

March 21, 2026

Honoring Excellence in Broadcast Journalism

THE 76 TH GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS®

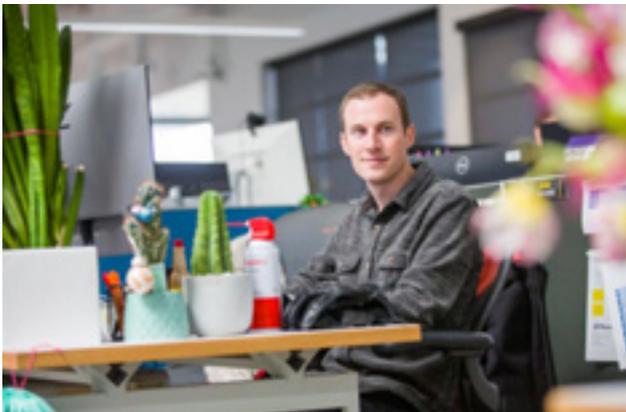


Radio & Television News Association of Southern California

SPECTRUM NEWS 1

The assignment desk is the lifeblood of the newsroom,

and at Spectrum News 1, it's no different. Our planning managers and assignment editors are constantly on the frontlines of information gathering. Whether it's plotting day-of or future coverage or reacting to breaking news, like wild fires or immigration raids, the team attacks any size task with heart and attention to detail. Our assignment desk helps keep the engines humming and cultivates a calm atmosphere in the middle of adrenaline-fueled moments. The group works hand-in-hand with social-digital producers to serve our audience with gold standard content across multiple platforms in real time, responding to changing audience consumption patterns, and leveraging our brand. They are true team players who support each other and care about their communities. The journalists on the assignment desk may work behind the scenes, but their fingerprints are on every newscast and every story at Spectrum News 1.



SPECTRUM
NEWS **1**

CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA MCREE

RECIPIENT OF THE RTNA GOLDEN MIKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



SPECTRUM NEWS PROUDLY SUPPORTS
THE 2026 GOLDEN MIKE AWARDS® FINALISTS AND WINNERS



RTNA Mission Statement

THE RADIO & TELEVISION NEWS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (RTNA)

is a non-profit organization of professional broadcast journalists dedicated to:

- ▶ Protecting the public's right-to-know and First Amendment rights of a free press through our advocacy efforts with government;
- ▶ Facilitating effective and unobtrusive media coverage of important news events through our efforts coordinating pool cameras;
- ▶ Promoting excellence in local broadcast journalism through our "Golden Mike Awards®";
- ▶ Providing a collegial forum for discussion of relevant issues facing the broadcast news industry through our special events;
- ▶ Encouraging the development of excellent student journalists through our scholarship program.



Welcome to the 76th Annual Golden Mike Awards[®]

We are proud to honor the best in broadcast, digital and podcast journalism tonight.

While that's what brought us here tonight, it's just a small fraction of what we do. The RTNA is working for you all year long.

We step up to defend the public's right to know. We fight for the First Amendment. It can mean trying to convince a judge to allow cameras and microphones in a courtroom. It can involve going to the head of a public safety agency after reporters and photographers are denied access to a brush fire or a crime scene. Or, it can include using the Freedom of Information Act to access documents.

We work to improve relationships with the public safety agencies we cover. Our Media Access Committee, headed by KNX's Steve Gregory, has done a number of training events with agencies to help people understand how we work and how we can work together. We also sponsored a summit in the wake of Southern California's wildfires to assess what went right and what went wrong with media coverage.

In Southern California, the RTNA organizes camera pools for events like criminal trials, memorial services for public safety officers and visits by major government leaders. The pools streamline coverage and save participating outlets tens of thousands of dollars a year in crew costs. We handled more than 75 pools last year, ranging from the Nick Reiner case to the Los Angeles Dodgers World Series victory parade. Thanks to RTNA Executive Director Maydie Encinas for all the time she spent coordinating these pools. We also want to acknowledge all the assignment desk editors from the major stations we work with who make the pools happen. You'll find a story about them in the program book.

We also deal with media parking issues. We work with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and other agencies to establish media parking in key areas, as well as dealing with parking issues. And, we support the next generation of broadcast journalists. Tonight, we'll present scholarships to

some aspiring broadcast journalists. We've awarded more than \$140,000 in scholarships during the last four decades.

The RTNA's Board of Directors is key to making all of this happen. The board members are busy news managers, anchors, reporters, photographers, attorneys and associate members who take the time to support what we do for you. You'll see them listed in the program.

We work in a rapidly evolving media world. We have to do more with less. Many stations have been hit by consolidation and layoffs. Against this backdrop, what the RTNA does to support you takes on a new importance. The RTNA is proud to be here for you – and for what we all do to keep California informed. Let's salute all of tonight's nominees and winners tonight as we honor the best in Southern California broadcast journalism!

Sincerely,
Chris Little
President, RTNA



2025/2026 RTNA Board of Directors

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Steve Gregory	KNX News 97.1 FM
Jodi Mena	KNBC/KVEA
Frank Mottek	790 KABC Radio
Lance Orozco	KCLU AM/FM
Alex Silverman	KNX News 97.1 FM

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2025 RTNA Scholarships



June Lockhart Memorial Scholarship

June Lockhart was a beloved actress known for her roles in the television series *Lassie* and *Lost in Space*. She was a self-proclaimed news junkie. She also served as a member of the RTNA Board of Directors.

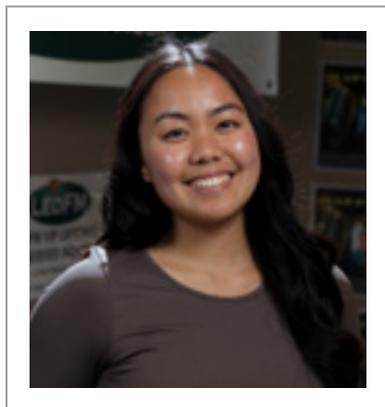
The RTNA June Lockhart Memorial Scholarship



SUNNY DAY SILVERSTEIN | Senior, California State University, Northridge

Sunny Day Silverstein is a senior at California State University of Northridge, where she reports for the campus newspaper and anchors on the college radio station. Throughout her academic career, she's earned Dean's List honors every semester while building a strong foundation in broadcast, print and digital journalism. This May, she will graduate and begin her professional career as a broadcast reporter for an ABC affiliate station in Washington. She is excited to further pursue her passion while continuing to hold herself to the highest of journalistic standards.

The RTNA Vin Scully Memorial Scholarship



TAYLOR FUKUNAGA | Senior, University of La Verne

Taylor Fukunaga is a senior at the University of La Verne majoring in Broadcast Journalism. She is excited about receiving the RTNA Vin Scully Memorial Scholarship since she has a strong background in sports as a student-athlete on the university's softball team and as a captain of the school's dance team. Taylor works as a sports broadcaster for the university athletics department and La Verne Community Television. She is currently the President of the University of La Verne Society of Professional Journalists chapter. Her career objective is to be a sports news reporter and broadcaster.



