJ.org homepage.

We continue to make headway with Twitter. Over the past 12 months, the Center increased its following to 4,105+. Many Center staff members are now starting their own Twitter feeds to augment our regular content to further stoke discussion online.

And we're experimenting with the information-sharing network Digg, investigating its capabilities to distribute content, generate discussion and drive traffic.



▲ 1993 *America's Frontline Trade Officials* / 1996 *The Buying of the President* / 2005 *Prepaid Profit Plan for Wireless Companies* / 2007 *Wasting Away*

1992

- ▶ FBI questions Democratic National Committee Chairman and Commerce Secretary-designate Ron Brown about private business dealings. The inquiry is based on the Center's report *Private Parties: Political Party Leadership in Washington's Mercenary Culture*. That study found that between 1977 and 1992 half of the national party chairmen were simultaneously receiving fees from corporations, law firms and other sources.

1993

- ▶ President Clinton signs an executive order placing a lifetime ban on foreign lobbying by White House trade officials. The move is due in part to disclosures in the Center's first report, *America's Frontline Trade Officials*, which found that 47 percent of White House trade bureaucrats from 1974 to 1990 later represented the interests of foreign companies and governments.

1995

- ▶ Presidential candidate Steve Forbes fades rapidly from the public stage after the Center publishes a report showing that his signature flat-tax proposal would cut his own tax liability by 50 percent.

1996

- ▶ The Lincoln Bedroom becomes synonymous with graft when the Center publishes *Fat Cat Hotel: How Democratic High Rollers Are Rewarded With Overnight Stays at the White House*. The piece names 75 of the overnight guests—and creates a major embarrassment for the Clinton administration.
- ▶ Presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan fires his campaign co-chairman Larry Pratt after the Center reports that Pratt had previously taught white supremacist groups how to develop militia capabilities.
- ▶ The Indiana Legislature enacts a law requiring that information on all political contributions must be made available online. The reform is driven by our report *Power and Money in Indiana*, which created a public database of campaign contributions to state legislators, coded by industry.
- ▶ We publish the inaugural edition of *The Buying of the President*, tracking for the first time the relationships between presidential candidates and the special interests that fund them. The book goes on to become a *New York Times* bestseller.

2000

- ▶ Our five-year investigation into conflicts of interests among state lawmakers culminates with the release of *Our Private Legislatures: Public Service, Personal Gain*. The analysis turns up hundreds of apparent conflicts. As a result, 24 states changed their disclosure laws, forms or rules under the continued scrutiny of the Center.

2002

- ▶ U.S. suspends aid to Ukraine after the Center reveals that country's president, Leonid Kuchma, approved the sale of \$100 million in anti-aircraft radar technology to Iraq, in apparent violation of United Nations sanctions.
- ▶ The Pentagon swiftly fixes electronic security on live video transmissions of intelligence operations in Europe after we find that terrorists can easily hack into the feeds.

- ▶ Republican Party Chairman Marc Racicot drops a plan to continue lobbying energy, transportation and entertainment interests while serving as the top GOP fundraiser after Center Executive Director Charles Lewis writes an editorial in *The Washington Post* decrying the glaring conflict of interest.

2003

- ▶ Center posts the secret PATRIOT II Act draft legislation online, causing a bipartisan uproar. The George W. Bush administration had told Congress there was no plan to propose sequel language to the controversial 2001 USA PATRIOT Act. The legislation was never introduced.
- ▶ Richard Perle, a former assistant secretary of Defense, resigns the chairmanship of the Defense Policy Board after a Center report uncovers that nine members of the panel have ties to companies that won huge defense contracts.
- ▶ After the Center exposes the fact that officials at the Federal Communications Commission had taken 2,500 all-expense paid trips funded by the media companies they regulate, Congress curbs such travel.

