

# **William Hein Freivogel**

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## **ACADEMIC PREPARATION:**

JD – Washington University Law School – 2001 – Order of the Coif, law quarterly, legal ethics award, 7<sup>th</sup> in class, class marshal

B.A. – Stanford University – 1971 – honors political science, cum laude

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Director, School of Journalism at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale** – 2007 to present; **Interim Director**, 2006-7

**University professor** – Paul Simon Public Policy Institute – 2006-present

**Deputy editorial editor** – St. Louis Post-Dispatch – 1997-2005 – writing editorials, editing editorials, setting editorial policy, helping supervise 10-person editorial staff

**Assistant projects editor** – 1992-96 - supervising news projects involving more than a dozen members of the newsroom.

**Assistant Washington Bureau Chief** – 1986-92 – covering U.S. Supreme Court, defense contractor fraud, EPA scandal, Justice Department; helping to supervise 7-person staff

**Washington correspondent** – 1980-86

**City desk reporter** – 1971-80 – legal and investigative projects

**Investigator for Ralph Nader** – 1971 – project on National Academy of Sciences

**Co-editor of The Stanford Daily** – 1970-71

## **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

### **Washington University Law School 2008 Distinguished Young Alumni Award**

## **NEWSPAPER PROJECTS AND AWARDS**

### **1**

**Liberty vs. Security in the wake of 9/11** – (2001-5) More than 100 editorials over four years explored the tensions between liberty and security in a time of war. The editorials argued that President George W. Bush and Attorney General John D. Ashcroft have been too willing to surrender basic freedoms and legal protections

#### **Award:**

**Finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize**

### **2**

**The Constitution at 200 (1987)** – Principal contributor to year-long project commemorating the Constitution with installments on judicial interpretation, judicial power, slavery, suffrage, the Bill of Rights, freedom of religion and freedom of expression. This was an unconventional series, unlike those that appear in newspapers today. The series was not an expose or investigation. Rather it was an attempt to explain the meaning of the Constitution in the context of legal controversies in St. Louis and around the nation.

#### **Awards:**

**Benjamin Franklin award for the most outstanding newspaper series on the Constitution**

**ABA Silver Gavel**

**American Legion Golden Press Award**

### **3**

**The St. Louis school desegregation settlement (1997-99)** – More than one hundred editorials over three years helped block Attorney General Jay Nixon's attempt to end the metropolitan school desegregation case under which about 13,000 African-American children from the City of St. Louis attended suburban schools. The program not only

expanded education opportunities for blacks, but also integrated all-white suburban schools. That gave black and white children a chance to learn to work and play together. After helping to stop Mr. Nixon's attempt to dismantle the program, the editorials supported a settlement negotiated by Dr. William Danforth. Then an editorial-a-day campaign in early 1999 led to passage of a sales tax to fund the settlement.

**4**

**The Bill of Rights (1991)** – Principal contributor to series explaining the way the protections of the Bill of Rights affect Americans' everyday lives. Installments included explanations of the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses.

**Awards:**

**Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Service Medal and Bronze Medallion**

**ABA Silver Gavel Award**

**Metropolitan Bar Association**

**ACLU Civil Libertarian of the Year with Margaret Freivogel**

**5**

**The Waco Investigation (1999-2000)** – One of two reporters who spent a year investigating the death of the Branch Davidians at Waco. When the Post-Dispatch began the investigation, much of the press coverage suggested that the government might have been responsible for touching off the fire that killed members of the religious group. But the Post-Dispatch obtained evidence contradicting that conventional wisdom. One of the national exclusives broken in the Post-Dispatch was the first pictures of the area surrounding the group's compound at the time of the federal assault. The pictures showed that there were no federal agents in the place where the Branch Davidians claimed agents had started the fire.

**6**

**Defense fraud at General Dynamics (1984-85)** – Stories over more than a year by Freivogel and reporter Jon Sawyer contributed to the resignation of Chairman David S. Lewis and repayment of millions to the government.

**Awards:**

**Investigative Reporters and Editors**

## **Headliners Award**

**National Press Club Washington Correspondence award (1984)**

**National Press Club Washington Correspondence certificate (1985)**

7

**Maplewood police corruption (1977-78)** – Freivogel and reporter Paul Wagman investigated the killing of a mentally disturbed man at the Maplewood police station. The investigation disclosed a pattern of police brutality in the department. Three policemen were charged, the mayor was voted out and the police chief fired – all as a direct result of stories. After the Maplewood department was cleaned up, Freivogel expanded the scope of the stories nationwide, showing that the Justice Department’s investigations of police brutality often were largely ineffective.