By PHIL FARRAR



XETV: The Most Extraordinary Station in North America

The stories have been written and edited. Producers have stacked the rundown. The newscast is less than one hour away. The news anchor is headed to the set – in another country.

Welcome to XETV. Located in Tijuana, Baja California, it became the first Mexican station to originate a local English-language signal into the United States. With that singular achievement, XETV, launched in 1953, carved a permanent place in history. The station was a pioneer in cross-border broadcasting, penning itself as "The International Station." It was originally owned by the Azcárraga family, which would eventually become Grupo Televisa. The owners did something unheard of back in the 1950s. The Azcárragas petitioned,

applied for and received Federal Communications Commission permission to serve San Diego. This happened at the urging of the American Broadcast Company. When permission was approved, now armed with a license, they would perform duties as a U.S. network affiliate from Mexico.

This golden broadcasting beam boomed north towards San Diego County. It covered the entire region. The airwaves were intentionally aimed for programming – including news – into the San Diego market.

At the time, San Diego only had one TV station. The CBS affiliate, Channel 8 (KFMB), began operating in 1949. XETV would go on the air in 1953 but without an affiliation. Just a few months later, KOGO-TV Channel 10

(which would later become KGTV) became the NBC affiliate. ABC wanted to incorporate its affiliate in the city. There was a major obstacle to putting network programming on a VHF station in San Diego. Those stations were 2 through 13, and produced long-range communication due to its lower frequency. Lower frequencies carry further. Numbers 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 were already assigned to Los Angeles. Channel 3 was reserved for KEYT-TV in Santa Barbara. The FCC separated signals to make sure one station wouldn't 'bleed' into another station.

There were only two numbers left. The FCC reached an agreement with Mexico and assigned 6 and 12 to Tijuana. XETV became Channel 6. XEWT Channel 12, which was originally owned by the same family, to this day broadcasts only in Spanish out of studios in Tijuana. This fulfilled an international frequency allocation agreement following a U.S. television "freeze" in the early 1950s, allowing Mexican authorities to utilize the last available VHF channels in the region.

Despite moving and accounting for all of those numbers, the FCC stated a television station couldn't initiate a broadcast signal in the U.S., bounce it to Mexico, then have it returned by an electronic signal. The Azcárraga's made a deal to bring in a San Diego company to oversee operations, sales and programming. Chuck Dunning, who began as a Data Researcher in the late 1970s for Bay City Television, the Televisa subsidiary that operated XETV from San Diego, says, "There were several legal hurdles to get ABC on the air. Since the signal would originate from Mexico, it needed approval of the San

Diego community. They eventually agreed. ABC was relieved because they had to meet their public interest requirements and needed the San Diego market." They also knew it would be a profitable money-maker for the bi-national region.

Prior to the approval of the live cross-border transmissions, the FCC allowed recorded material in the form of film to be aired on XETV and broadcast in San Diego. The origin of the broadcast had to be activated in Tijuana. Dunning, who eventually became Vice President & General Manager of XETV, remarks, "Every day, a truck would come and pick up film canisters and cross the border into Tijuana to the XETV station. That's where engineers quickly attached the film of English-speaking programming to machines and beamed it to the U.S. Nearly five years after going on the air, the FCC allowed ABC to feed their programming via microwave to the Tijuana transmitter then back into San Diego. Dunning notes. "Channel 6 has a unique record in American television history. It was the first time that a TV station's signal and its primary audience were in two different countries."

In 1955, the station began broadcasting news. The stories were written, produced, and the film edited in San Diego. And just like in the beginning, the anchor also had to travel to Tijuana to read the news. As an ABC affiliate, XETV brought many firsts to San Diego, including the premiere of "Monday Night Football." XETV also aired the 1998 World Series with the Padres and Yankees. Long-time San Diegans will remember the slogans "Where Your Favorites Are" or "Super Station Six."

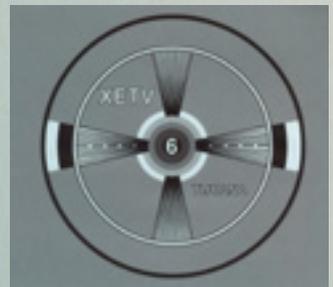
XETV's affiliation with ABC lasted for 18 years. Dunning says, "There was a caveat in the permitting of letting the station broadcast from Mexico. If a station becomes available

in San Diego, then the FCC would reconsider the whole agreement." The affiliation was lost July 1973 when ABC switched to KCST-TV, known today as KNSD, and XETV became an independent station. Then, in 1987, XETV became one of the first stations in the country to affiliate with the new Fox network, which continued until 2008 when it became a CW network affiliate.

Dunning has become somewhat of an historian after working his way up through the ranks for 39 years. He has seen it all in broadcasting and put together business plans and blueprints on how to keep XETV a successful English-speaking station. Now, he's putting the final touches on a book he is writing about XETV with the working title *Fade to Black*. He is looking for a publisher and believes the book will be printed and ready to read this year. He'll discuss the station's many achievements as well as the obstacles the broadcasting

facility had to overcome and its eventual demise. He looks forward to sharing his views on the ever-changing world of "local broadcasting."

XETV's last newscast was March 31, 2017. The station signed off the air as an English-speaking entity on May 31 of the same year and is now broadcasting as a Spanish-language station. Dunning says, "One of the great things about XETV was a lot of Mexican citizens used the channel to learn English." The station was highly visible in San Diego's South Bay, which is close to the border. It served as a crucial bridge between two cultures for more than 60 years, transitioning through roles as an ABC, Fox and The CW affiliate, as well as a popular independent station. That's why the *San Diego Reader*, a weekly newspaper, along with Dunning and television executives, called XETV the most "extraordinary" television station in North America.



77th Golden Mike Awards®

2026 – 2027 Calendar

Designated News Week

Monday, May 12 to Friday, May 16

Designated News Weekend

Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18

GMA Contest Period

September 21, 2025 to September 20, 2026

Early Entry Begins

Monday, August 17

Early Entry Deadline

Friday, September 25, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Late Entry Deadline

Friday, October 2, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Judging Process

October/November

January, 2027

Finalists & Winners Announcement

March, 2027

77th Golden Mike Awards®

Standard of Excellence

What sets the Golden Mikes apart from other competitions is the “Golden Mike Standards of Excellence.”

Unlike most awards contests in which winners are determined by selecting which entry is the “best” among all those submitted in each category, winners of the Golden Mike Awards® must also meet the “Standard of Excellence.”

If the judges decide that no entry in a category meets the “Standard of Excellence” then no award is given in that category.

As a result, Golden Mike Award® winners know that their work has been judged to be “excellent” as well as the “best.”

For more than 70 years, the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California has promoted excellence in broadcasting journalism through the Golden Mike Awards®, and is committed to continuing that legacy into the future.