2005

- ▶ The White House pulls the plug on the Telecommunications Development Fund after a 2003 Center report on high salaries and lack of investment activity at the government program.
- ▶ The Federal Communications Commission announces the extension of federal "truth in billing" rules to the cellphone industry



▲ 2008 *The War Card* / 2010 *Dangers in the Dust* / 2010 *Renegade Refiner: OSHA Says BP Has “Systemic Safety Problem”*

to combat practices outlined in our 2003 report, *Prepaid Profit Plan for Wireless Companies*.

2006

The *Center’s Power Trips* investigation reveals that during a five-and-a-half-year period ending in 2005, members of Congress and their staffs spent \$50 million on 23,000 privately funded trips. While some trips were educational, many appeared to be thinly veiled attempts by special interests to influence lawmakers and their advisers. Within six months of the publication of this Center project, privately funded congressional travel plummets and is eventually banned.

2007

Wasting Away, the Center’s report on the glacial pace of clean up at America’s 1,624 Superfund sites is referenced in both House and Senate testimony.

2008

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal relies heavily on our *States of Disclosure* project when introducing a package of new ethics rules in the Legislature. After passage in 2009, the requirements made Louisiana number one on the Center’s ranking of all 50 states’ financial disclosure regulations. (The state had finished 44th in 2006.)

Our landmark study on the George W. Bush administration’s fomenting of the Iraq war captures political attention—and becomes a cultural touchstone. *Iraq: The War Card* uncovered 935 false statements by Bush officials and inspired the song “935 Lies” by comedian Harry Shearer. In February 2008, Rep. Robert Wexler uses the report in questioning Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee calls for an investigation of the Centers for Disease Control, spurred by our report *Great Lakes Danger Zones*. The story shows that the agency blocked the publication of a federal study of environmental hazards in the eight Great Lakes states, reportedly because it contained such potentially “alarming information” as evidence of elevated infant mortality and cancer rates. Several weeks later, the CDC posts the full report online.

2009

Our analysis *Who’s Behind the Financial Meltdown?* identifies the top 25 companies responsible for originating nearly \$1 trillion in subprime loans. Topping the list: Countrywide Financial Corp. The analysis is entered into the *Congressional Record* by Rep. Marcy

Kaptur, D-Ohio, and is published by a wide range of media outlets, including the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, CNN, *BusinessWeek* and *The Washington Post*.

The World Health Organization-sponsored Framework Convention on Tobacco Controls debates tougher measures against cigarette smuggling after ICIJ releases its *Tobacco Underground* report disclosing details of the global multibillion-dollar black market for smokes.

The Federal Housing Administration drops six lenders after the Center publishes *Ginnie Mae’s Troubling Endorsements*. The story uncovers an array of dubious home financing companies approved by the agency.

2010

The Center’s *Sexual Assault on Campus* story on the pandemic of rape at American colleges and universities spurs numerous quick responses. Maryland’s attorney general rules that the state can force university administrators to disclose the names of students found responsible for sexual assault, and the University of Wisconsin agrees to post its annual sexual assault reports online for the first time. The Department of Education cited two universities with Title IX violations as a result of this series and new legislation is introduced in Congress to address the campus assault issue.

ICIJ’s investigation *Dangers in the Dust* exposes a \$100 million effort to sell toxic asbestos around the world, centered increasingly in developing countries. The joint series with the BBC is picked up by more than 100 news outlets in 20 languages and reaches tens of millions of people in more than 150 countries. The series sparks international controversy, prompting Canada’s opposition leader, Liberal Party MP Michael Ignatieff, to call for an end to his country’s asbestos exports. Brazil’s Congress considers a bill to ban sales of the mineral.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., on multiple occasions hammers BP executives over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, using Center data showing that two of the oil giant’s refineries accounted for 97 percent of all flagrant occupational safety violations in the U.S. between 2007 and 2010.

Fifteen months after the Center for Public Integrity’s investigation *Perils of the New Pesticides* reveals serious health effects associated with some “spot-on” pet products, the Environmental Protection Agency orders clearer labels for flea and tick treatments that are applied directly to dogs’ and cats’ skin.