### **Awards:**

**ABA Silver Gavel awards**

**Connie Rosenbaum award**

8

**Defeat of concealed gun initiative (1999)** - Editor of editorials by Philip Kennicott opposing concealed guns. The editorials were credited with blocking passage of Proposition B to allow the possession of concealed guns.

### **Award:**

**Finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize**

9

**Dioxin in Missouri and the EPA scandal** – Led Washington coverage of the dioxin contamination of Missouri, including a special section, Dioxin: Quandary of the 80s. The dioxin stories led to broader coverage of the EPA scandal that resulted in the dismissal of Rita Lavelle and Anne M. Burford.

### **Award:**

**National Press Club Washington Correspondence Award**

10

**Saving the Legal Services Corp.** (1981) – The Post-Dispatch gave the most extensive coverage in the nation to the White House attempt to kill the Legal Services Corp. The stories were influential in blocking the president’s effort.

**Award:**

**Emery Brownell award for helping to preserve the program** – National Legal Aid and Defender Association

**11**

**The counter-revolution in civil rights** – Freivogel and his wife, Margaret, examined the impact of the civil rights policy reversals during the years of the Reagan presidency.

**Award:**

**Sidney Hillman award**

**12**

**Bail bond abuses.** Stories on corruption in the St. Louis Court of Criminal Correction turned up abuses by bail bondsmen and the pre-trial detention of people accused of misdemeanors and traffic violations. The stories resulted in the Missouri Supreme Court instituting a new recognizance system.

**Award:**

**Connie Rosenbaum award**

**13**

**Juvenile court reform** (1974, 1993) – Series on Juvenile Judge Gary M. Gaertner found that Gaertner misstated crime statistics. It also found that Gaertner locked up more juveniles accused of minor crimes in a bureaucratic ploy to ward off attempts by a state agency to gain access to part of his detention facility. Stories about the judge’s use of state money to pay private expenses led to an ethics investigation and his departure from the juvenile court. Two decades later, Gaertner’s nomination for a federal judgeship was withdrawn after Freivogel wrote a story reviewing his judicial record.

**14**

**McDonnell Douglas “questionable payments” stories (1981)** – Stories probed a debate in the Justice Department over how to proceed with a prosecution against McDonnell Douglas executives. The case involved questionable payments in connection with an airplane sale to Pakistan

15

**Webster vs. Reproductive Health (1989-90)** – Freivogel organized the Washington Bureau’s coverage of the legal and political impact of the Webster abortion decision

**Award:**

**President’s Award (with Margaret Freivogel) – Women’s Political Caucus** – for abortion case coverage and for sharing a job as Washington correspondents

16

**Missouri Medicaid (2005)** - Editorial series with John Carlton examined the impact of the Medicaid health care cuts on lives of the working poor. In response, a group of health care professionals and advocates is pushing a cigarette tax increase to pay for the lost health care

17

**Executing the Innocent (2000)** - Editorial series highlighting cases of probable innocence on Missouri’s death row and among those already executed. The series examined 13 cases of wrongful convictions in Illinois and identified the factors that the cases had in common. It then examined Missouri death row cases to look for those same factors. One of the Missouri cases identified involved Joseph Amrine, who later was released. Another involved Larry Griffin, whose execution has recently been questioned by St. Louis prosecutors.

18

**The Contract with America (1995)** – Assistant projects editor supervising year-long project of a dozen stories to explain how the different parts of the Contract with America would affect people’s lives in Illinois and Missouri.

19

**Day care abuses in Missouri (1980)** – Stories on unsafe, poorly run day care centers and homes led to state reforms.

20

**Breakdown of Missouri-III. child support enforcement (1993)** – Series resulted in a law passed by Missouri Legislature to improve child support collection

**Award:**

## **Missouri Press Association award with Martha Shirk**

**21**

### **Supreme Court coverage (1980-92)**

**Award:**

**ABA Gavel Award for Supreme Court coverage**

**22**

**Illegal University City housing program (1979)** – Disclosed a secret housing program run by a liberal activist who tried to stabilize the racial balance of northern University City by selling homes only to whites. The program ended after it was publicized.