76th Golden Mike Awards® Judges

Jodi Adler, Former Anchor/Reporter, KFWB Los Angeles
Heather Allan, Retired Los Angeles Bureau Chief, NBC News
Grayce Arlotta-Berner, Editor, 48 Hours, CBS News
Joel Bellman, Former Editorial Director, KBIG FM, Los Angeles
Melody Birkett, Former News Director, iHeart Media, Phoenix
Peter Bowes, Correspondent, BBC News
Jonathan Calixto, Assignment Editor, News 12, New York
Laura Castaneda, Former Reporter/Anchor, KGTV San Diego
Mike Castellucci, Former Reporter, KCBS Los Angeles
Isis Chaverri, Former News Director, Univision Chicago
Angie Crouch, Retired Reporter, KNBC Los Angeles
Salvador Cruz-Fernandez, Assistant News Director, Univision Houston
Carlos Delgado, Former Reporter, XETV San Diego
Dean Elwood, Former News Director, KGTV San Diego
Carmen Escobosa, Former Reporter, Univision Network
Karen Falla, Former Reporter, Univision 23, Dallas-Fort Worth
Eileen Frere, Former Reporter/ Orange County Bureau Chief, KABC-TV
Andy Friedman, Former VP, News/Talk/Sports, Clear Channel
Maria Garcia, Former Reporter, KVEA Telemundo/NBC Universal, Los Angeles
Ted Garcia, Former Anchor/Reporter, KTLA Los Angeles
Wendy Gillette, TV/Radio News Anchor, CBS News
Janice Gin, Former Assistant News Director, KRON-TV, San Francisco
Aliah Git, Reporter, CBS News Radio, New York
Ethan Harp, TV/Digital Content Producer, WNBC New York
Patrick Healy, Retired Reporter, KNBC Los Angeles
Michael Horowicz, Former Assistant News Director, KCBS-TV, Los Angeles
Craig Hume, Former News Director, KTLA-TV Los Angeles
Laura Ingle, News Anchor, NewsNation, New York
Maria Elena Jauregui, Former Vice President of News, Azteca America
Martha Kattan, Vice President/News Director, Noticias 45 Univision, Houston

Julie Kramer, Retired News Producer, WCCO-TV, CBS News, NBC News
Rob LaFrentz, Reporter, Rivet News Radio, Chicago
Elena Lalama, Former Assignment Editor/Special Projects Producer, Univision
Jenna Lane, Former Reporter, KCBS Radio, San Francisco
Greg LeFevre, Retired Correspondent, CNN
Kathy Leverett, Retired Producer, NBC News
Jesgla Lopez, Executive Producer, TelevisaUnivision
Rosa Valle Lopez, Former News Editor, KNBC Los Angeles
Steve Malave, Former News Director, Telemundo Sacramento/Fresno
Charles Meyerson, Former News Director, WGN Radio, Chicago
Greg Mills, Former Reporter, KCBS/KCAL Los Angeles
Keith Mizuguchi, Producer, KQED San Francisco
Jason Nathanson, Former Radio/TV Correspondent, ABC News
Katie Nielsen, Reporter, KPIX San Francisco
Nadia Galindo Rizzo, Anchor/Reporter, News 12 The Bronx, New York
Gabriela Rodriguez, News Director, Nexstar Media Group
Jorge Rodriguez, Former Sports Director, Univision, Azteca America
Victor Hugo Rodriguez, Former Anchor/Investigative Reporter, Telemundo Phoenix
James Rojas, Reporter, WBZ-AM Boston
Lew Rothbart, Retired Assignment Editor/News Writer, KNBC Los Angeles
Sandra Salazar, Former Assistant News Director, Univision 34, Telemundo 52 Los Angeles
Andrea Sambuccetti, Former Correspondent, Univision Network
Peter Samore, Former Reporter, KTAR FM Phoenix
Mark Sanchez, Former Reporter, KOIN-TV Portland
Howard Schoenholtz, Retired Director, ABC NewsOne, Washington, DC
Herb Sierra, Former Senior Executive Producer, CNN Headline News
Mitch Waldow, Retired News Archive Manager, KTTV Los Angeles
Kathy Walker, News Director, KOA Radio, iHeart Media, Denver
Jim Watson, Anchor/Reporter/Host, ESPN; Former Play-by-Play, NBC Sports Olympics Coverage
Jayme West, Retired Anchor/Reporter, KTAR FM Phoenix

Order of Presentation

1. BEST RADIO INDIVIDUAL WRITING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"City Hall Gadflies"

KFI, Los Angeles

"Becoming an American"

KPCC, Pasadena

"Beating Cancer From The Middle"

KFI, Los Angeles

2. BEST TELEVISION INDIVIDUAL WRITING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Altadena Is My Life"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Palisades Rebel Savior"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Earth Focus: Rewiring California"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

3. BEST TELEVISION VIDEO EDITING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Barrier Broken"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

"¿Podrá la IA reemplazar a los oftalmólogos?"

KBNT, San Diego

"LA Strong: Los Angeles City Responds to the Fires"

LA Cityview Channel 35, Los Angeles

4. BEST TELEVISION VIDEO EDITING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Leanne's Perspective"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

"Counter Surveillance"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

5. BEST TELEVISION NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"City Reborn"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

6. BEST TELEVISION NEWS VIDEOGRAPHY (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"Leanne's Perspective"

KABC, Los Angeles

7. BEST RADIO USE OF SOUND (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Peace, Love and SpongeBob!"

KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"LASD Altadena Looter Patrols"

KNX, Los Angeles

"CHP SMPV SUV"

KNX, Los Angeles

8. BEST DIGITAL NEWS REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Weathering the L.A. River Unsheltered"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

"Erik Menendez Parole Audio"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Game-Time Decision: Episode 1 Nashville"

KPBS, San Diego

9. BEST DIGITAL BREAKING NEWS REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"NBCLA's Real-Time, Live Breaking News Coverage"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Breaking News on Instagram"

KTTV, Los Angeles

"Menendez Special: The Case"

KNBC, Los Angeles

10. BEST DIGITAL NEWS REPORTING VIA SOCIAL MEDIA (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Immigration"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

"Wildfire Response"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

"Soccer a la Frontera"

KPBS, San Diego

11. BEST DOCUMENTARY ON A STREAMING PLATFORM (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

"Caught On Camera"

KTLA+, Los Angeles



Without a doubt, the toughest job in any newsroom is working at the assignment desk.

A top assignment desk works with passion. That passion is the force that drives individuals to pursue interests with enthusiasm and dedication.

We have an extremely dedicated and passionate duopoly assignment desk team at KNBC4 - KVEA52. It is the heart in our newsroom. Our heartbeats are in sync with the communities we serve because our

assignment desk team has a deep local knowledge that drives our daily coverage.

Even when our newscasts are in two languages, our assignment desk team is focused on making sure we tell the significant stories of our viewers in English and Spanish. They are intense logistical magicians who make sure we cover our DMA thoroughly. They are experienced in every imaginable breaking news setting and pursue stories relentlessly.