16 Major investigative projects 383
PaperTrail blog posts 5 E-books
1,681,856 Visitors to www.publicintegrity.org 4,027,280 Website page views 36
Online publicly accessible, comprehensive and searchable databases 183 Interactive graphics and videos 12,069+ Facebook fans 2,030+ Tweets 4,015+ Followers 3
References in the *Congressional Record* More than 4,000 Citations in print and electronic media 5 National journalism awards 1,881 Individual donors to the Center 29 Foundations supporting the Center 3 Paid fellows 6 Paid interns 40 Full-time employees 4 Part-time employees

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year ending December 31, 2009

Figures are taken from 2009 audited financial statements.

A copy of the full audited statements is available upon request.

Change In Net Assets

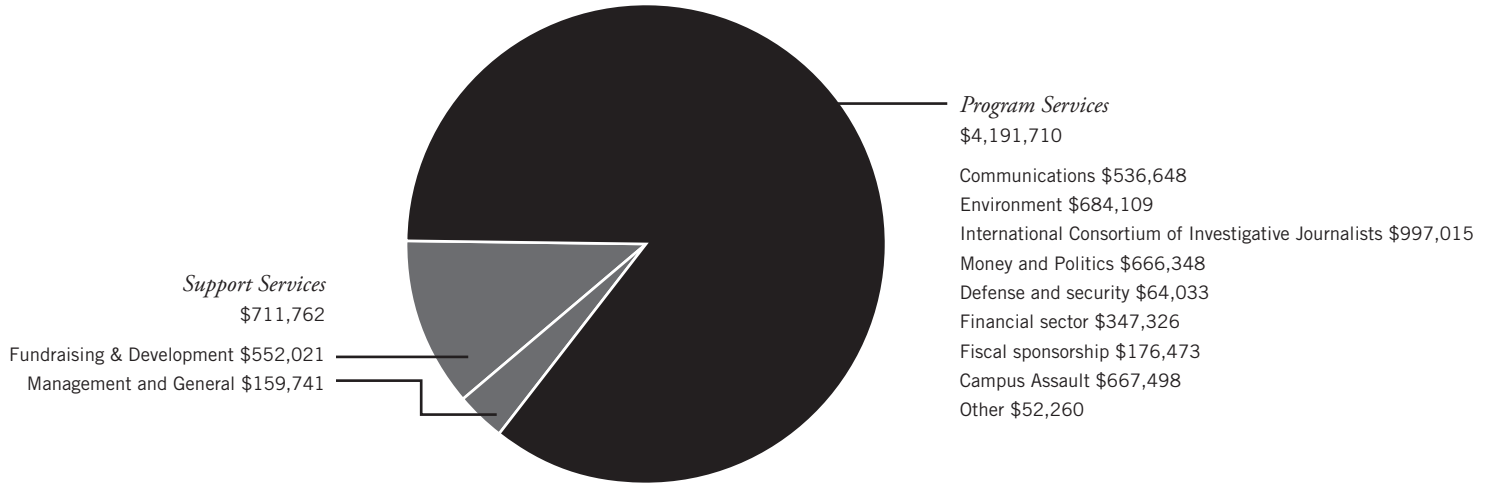
\$1,546,747

Net Assets, Beginning Of Year \$5,687,660

Net Assets, End Of Year \$7,234,407

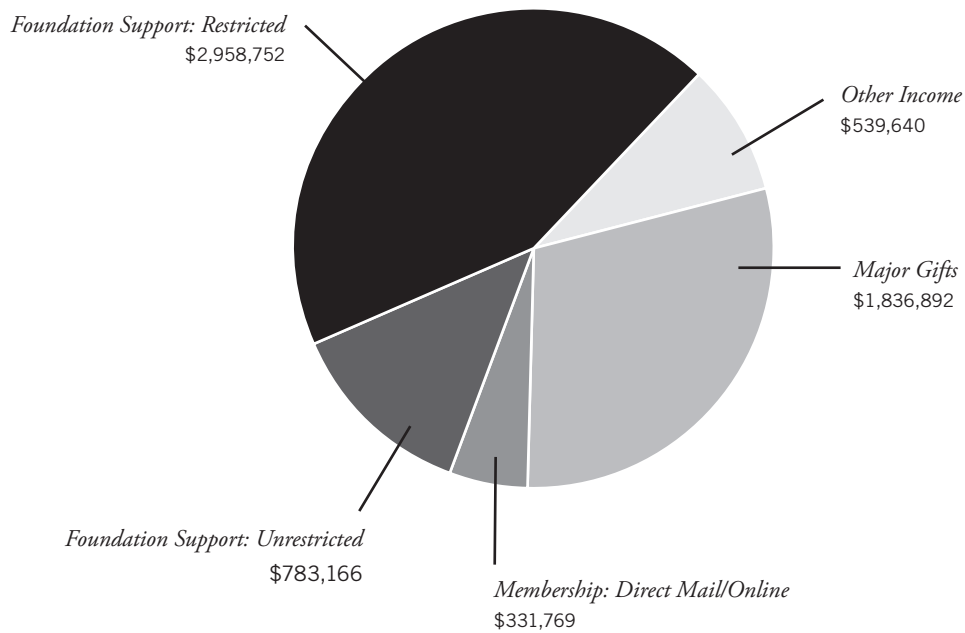
Expenses

TOTAL \$4,903,472



Revenue

TOTAL \$6,450,219



Donor Focus: Arthur Lipson



Arthur Lipson has been a longtime Center supporter for a simple reason: “Organizations like CPI expose the way the deck is stacked against the average citizen in so many areas.”

He should know. Lipson worked as a quantitative analyst at Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers until he became disillusioned with the pervasive Gordon Gekko mind-set. “I came to the conclusion that Wall Street was an amoral enterprise,” he says, “and I didn’t want to spend my life taking advantage of people.”

Lipson appreciates the Center’s investigations on how corporate special interests game the political and economic systems. “It’s very hard to explain how people with power and wealth in society really take advantage of people who don’t have the same resources,” he says. “I believe very strongly in what the Center does.”

Donor Focus: James Lippard