**23**

**Monsanto's questionable political contributions program (1975)** – Stories disclosed a secret political contributions plan under which Monsanto's Washington lobbyist pressured top executives to give to favored candidates and then checked if they had by reviewing the bank statements of the special political accounts used for the donations. The plan was stopped after the disclosure by the Post-Dispatch.

**24**

**City Hall goof-offs (1973)** – Stories on St. Louis City Hall workers and officials who were goofing off or working other jobs on city time led to numerous dismissals, including the head of the city pound who simultaneously operated a tavern and providing color commentary on the St. Louis Football Cardinals radio broadcasts.

## **PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, WORKSHOPS**

**“Ethiopia: Fighting for a free press,” “Letter from Nairobi;” “Letter from Murchison Falls”** – Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting – blogs reporting on State Department funded trip to Africa to present workshops on the press in a democracy.  
[http://pulitzercenter.typepad.com/news\\_points/letter-from-ethiopia.html](http://pulitzercenter.typepad.com/news_points/letter-from-ethiopia.html)

**“All the President's Men" or "The Sopranos"? Reporters need to learn from both** – March 26, 2007 – St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 26, 2007.

**Publishing National Security Secrets: The case for “benign indeterminacy”** – winner of competition for paper to be presented at the AALS National Security law conference Jan. 4, 2007 in Washington D.C. and then published in the Journal of National Security Law & Policy. The title of the January conference is “Prosecuting Leakers and Leakees: The End of National Security Muckraking?”

**“Integration – The law or justice? Court wrestles with lingering effects of discrimination”** – St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Dec. 12, 2006.

**Examining the Risks of Wrongful Executions and the Role of Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, Academia, and the Press** – presenter at conference co-sponsored by Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and St. Louis University – Nov. 17, 2006.

**Legacy of Nuremberg Today: Issues of International Justice** – Nov. 16, 2006 – speech co-sponsored by the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center and Jewish Community Relations Council

**The Communications Gap Between Journalists and Judges on Publishing National Security Secrets** – Sept. 25, 2006, The Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media

**Threats to Judicial Independence** – speech delivered Feb. 17, 2006 at the Bar Association for Metropolitan St. Louis as part of Missouri Continuing Legal Education program in ethics.

**Medmal in Illinois** – speech delivered in 2005 at Southern Illinois University Carbondale Law School

**St. Louis: Desegregation and School Choice in the Land of Dred Scott (2002) - Divided We Fail: Coming Together Through Public School Choice** – Century Foundation, Century Foundation Press.

**The Elusive Impact of Del Monte Dunes (2001)** – note accepted for publication by the Washington University Law Quarterly on the impact of U.S. Supreme Court case opening the way for civil rights suits in regulatory takings cases.

**Lessons From Thirteen Innocent Men (2000)** – article identifying criteria present in most cases of innocence on death row in Missouri and Illinois. The article used 13 cases of innocence in Illinois to develop a model for identifying cases of likely innocence in Missouri.

**A Constitutional Backwater: The Court-Stripping Provisions of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.**

**Law Talk blog published daily on St. Louis Post-Dispatch web site.**  
<http://www.stltoday.com/blogs/category/news-law-talk/>

#### **FUTURE PUBLICATIONS:**

**Mr. Bush's War on Terrorism undermines the rule of law:** St. Louis University Law Journal - 2007

**Co-author with Margaret Wolf Freivogel of history on the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri.**

#### **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY:**

**Millstone Lecture Series** – president – helps plan and raise funds for annual lecture honoring former *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* editor.

**President of PTA group in Bethesda, Md. that waged three-year-long campaign that kept open the local elementary school. Later served as mediator in divisive PTA squabble that led to removal of the PTA president who abused authority 1980-87.**

#### **REFERENCES:**

Mike Lawrence, director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, Mail Code 4429, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Il 62901.

Martha Shirk, author and former St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter, 746 Los Robles Ave., Palo Alto, CA 95306, 650-857-0481. E-mail: [mrs8468@aol.com](mailto:mrs8468@aol.com)

Ellen Soeteber, former editor St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 608 3<sup>rd</sup> Key Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. FL 33304, (954)522-9187, [ellsoeteber@aol.com](mailto:ellsoeteber@aol.com)

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