Most importantly, they are an amazing group of individuals, and together with their fearless leader, Griselda Zamorano, they strive for excellence every day. We are extremely proud of our KVEA 52 KNBC4 duopoly desk.

To our mighty duopoly assignment desk team, we thank you for all that you do for your colleagues, the newsroom and our communities.



**CONGRATULATIONS
RAYMOND MESA**

FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD!



**THIS WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION HONORS MORE
THAN THREE DECADES OF JOURNALISM GROUNDED
IN SERVICE, IMPACT, AND STORYTELLING THAT
AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY.**

Raymond Mesa

Raymond Mesa is a news reporter for Telemundo 52, where he covers breaking news and community stories impacting Southern California. With more than 30 years of experience in broadcast journalism, Raymond has built a reputation as a dependable and community-driven news source.

Born in El Paso, Texas, and raised in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Raymond's upbringing in a border community has shaped his reporting throughout his career. He began his higher education at the Technological Institute of Ciudad Juárez, where he studied for three years before transferring to the University of Texas at El Paso. There, he earned his bachelor's degree in Spanish. He was inspired to pursue a career in broadcasting to serve and inform his community and to highlight stories that might otherwise go untold.

Raymond began his career in radio in 1990, eventually becoming operations manager for KAMZ/KAMA 750 AM radio stations in El Paso, Texas. During his 15 years in radio, he helped build and maintain one of the market's top-rated shows, delivering both Spanish and English-language programming and music to a loyal audience.

Encouraged by mentors, he transitioned into television as a morning news anchor at the local ABC affiliate station in El Paso. The move marked a turning point in his career, opening doors to expanded opportunities in broadcast news. He later joined NBC El Paso (KTSM-TV), where he broke new ground as one of the first anchors to deliver newscasts in both English and Spanish. He continued to rise in the industry, becoming the main anchor at KDBC-TV, where he later advanced to the position of News Director.

In 2002, Raymond moved to Los Angeles and joined Telemundo 52 (KVEA) and Noticias 22 (KWHY) as a reporter and news anchor. For the last 24 years, he has been a trusted voice, reporting on critical issues,

such as wildfires and crime, while also elevating local voices through his segment "Una Historia en Cada Esquina." Across television and radio, in both English and Spanish, his mission has remained consistent: to tell meaningful stories and ensure every corner of the community is represented.

His work has earned prestigious recognition, including a Golden Mike Award in 2007, the Associated Press Television and Radio Association Best Reporter Award in 2017 and an Emmy Award in 2019.

When not working, Raymond enjoys driving his 1980 Fiat Spider and spending time with his wife and two children.



Order of Presentation

12. BEST NEWS PODCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"The LA Local"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Podcast Conexión con Telemundo 52"

KVEA, Los Angeles

"Imperfect Paradise"

KPCC, Pasadena

13. BEST INTERVIEW PODCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Wolves of Glendale"

KFI, Los Angeles

"Deborah Kobylt Live"

YouTube/iHeart, Los Angeles

"The Issue Is: Jamie Dimon"

KTTV, Los Angeles

14. BEST LIMITED SERIES PODCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

"Climbing the Walls"

Understood.org

15. BEST OPEN TOPIC PODCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

"Central Valley Daily: The Sounds of Our Histories"

KVPR, Fresno

16. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR RAYMOND MESA

17. BEST RADIO NEWS TALK SHOW OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"The Fire Victims"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Michael Monks Reports"

KFI, Los Angeles

"AirTalk: The Rise and Impact of OnlyFans"

KPCC, Pasadena

18. BEST TELEVISION NEWS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Los Angeles Homeless Tragic Truth"

KLCS, Los Angeles

"Port of Long Beach Fights Back"

KLCS, Los Angeles

"Derechos de Inmigrantes: Foro Informativo"

KFTV, Fresno

Order of Presentation

19. BEST TELEVISION NEWS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"LA Times Today | Spectrum News 1"

Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"The Issue Is: Mayor Karen Bass Exclusive"

KTTV, Los Angeles

"In Depth: Little Tokyo Endangered"

KTTV, Los Angeles

20. BEST RADIO LONG FORM PROGRAM OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Apocalypse: 80 Years Later"

KCLU AM/FM, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

21. BEST RADIO LONG FORM PROGRAM OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"The Southern California Fire Disaster: What Now?"

KNX, Los Angeles

"LA Fires: A Path Forward"

KFI, Los Angeles

22. BEST TELEVISION LONG FORM PROGRAMMING OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Fall of Saigòn at 50"

KPBS, San Diego

"Trump: La Nueva Realidad"

KFTV, Fresno

"From Saigon to the OC"

KLCS, Los Angeles

23. BEST TELEVISION LONG FORM PROGRAMMING OR DOCUMENTARY (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Valle de la Soledad"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"David Ono Reports: SoCal Firestorm"

KABC, Los Angeles

"The LA Firestorm"

Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"La Negación del Cambio Climático"

KMEX, Los Angeles

24. BEST TELEVISION SPECIALTY PROGRAM (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Athletes Who Serve"

KTTV, Los Angeles

"KCAL Investigates 2024"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Incendios en Los Ángeles"

KMEX, Los Angeles

25. BEST RADIO GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"San Diego's Mighty Military"

KOGO, San Diego

"Lawyer Navigates ICE Raids"

KPCC, Pasadena

"Progressives Turn Their Attention to Bakersfield"

KVPR, Fresno

26. BEST TELEVISION GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"The Presidential Collection Museum"

KBNT, San Diego

"LA Strong: Los Angeles City Responds to the Fires"

LA Cityview Channel 35, Los Angeles

"U.S. Citizen Detained in ICE Raid Files Suit"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

27. BEST TELEVISION GOVERNMENTAL AND POLITICAL REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"The Secretary of the Army"

KABC, Los Angeles

"High & Dry Hydrants"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"In Focus SoCal: Drink Spiking and AB 1013"

Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

28. BEST TELEVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Romanian Skimming Scheme"

KGET, Bakersfield

Order of Presentation

29. BEST TELEVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Brush with Fires"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Illegal Dumping"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"70YS AI Romance Scam"

KABC, Los Angeles

30. BEST STATEWIDE TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING

(Winner)

"Wrestling Away Death"

KCRA, Sacramento

31. BEST STATEWIDE TELEVISION FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS

(Winner)

"This Is My Retirement"

KCRA, Sacramento

32. BEST STATEWIDE TELEVISION "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY

(Winner)

"Massive Fireworks Explosion Rocks Esparto"

KCRA, Sacramento

33. BEST STATEWIDE TELEVISION INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

(Winner)

"Politicians V. Parents"

CBS News California Investigates

34. BEST STATEWIDE TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING

(Winner)

"American Nightmare: Lessons Learned"

CBS News California Investigates

35. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR LISA MCREE

36. BEST TELEVISION WEATHER SEGMENT (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Viajando Entre Climas y Calabazas"

KFTV, Fresno

Lisa McRee



Lisa McRee has lived in the same SoCal community for nearly 30 years. She's a true lover of the Los Angeles area, and even during her stint in NYC, she couldn't wait to return to the Golden State.