Regular donor James Lippard is a natural skeptic, which makes him dubious of the motivations of politicians and corporations. “I’ve always been a fan of investigative reporting,” he says, “in particular, stories on corruption and injustice.”

The information security expert is avidly socially conscious. Lippard writes his own blog pinpointing cases and causes of error, deception, misinformation, breach of trust and hypocrisy.

And he gives generously to various civil-liberties groups and animal rescue organizations.

Foundation Focus: Elspeth Revere



The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has generously granted \$6.25 million to the Center for Public Integrity since 1995. “We have supported the Center over a long period of time,” says Elspeth Revere, vice president at the foundation,

“because the Center for Public Integrity is a really good idea. The Center takes the time to carefully collect and analyze large amounts of data in order to tell the public how well its government is performing.”

The MacArthur Foundation has been watching the changes in the news industry with concern. In particular, it sees decreasing ability by media organizations to invest in deep and thorough investigations. “But citizens continue to need this information and analysis to effectively play their part in our democracy,” Revere explains.

MacArthur remains a strong supporter of the nonprofit journalism model that allows seasoned investigative reporters to focus on the painstaking work that can yield big stories. “MacArthur has stepped in because there is reason for optimism in the field,” says Revere. “Organizations like the Center enable seasoned journalists to conduct serious and important work.”

Foundation Focus: Alberto Ibarguen



The Center remains an innovator in investigative news. That’s why the Knight Foundation this year donated nearly \$2 million to help us fund the creation of new digital distribution channels. Over the past twenty years, the Knight Foundation has given a total of

\$5.6 million to the Center.

“The Center for Public Integrity has a two-decade track record of producing groundbreaking work,” said Knight Foundation President Alberto Ibarguen. “It is traditionally reliable but open to change and willing to evolve its methods and distribution so as to reach audiences in the digital age.”

The Center is now using a new publishing technology called Treesaver, which allows our content to format automatically to all types of personal devices. The days of long downloads and scattered layouts are over. It’s all part of an effort to get accountability journalism into the hands of more people, more easily.

“Digital media and the disruption they are causing provide us with opportunity,” Ibarguen says, “if we can figure out how to use these new technologies to engage our communities.”

“The Center for Public Integrity has a two-decade track record of producing groundbreaking work. It is traditionally reliable but open to change and willing to evolve its methods and distribution so as to reach audiences in the digital age.”

—KNIGHT FOUNDATION PRESIDENT ALBERTO IBARGÜEN

FUNDRAISING

Foundation Support

June 1, 2009 – October 25, 2010

Adessium Foundation
 Adler Foundation Fund
 American University
 Around Foundation
 Associated Press
 Morton K. and Jane Blaustein
 Foundation
 Dart Society
 Deer Creek Foundation
 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
 Ethics and Excellence in
 Journalism Foundation
 Ford Foundation
 Foundation for the Carolinas
 GE Foundation
 Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo
 & Co. LLC
 Greenlight Capital LLC
 Gunzenhauser-Chapin Fund
 Haas Charitable Trust
 Huffington Post
 Johns Hopkins School of
 Public Health
 Joyce Foundation
 Christian Keesee Charitable Trust
 John S. and James L. Knight
 Foundation
 John D. & Catherine T.
 MacArthur Foundation
 McCormick Foundation
 Stewart R. Mott Foundation
 John & Florence Newman
 Foundation
 Newman's Own Foundation
 NoVo Foundation
 Open Society Institute
 Park Foundation, Inc.
 Karen & Christopher Payne
 Foundation
 Pew Charitable Trusts
 Popplestone Foundation
 Public Broadcasting Service
 Public Welfare Foundation
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Robins, Kaplan, Miller, & Ciresi
 L.L.P Charitable Foundation
 Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 Rockefeller Foundation
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 Scherman Foundation, Inc.
 Streisand Foundation
 Sunlight Foundation
 Surdna Foundation
 John & Donna Sussman
 Foundation
 University of Delaware
 Vanguard Charitable
 Endowment Program
 Whitehead Foundation
 William Penn Foundation

Individual Support

*Reflects total giving from
 June 1, 2009 to October 15, 2010.*

Integrity Circle

\$10,000 +
 Adrienne Arsht
 Nancy L. Baker
 Molly Bingham
 Laurence Cohen
 Dan Emmett
 Edith Everett
 Joannie and David Fischer
 Jimmy W. Janacek
 Arthur D. Lipson
 Bevis Longstreth
 Paula Madison
 John E. Newman
 Bernard Schwartz
 Fred Stanback
 Alan Dworsky

Transparency Circle

\$1,000 – \$9,999
 Liaquat Ahamed
 Peter Allstrom
 George Alvarez-Correa
 Richard I. Beattie
 Steven Bloom
 Emmet J. Bondurant

William E. Buzenberg
 Hodding Carter
 Samuel Chapin
 Sheila Coronel
 Charles Eisendrath
 Victor Elmaleh
 Bruce A. Finzen
 Michael E. Gellert
 Francis Hagan
 Jordan L. Kaplan
 David Kaplan
 Kevin Klose
 Jerry Knoll
 Bill Kovach
 Glenn N. Ledesma
 Ivy Lewis
 Charles Lewis
 James J. Lippard
 Donna Mae Litowitz
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 Bill H. Manning
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 Gilbert S. Omenn
 Geneva Overholser
 Charles Piller
 Myrta J. Pulliam
 Kathleen Selvidge
 Michael Sonnenfeldt
 Donald O. Stover
 Marianne Szegedy-Maszak
 Andrew Szegedy-Maszak
 Mark S. Thompson
 Michael Tiemann
 Paul Volcker
 Harold M. Williams
 Mary B. Williams
 William I. Witkin
 Chic Wolk