Lisa's vibrant career includes helping to launch ABC News "World News Now" in 1992. After that, she would return to LA to anchor the 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. news at KABC Eyewitness News before being tapped to return to the network in NYC to co-anchor "Good Morning America."

In 2018, Lisa helped launch Spectrum News 1 serving as a co-anchor of "Your Mornings on 1," as well as bringing the journalism of the Los Angeles Times to life as the anchor of "LA Times Today."

As a five-time Emmy Award winner, Lisa is no stranger to award-winning reporting. Of her many decorated stories, her report titled "War Stories from Ward 7-D" remains her most meaningful. It chronicled the dramatic stories of four veterans of the Iraq War who were treated at the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Polytrauma Unit. This story inspired Lisa's ongoing passion for veterans and their families, which is shown through the volumes of volunteer work she does to date. She also won the coveted DuPont Columbia Award for reporting and producing this story.

Believe it or not, Lisa and her husband met on a blind date. Fast forward through their marriage of 30 years! – they are now the proud parents of two children. In their free time, you can catch the family brushing up on their history trivia or searching for the best restaurants in LA.

Order of Presentation

37. BEST TELEVISION WEATHER SEGMENT (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"ABC7 Tsunami Watch"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Evelyn's Forecast from the "Next Weathersphere"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Paul Deanno Next Weather"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

38. BEST RADIO ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

Trash Talk: Environmentalists Clear Remote Beaches

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

39. BEST TELEVISION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Prehistoric Giant"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

"Toxic Tides"

KSBY, San Luis Obispo

"How Do Long Baby Sharks Stay in San Diego?"

KPBS, San Diego

40. BEST TELEVISION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Ghost Traps"

Spectrum News 1, Los Angeles

"Meet Mochi"

KABC, Los Angeles

"We Should Have Known"

KABC, Los Angeles

41. BEST RADIO MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Earthquake Prediction Satellite"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Beating Cancer from the Middle"

KFI, Los Angeles

"Battling Parkinson's: Boxing Fights the Disease"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

42. BEST TELEVISION MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"CPR Saves a Life"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

43. BEST TELEVISION MEDICAL AND SCIENCE REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Why Did a Teen Walk Off Mount Whitney?"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Skin Cancer - Saving My Ear"

KABC, Los Angeles

"The Changing the Face of Cancer"

KABC, Los Angeles

44. THE JUNE LOCKHART AWARD FOR RADIO ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Mane Attraction: Therapy Horses Meet Hollywood"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"The Benn Family - From Ashes to AGT"

KFI, Los Angeles

"The Case of a Missing Neon Fish"

KVPR, Fresno

45. THE SAM RUBIN AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Una Carta de Amor al Más Allá"

KBNT, San Diego

"Film Fest Fever Dream: And the Oscar Goes To ..."

KEYT, Santa Barbara

46. THE SAM RUBIN AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Debbie Allen: Dancing in the Light"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

"The Rise of Grammy-Winning Producer Hit-Boy"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

47. BEST RADIO SPORTS REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

"Should Kids Be Playing Contact Sports?"

KPBS, San Diego

48. BEST TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Should Kids Be Playing Contact Sports?"

KPBS, San Diego

"Los Aullidos de la Loba Acosta"

KBNT, San Diego

"Golpe a Golpe - Boxeadores del Valle"

KFTV, Fresno

FOX 11

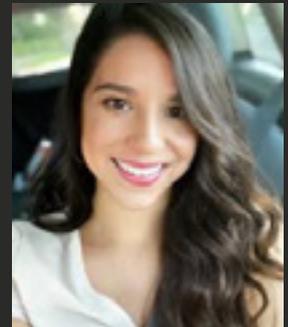
Assignment Desk



These are the faces of the FOX 11 Assignment Desk. They are the nucleus of the newsroom, the sleuths at the center of our stories, the method behind organized madness. Whether it's navigating complex breaking news or uncovering community concerns, they carry a hunger that feeds every story that comes across that Desk. They say pressure makes diamonds, and these nine people shine. Thank you **Dianne, Lily, Freddy, Melissa, Dave, David, Miami, Chris** and **Orion** for your tireless efforts behind the scenes to keep us informed, safe and connected each and every day.



Dianne Sanchez



Liliana Nuno



Freddy Bedoya

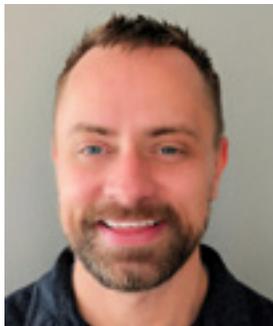


Melissa Lopez



David Figueroa

Thank You



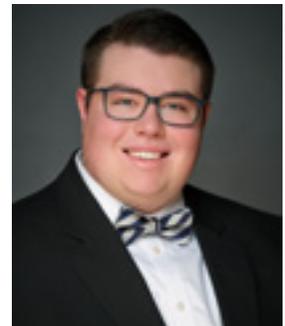
David Matras



Miami Abdulal



Chris Moore



Orion Powell

Susan Hirasuna

Susan Hirasuna is a proud hometown girl.

She was born in Encino, raised in Simi Valley and graduated from the University of Southern California. For more than two decades, she has anchored the weekend news and reported for FOX 11. Susan's work has earned her numerous Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards, Golden Mike Awards and New England Emmy Awards. In 2012, a year after the great quake and tsunami, she traveled to Japan on a fellowship to report on recovery and rebuilding efforts. As an anchor, she's handled extended coverage of the Route 91 shooting in Las Vegas, the death of Princess Diana and too many wildfires and police pursuits to count. Susan is a longtime member of the Asian American Journalists Association and served on the L.A. board for years. Currently, she is still active with the chapter as an advisory board member.



Order of Presentation

49. BEST TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"FACEism: The Lantern"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Anaheim Girls Water Polo Champions"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"L.A. Rams' Emotional ALS Tribute"

KTTV, Los Angeles

50. BEST TELEVISION SPORTSCAST (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"KEYT Sports with Mike Klan"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

51. BEST TELEVISION SPORTSCAST (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Sports Central"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"ABC7 and Dodgers in Tokyo"

KABC, Los Angeles

52. RTNA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SUSAN HIRASUNA

53. BEST RADIO LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Doggone: When a Dog is Lost, Hope is Not"

KPBS, San Diego

"Trailblazing 'Mr. Rogers' Actor Reflects on Legacy"

KPCC, Pasadena

"A Rescue Camel Lives with His Human Best Friend"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

54. BEST RADIO SERIES REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Back to School"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Toxic Waters, Sick Sea Lions"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Notes from the Fires"

KUSC, Los Angeles

55. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Red Heel Heist' Spurs One-Woman Investigation"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

"Camp of Possibilities"

KSBY, San Luis Obispo

"Therapy Chickens"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

56. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Learning to Speak Goat"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"El Poder de Ser Uno Mismo"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"A Little Magic in the Rubble"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

57. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Doggone: When a Dog is Lost, Hope is Not"

KPBS, San Diego

"Mini Therapy Horses Visit LAFD"

LA Cityview Channel 35, Los Angeles

"Dodgers World Series Victory Parade"

LA Cityview Channel 35, Los Angeles"

58. BEST TELEVISION LIGHT FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"The History of Los Angeles: A Mexican Perspective"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"Bob's Brush with Fame"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"The Stahl House"

PBS SoCal, Los Angeles

59. BEST TELEVISION SERIES REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"Altadena Strong"

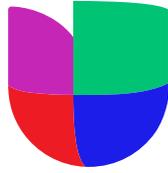
KABC, Los Angeles

"Tribes of the Coachella Valley"

KMIR, Palm Springs

"Rebuilding SoCal: Lessons Learned from Paradise"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles



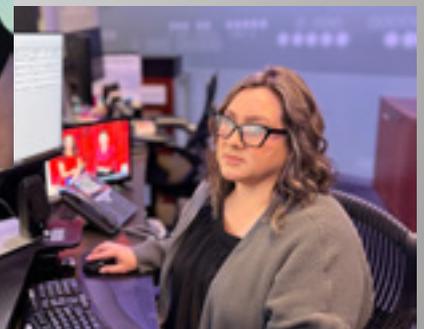
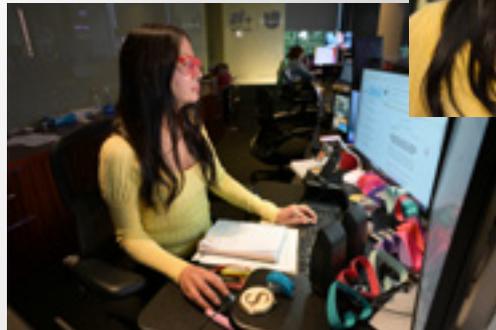
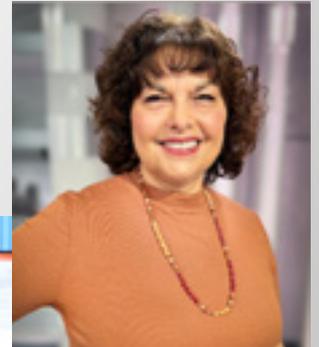
The assignment desk is not only the brain of our day-to-day newsroom operations but also its heart.

It is the place where information becomes action, where decisions are made in real time and where the pulse of our coverage begins.

Every call answered, every alert monitored and every crew dispatched reflects a deep sense of purpose and responsibility. From breaking news to community stories, the assignment desk connects all the moving parts, ensuring that our journalism is timely, accurate and meaningful.

What truly defines our assignment desk is the people behind it. This is a team driven by passion for news and by a genuine commitment to the communities we serve. They understand that every story has a human impact. They listen, they verify, they coordinate and they anticipate needs before they arise. Their work requires urgency, sharp editorial judgment and constant communication, often under intense pressure, yet they lead with collaboration and care.

Beyond logistics, the assignment desk sets the tone for the entire newsroom. It is where teamwork, trust and mission come together. Their dedication ensures that our coverage is not only efficient but also compassionate and community focused.



Order of Presentation

60. BEST RADIO SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"City Hall Gadflies"

KFI, Los Angeles

"No Help Came in Eaton Fire"

KPCC, Pasadena

61. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"No Nurse, No Evidence"

KSBY, San Luis Obispo

"Enfermeros tácticos"

KBNT, San Diego

"Breaking Silence"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

62. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LESS (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Finding Hope in Loss"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Who is ICE? Caza Recompensas"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"Message in a Bottle"

KNBC, Los Angeles

63. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Naval Journey up the California Coast"

KESQ, Palm Springs

"Los Angeles Deadly Fentanyl Crisis"

KLCS, Los Angeles

"Death in the Desert"

KGET, Bakersfield

64. BEST TELEVISION SERIOUS FEATURE REPORTING, 5 MINUTES OR LONGER (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"FACEism: 9066"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Witness: Ending a Firestarter"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Altadena is My Life"

KNBC, Angeles

Order of Presentation

65. BEST RADIO BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"The Egg McMuffin Turns 50"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

"Coffee Interns Master Latte Art and Blow Torches"

KVPR, Fresno

66. BEST TELEVISION BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Uncorking Change: A Turning Point for Wine Country"

KSBY, San Luis Obispo

"Scrambled Prices"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

67. BEST TELEVISION BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Sephora Kid" Concerns

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Infertilidad: En Busca de un Milagro"

KMEX, Los Angeles

"Gulp: Starbucks False Recycling Claims"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

68. BEST RADIO NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"AI is Helping Fresno Police Officers"

KVPR, Fresno

69. BEST RADIO NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"The Military Heads to the California/Mexican Border"

KNX, Los Angeles

"Tuskegee Airmen: Not DEI but American Heroes"

KOGO, San Diego

70. BEST NEWS REPORTING BY A RADIO NETWORK

(Winner)

"Southern California Fires"

CBC Network



**The Assignment Desk
is the one place
in the newsroom where
no two days
are ever the same.**

We are staffed around the clock because at any moment – day or night – a major story can break. We are, quite literally, the heartbeat of the newsroom.

CBS LA's Assignment Editors don't do this work for accolades or recognition. They do it because news is in their DNA – they live it, eat it, breathe it. I've been fortunate to lead an exceptional team of assignment and planning editors: from seasoned, old-school "newsies"

who have tirelessly covered some of Southern California's biggest stories, to newer editors who bring fresh perspectives and fluency with emerging technologies. That blend of experience and innovation is what makes this desk so strong in our daily coverage.

CBS LA has also embraced a new way of showcasing the critical role of Assignment Editors, inviting some of them to appear on air as stories unfold. It allows viewers to see how we gather information in real time – and just how essential this desk is to everything we do.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have worked with editors who fully embody what it means to be a journalist. Their dedication, curiosity and commitment to truth have made this desk what it is today.



71. BEST TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"The Voice of Metamorphosis: The Transgender Journey"

KSDY, San Diego

"Lost Dream Seekers at the Southern Border"

KSDY, San Diego

"Defying Fear"

KEYT, Santa Barbara

72. BEST TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Leanne's Perspective"

KABC, Los Angeles

"School Sucker Punch"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"Altadena Senior Home Investigation"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

73. BEST NEWS REPORTING BY A CABLE OR BROADCAST NETWORK

(Finalists)

"Chronicle of a Disaster"

Univision

"In The Field: The LA Fires"

CBS News

"Land of Women"

Univision

74. BEST RADIO "LIVE" COVERAGE OF THE 2025 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(Winner)

"Palisades and Eaton Fires: Boots on the Ground"

KNX, Los Angeles

75. BEST TELEVISION "LIVE" COVERAGE OF THE 2025 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

(Finalists)

"Eaton Fire Nursing Home Evacuation"

KTLA, Los Angeles

"January Inferno: Disbelief, Unity, Accountability"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"ABC7 SoCal Fires"

KABC, Los Angeles

76. THE JEFF BAUGH AWARD FOR BEST TELEVISION AIRBORNE COVERAGE

(Winner)

"Sunset Fire"

KABC, Los Angeles



**At KTLA,
we are fortunate to have a great
group of Assignment Editors and
Desk Assistants who
truly reflect the diversity
of our viewing audience.**

We are an aggressive group of journalists who take pride in being the "front lines" of information. It is often a "thankless" position when you look at the trophies handed out at various award ceremonies, but we do it to make a difference, to keep our communities informed. We take pride in meeting the challenge of being the only position in our building that operates 24/7. Multiple generations are represented on our desk, allowing us to keep up with the times, and we are fortunate to be able to learn from one another as our industry continues to change. At KTLA, we have the best desk in town because of our pride, diversity and fearless pursuit of that next breaker!