Watchdog Circle

\$500 - \$999
 Liaquat Ahamed
 Peter Allstrom
 George Alvarez-Correa
 Richard I. Beattie

Steven Bloom
 Emmet J. Bondurant
 William E. Buzenberg
 Hodding Carter
 Samuel Chapin
 Sheila Coronel
 Charles Eisendrath
 Victor Elmaleh
 Bruce A. Finzen
 Michael E. Gellert
 Francis Hagan
 Jordan L. Kaplan
 David Kaplan
 Kevin Klose
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 Andrew Szegedy-Maszak
 Mark S. Thompson
 Michael Tiemann
 Paul Volcker
 Harold M. Williams
 Mary B. Williams
 William I. Witkin
 Chic Wolk

Putting a Center Fellow to Work



Clarita Jimenez arrived at the Center in August 2009 and was surprised to find herself immediately put into action.

The American University School of Communication fellow quickly discovered an unusual facet of the organization—it

values young talent. Many interns and student trainees in Washington get stuck with desk duty, answering phones and feeding the filing cabinet. Not at the Center.

“When I first walked in the door,” Jimenez says, “they already had a project for me to work on.”

Center Staff Writer Kristen Lombardi promptly engaged her to assist on the complex investigation into sexual assaults on college campuses.

“They needed a lot of help,” says Jimenez. “It was a massive undertaking. It gave me so much to do, including reporting and research.”

Lombardi was thrilled to have the help: “Clarita jumped right into the campus assault project and proved to be invaluable to our team.”

Jimenez, 25, isn’t a newbie. The Miami, Florida, native had spent three years as a news producer at KTVT/KTXA TV in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, and before that apprenticed at WBBM TV in Chicago, Illinois.

She dug deep into the campus assault project and interviewed university officials and many of the rape victims. The former were usually frosty. “They’re not used to being challenged,” Jimenez says. “A lot of interviews got intense because they felt their authority was being questioned.”

It was. The Center’s investigation showed that one in five female students will be sexually assaulted on campus during her time in college and that the perpetrators nearly always walk free. Meanwhile, the victims get little or no support from school administrators.

Jimenez was surprised that the victims were often the most cooperative in interviews. “The women made it so easy,” she says, “because they were willing to come forward and share what happened.”

Jimenez also researched and created the Reporter’s Toolkit, a how-to for student journalists that helped dozens of campus newspapers do their own investigating and reporting on the campus assault phenomenon.

During the second half on her one-year fellowship, Jimenez worked with Lombardi plumbing the depths of a possible story on the domestic drywall industry. That entailed identifying sources and analyzing reams of documents. “Even before the Center embarks on a project, they put so much work into deciding whether to dig into it,” she says.

The Knight-Batten Awards for Innovations in Journalism

Special Distinction Award for Nonprofit Journalism awarded to three major Center for Public Integrity projects: *Broken Government*, *Tobacco Underground* and *Who’s Behind the Financial Meltdown?*

Society of Environmental Journalists

Winner: Outstanding Online Reporting
The Hidden Cost of Clean Coal

Society of Professional Journalists

Winner: Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in Online Journalism (Independent)
Sexual Assault on Campus: A Frustrating Search for Justice

Association of Health Care Journalists

Winner: Multimedia Category
Tobacco Underground: The Booming Global Trade in Smuggled Cigarettes

Scripps Howard Foundation’s National Journalism Awards

Finalist: Washington Reporting Category, Raymond Clapper Award,
The Murtha Method

A LOOK AHEAD—CENTER 2.0

In 2010, after two decades as a pioneer and an innovator in the field of nonprofit investigative journalism, the Center for Public Integrity embarked on a groundbreaking path to improve the delivery of our investigative stories and to create new earned revenue streams.