Order of Presentation

77. BEST RADIO "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Inferno! Ventura County Fire Destroys 180 Homes"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

78. BEST RADIO "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"LA Immigration Protest"

KFI, Los Angeles

79. BEST TELEVISION "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"Protestas Contra Redadas"

KFTV, Fresno

80. BEST TELEVISION "LIVE" COVERAGE OF A NEWS STORY (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"Immigration Raids in LA"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"ICE Raids and Protests"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Sunset Fire"

KABC, Los Angeles

81. BEST RADIO CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Z107.7 Coverage of National Park Ranger Dismissals"

KCDZ, Twentynine Palms

"Border Patrol Raid In Kern County"

KVPR, Fresno

"Ventura County Hit By Massive Firestorm"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

82. BEST RADIO CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"ICE Protests in Downtown LA"

KNX, Los Angeles

83. BEST TELEVISION CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION B)

(Finalists)

"Operation Return to Sender"

KFTV, Fresno

"Zack Scrivner Investigation"

KGET, Bakersfield

"Cobertura Continua: Tragedia Aérea en San Diego"

KUAN, San Diego

abc **7** **EYEWITNESS NEWS**
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S #1 NEWS TEAM



The **abc 7** Assignment Desk has been a driving force behind our newsroom's success this past year, consistently guiding our coverage with clarity and dedication.

The team ensures that reporters, photographers and AIR7 are positioned where they can have the greatest impact.

Their expertise was especially critical during the January wildfires where they had to track the rapidly shifting conditions and manage endless logistics all while fielding countless viewer calls and tips.

Our **abc 7** Assignment Desk's contributions elevate our journalism and our unwavering service to the community.

Order of Presentation

84. BEST TELEVISION CONTINUING COVERAGE (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"January Wildfires Continuing Coverage"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles

"SoCal Fires"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Menendez Brothers' Resentencing Hearing"

KNBC, Los Angeles

85. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST UNDER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION B)

(Winner)

"KCLU News At 7 PM with Dave Meyer"

KCLU, Thousand Oaks/Santa Barbara

86. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST UNDER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"KFI 12 p.m. News with Michael Monks"

KFI, Los Angeles

87. BEST RADIO WEEKEND NEWSCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Winner)

"KOGO Weekend Newscast with Phil Farrar"

KOGO, San Diego

88. BEST RADIO NEWSCAST OVER 15 MINUTES (DIVISION A)

(Winner)

"LA's Morning News"

KNX, Los Angeles

89. BEST TELEVISION DAYTIME NEWSCAST AIRING BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4 PM (DIVISION A)

(Finalists)

"KCAL News Mornings at 7 AM"

KCAL, Los Angeles

"Eyewitness News at 6 AM"

KABC, Los Angeles

"Good Day LA"

KTTV, Los Angeles

90. BEST TELEVISION WEEKEND NEWSCAST (ONE DIVISION)

(Finalists)

"FOX 11 Weekend News at 10 PM"

KTTV, Los Angeles

"NBC4 News at 11 PM"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Eyewitness Weekend News at 11 PM"

KABC, Los Angeles

**91. BEST TELEVISION NEWSCAST 30 MINUTES OR LESS, AIRING BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT
(DIVISION A)**

(Finalists)

"Eyewitness News at 11 PM"

KABC, Los Angeles

"NBC4 News at 6 PM"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"Good Nite LA"

KTTV, Los Angeles

**92. BEST TELEVISION NEWSCAST 60 MINUTES OR LESS, AIRING BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT
(DIVISION B)**

(Winner)

"Noticiero Telemundo 20 a las 5"

KUAN, San Diego

**93. BEST TELEVISION NEWSCAST 60 MINUTES OR LESS, AIRING BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT
(DIVISION A)**

(Finalists)

"Eyewitness News at 5 PM"

KABC, Los Angeles

"NBC4 News at 5 PM"

KNBC, Los Angeles

"KCAL News on CBSLA at 5 PM"

KCBS/KCAL, Los Angeles



CAMERAS IN COURTS



Since the 1970s, The Radio and Television News Association of Southern Calif has always pushed the envelope to protect the rights of a "free press." It has also been a leading force to allow cameras in Southland courtrooms.

In 1987, when the California Judicial Council authorized a pilot program to give judges discretion to allow TV and still-camera coverage of civil and criminal trial court proceedings, RTNA took the lead to ensure the "judicial experiment" succeeded, and today, because of the efforts of attorneys Don Zackery, Royal Oaks and Patti Paniccia, cameras in courts are almost as commonplace as courtroom stenographers.

As an organization, RTNA has been responsible for overseeing all aspects of Southern California courtrooms camera coverage and has led the fight to make all television and radio stations follow Judicial Rule 980.

RTNA was the first journalism organization to have a full-time attorney on its board of directors whose focus was not only protecting journalists' first amendment rights, but to make sure our rights of access to California Courtrooms were protected.

A major responsibility of RTNA's full-time administrator is to oversee "Cameras in Southern California Courtrooms," to coordinate media requests for coverage in those courtrooms, and ensure that Rule 980 is followed exactly as described in the judicial order. In addition, it's the administrator's responsibility to ensure that video and/or still photos shot by pool cameras are available to all radio and television outlets, print and internet organizations who show up at the courtroom door to cover the proceedings.

That responsibility also includes not only assigning the stations who will supply and operate those cameras in the courtroom, but making sure the rules of the court are followed and distribution of video and still pictures from each case are given to all news organizations who are on scene for coverage.

RTNA has successfully obtained television coverage of dozens and dozens of high-profile courtroom proceedings, such as the Michael Jackson, Menendez brothers and Rodney King trials, to name a few, and hundreds of smaller local court cases. However, the People vs. O.J. Simpson case ranks indisputably as the "Trial of the Century." Most court cases last only a few days, at best a week or two, but the O.J. Simpson trial continued for eight long months, making television court coverage history!

You also might be interested to know that the court administrator in Santa Barbara took the RTNA outline on "camera in the court" to use as a blueprint in the Michael Jackson child molestation case and credits RTNA for its successful press coverage.