Our plan is to move the Center toward a hybrid model that allows us to stay true to our nonprofit, deep-dig investigative DNA while addressing the realities of the fast-paced digital news marketplace. The blueprint, approved by the Board of Directors in October 2010, will see the Center establish its own online destination website. The creation of our own digital publication will allow us to attract more daily readers to our website and to include revenue-generating underwriting sponsorships.

Why are we doing this now? Since Charles Lewis founded the Center in 1989, the landscape of news—and investigative reporting in particular—has undergone profound change. Accountability reporting has all but disappeared from many of the nation's newsrooms. And, the Center faces an inevitable truism of its success: The rise of many nonprofit news websites inspired by our work has increased competition for slices of the philanthropic pie.

The Center's leadership sees the situation as a healthy and logical progression that bodes well for the future of investigative journalism. The Center has played a leading role in helping to create this new ecosystem. What we cannot do is stand still. Under the new plan the Center will:

- Create an online destination website with a new name and web address.
- Focus the resources of the newsroom on both daily and long-term investigative stories and accountability journalism that are exclusive and relevant to the current policies and issues of the day.
- Grow the reporting staff to accommodate the increased workload.
- Expand the newsroom's expertise in telling stories in print, video, audio and web media.
- Attract and serve a growing national audience hungry for unbiased watchdog reporting.

What will not change is the Center's commitment to hard-hitting investigative journalism that looks into the dark corners of government and corporate power both nationally and internationally. Our core values of fairness, balance, accuracy and precision with the truth will remain firmly in place.

Nor will the new approach diminish our relationships with the foundations and individuals who have supported the Center over the years. The fact is the Center needs both a generous donor base *and* underwriting support to be sustainable for the long term.

There are risks with any new venture. But if the Center has proven anything in the past two decades, it is its resilience and adaptability to change. We owe our existence today to a visionary founder who saw, against all odds, the possibility of creating an investigative organization

that was truly independent. The Board of Directors is confident that the new approach is the correct one and that the goal of a more sustainable Center for Public Integrity far outweighs the risks.

Center for Public Integrity *Advisory Counsel*

Executive Director

William E. Buzenberg

Board of Directors *Chair*

Marianne Szegedy-Maszak

Christiane Amanpour

Molly Bingham

William E. Buzenberg

Hodding Carter III

Sheila S. Coronel

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Charles Eisendrath

Dan Emmett

Bruce Finzen

Joannie Fischer

Bill Kovach

Charles Lewis (founder)

Susan Loewenberg

Bevis Longstreth

Olivia Ma

Paula Madison

John E. Newman, Jr.

Gilbert S. Omenn, MD, PhD

Geneva Overholser

Sree Sreenivasan

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Rev. Theodore Hesburgh

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Harold Hongju Koh

Craig Newmark

Michele Norris

Charles Ogletree

Charles Piller

Allen Pusey

Ben Sherwood

Paul A. Volcker

Harold M. Williams

William Julius Wilson

The mission of the Center for Public Integrity is to produce original investigative journalism about significant public issues to make institutional power more transparent and accountable.

To pursue its mission, the Center

- Generates high-quality, accessible investigative reports, databases and contextual analysis on issues of public importance.
- Disseminates work to journalists, policymakers, scholars and citizens using a combination of digital, electronic and print media.
- Educates, engages and empowers citizens with the tools and skills they need to hold governments and other institutions accountable.
- Organizes and supports investigative journalists around the world who apply the Center's values, mission and standards to cross-border projects.
- Remains independent by building a strong and sustainable financial base of support, including a community of committed individuals and foundations.

POCKET



THE CENTER FOR
PUBLIC INTEGRITY

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