Once the presiding Superior Court judge assigned the O.J. murder trial to Judge Lance Ito and court dates were announced,

by Carol Breshears

RTNA quickly went to work to set up and coordinate behind-the-scenes coverage, which included credentialing, courtroom seating, workspace areas, allocations for media truck and trailer parking – and transmitting live coverage. All of this was handled more than capably by Carolyn Fox for the electronic media and Yet Lock for the print and wire service media. Hundreds of international, national and local news organizations requested credentials, work areas and parking spaces for their live satellite trucks and micro vans.

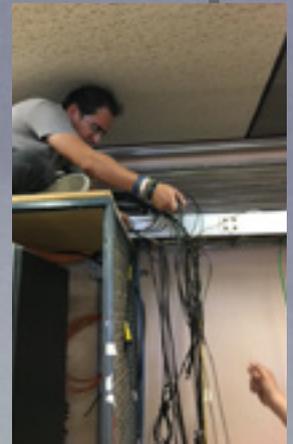
The County of Los Angeles gave RTNA a large workspace area on the 11th floor of the Criminal Courts Building and the parking area at the old abandoned LA County Sheriff's Department Jail site located directly across from the Criminal Courts Building. That area housed over 100 satellite trucks and micro vans and an overflow of working trailers. It became affectionately known as "Camp O.J." and attracted the attention of the public. The local TV and radio station engineers wired Judge Ito's courtroom and ran cable up to the 12th floor where a media work area was located. From there, the actual courtroom video was sent to the hub for distribution to all local, national, foreign, radio and television stations carrying the daily proceedings live each day.

Seating in the courtroom was a premium and done on a rotating bases; however, Judge Ito saved front row seats for his special invited celebrity guests. Author/writer Dominick Dunne had a prized permanent front row seat as he did stories for *Vanity Fair*, and he was rumored to be writing a book about the case. That rumor proved correct. His book on the O.J. trial was published less than a year later.

Court TV volunteered to supply and operate the daily courtroom camera, so there weren't any problems associated with who was going to run camera each day.

In addition to the 11th floor media center, RTNA members from the local stations helped to wire the District Attorney's media workspace for regular press covering the courts on a daily basis, as well as the conference rooms where the district attorney held daily news briefings. They also laid cable to "Camp O.J." Since those cables had to be run underground, across a busy street, they were run through an underground tunnel. The cables were made of copper wire. One morning, engineers arrived to find thieves had stolen all the copper cables and cut communications off completely. The thieves were never caught, and RTNA ended up installing a whole new set of copper cable at record speed and cost.

The RTNA costs associated with the "live" coverage and setup for the "O.J. Murder Trial" was a little over \$400,000. But the real benefit was the lessons learned from the eight-month-long coverage. Was it worth it? You decide!



The late Carol Breshears was a former two-time RTNA President and Assignment Manager for KTTV News.

75th Golden Mike Awards® Celebration





The History of Radio in Los Angeles

By STEVEN DUGAN

Typical setup for an RCA Radiola with RCA Loudspeaker from around 1927.



No one could have imagined the impact radio would have on Americans when KDKA in Pittsburgh went on the air in 1920. Before then, electronic communication in the U.S. was very limited. The telegraph had been around since the 1840s, but the telephone didn't come into widespread use until the 1890s. Radio pioneers like Guglielmo Marconi used newly discovered radio waves to create a wireless form of communication – something that the telegraph and telephone were not.

KDKA is regarded as the first commercially licensed radio station in the world. There were other stations that broadcast before KDKA in 1920, but they were experimental stations not fully licensed. Jim Hilliker, former Los Angeles broadcaster and radio historian, writes that ham operators began sending music over the airwaves as early as 1908, albeit on a purely amateur level. By 1922, some 600 stations dotted the landscape across the U.S., providing news and entertainment to Americans. As long as your family owned a radio, you could hear the President's voice from the White House or a concert from New York City! Radio sales soared.

In Los Angeles, there were about 21 commercial radio stations in 1922, some of them still on the air today. Radio in early L.A. was not

the 24-hour-a-day endeavor it is now. Many stations were on for a few hours a day, or they would broadcast a few hours in the morning and not resume programming until the evening. Other stations even powered down at certain times because they shared frequencies with other stations.

To give you an idea of life in the '20s, the population of the U.S. was 114 million. The average yearly income was \$1,124. The median price of a new home was \$7,720. The average cost of a new car was \$398. A gallon of gasoline cost 21 cents. A quart of milk went for 13 cents, a loaf of bread was 9 cents, a dozen eggs sold for 43 cents and a pound of steak was 41 cents.

One of the earliest radio stations in L.A., which first broadcast on April 13, 1922, is a familiar one: KHJ 930 AM. Three days later, KFI went on the air. Other stations like KFVB, KECA (later KABC) and KNX (an experimental station in 1921) soon began commercial broadcasting. Call letters in the East generally started with a W, in the West with a K, and were assigned two ways. Through April 1922, radio stations were given three-letter call signs. After that, the Commerce Department, then in charge of radio licensing, distributed call signs with four letters, beginning with KD, KE, KF and so on.

The other way call letters were created allowed station owners to request call signs to help listeners better remember the station. For example, KHJ advertised their call letters meant Kindness, Happiness and Joy. KECA was named after its owner, Earle C. Anthony, who also owned KFI. KFI was rumored to stand for Farm Information because they broadcast frost reports, warning farmers and orchard owners to light up their smudge pots overnight to keep their crops from freezing. According to KFI's website, the connection between its call letters and farm information was a happy coincidence – the call letters were assigned in order using the three-letter formula.

Daily programming on KFI consisted of Vesper Services, or evening prayers, from the Christian Church. Owner Earle Anthony broadcast a weekly show from his Packard dealership. Music from Chickering Hall in Los Angeles provided entertainment. Whether you had a radio or went to a friend's house to listen, the radio brought the country and the world into your living room. When radios were installed in cars, they fit perfectly into L.A.'s commuter lifestyle.

Article and photos courtesy of Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, City of Industry, California.



“ONE LITTLE GIRL WHO UNITED THE WORLD FOR A MOMENT”

On April 8, 1949, a three-year-old girl named Kathy Fiscus slipped and fell into an abandoned well in San Marino. The dramatic rescue attempt – broadcast live on KTLA and KTTV – was considered to be a defining moment in TV history. Kathy ended up dying, but the race to save her involved police, firefighters and volunteers. After a few hours, men with unfamiliar equipment – reporters from local stations, KTLA and KTTV – also arrived on scene. Stan Chambers and Bill Welsh alternated coverage during a live 27-hour telecast covering the rescue operation. Despite only an estimated few thousand television sets in Los Angeles at the time, the groundbreaking moment proved to be a shared experience across the Southland and the nation. It's important to remember that newscasts back then were only 15 minutes long, but the Fiscus tragedy inspired a newfound fascination with live TV news and led to expanded newscasts. “One Little Girl Who United the World for a Moment” is etched on Kathy's gravesite.

—*Meghan McMonigle, Tech Producer, KTLA*





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