

# WILLOUGHBY MARIANO

ATLANTA, GA

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I am an experienced investigative reporter who writes vivid stories that move readers, challenge conventional wisdom and create meaningful change.

## EXPERIENCE

**AUGUST 2020 – MAY 2021**

**NIEMAN FELLOW**, NIEMAN FOUNDATION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Explored concepts of home, housing and identity. Coursework included housing policy, race and inequality and fiction writing. Trained in audio reporting and storytelling.

**MAY 2010 – PRESENT**

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER**, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Uses sourcing, public records and datasets to write long-term investigations and quick-turn watchdog stories that focus on housing, neighborhoods or criminal justice. Stories played roles in reforms to local laws on living conditions in [apartment complexes](#); [state legislation](#) reforming the handling of [sexual assault evidence](#); state legislation reforming [civil forfeiture law](#); a [state investigation](#) into [the spending of a district attorney](#); the [conviction](#) of a [notorious property speculator](#); the conviction of [a serial rapist](#); the [conviction](#) of an Atlanta jobs program contractor; [the departure](#) of the head of [Atlanta's jobs agency](#); [the departure](#) of the head of Atlanta's [biggest redevelopment project in a generation](#); and [a formal apology](#) by the Fulton County District Attorney to Atlanta police.

Balances projects with breaking stories and timely enterprise. Coverage included reporting on Atlanta's Black Lives Matter movement after the deaths of [George Floyd](#), [Philando Castile](#) and [Alton Brown](#). COVID-19 enterprise uncovered testing [shortcomings](#) and [misleading data](#). Also worked on PolitiFact Georgia, a truth-squadding team.

Embraces projects on complex, messy subjects, such as minor crimes committed by [homeless sex worker Angela Dalton](#) and [sex trafficking misconceptions](#).

**MAY 2001 – APRIL 2010**

**REPORTER**, ORLANDO SENTINEL

Covered breaking news, enterprise and investigative stories that explored hidden facets of life in Central Florida. My work helped bring about changes to an international treaty; the dismantling of a volunteer firefighting system; reforms in the state's child-abuse reporting law; and the release of a man jailed in a case of mistaken identity.

Traveled overseas as co-author of a series about indentured Micronesian workers at Sea World and other businesses. Reported on major breaking stories such as 9/11, the shuttle Columbia disaster, hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne and the Caylee Anthony case.

Authored the Orlando Homicide Report, a popular blog about a years-long outbreak of record violence. I focused on the human stories and context behind the death count.

## SELECTED AWARDS

- **Investigative Reporters and Editors Awards**, 2022, Division III, member of winning reporting team
- **Goldsmith Awards**, 2023, member of semi-finalist team
- **Barlett & Steele Awards**, 2022, Best in Investigative Journalism, Silver, Local/Regional Category, member of reporting team
- **Asian American Journalists Association**, 2022, Chapter Leadership of the Year (as chapter)
- **Asian American Journalists Association**, 2020, Co-Chapter President of the Year
- **Yale Alumni Schools Committee**, 2017, Service Recognition Award
- **Asian American Journalists Association**, 2015, Al Neuharth Award for Innovation in Investigative Journalism
- **Atlanta Press Club**, 2015, Reporting on Civil and Human Rights
- **National Association of Real Estate Editors**, 2015, Best Series, Gold Award; Best Collection of Work by an Individual, Silver Award
- **International Consortium of Investigative Journalists**, 2003, Outstanding Investigative Reporting, co-finalist
- **National Headliner Award**, 2003, Investigative Reporting, first place, co-winner

## EDUCATION

**B.A. ENGLISH**, YALE UNIVERSITY

Editor-in-chief, Yale Daily News Magazine. Winner, Elmore A. Willetts Prize for Fiction.

## SELECTED LEADERSHIP

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER**, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS AND EDITORS, 2021 - present.

**ATLANTA CHAPTER PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIR**, ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION. Served as chief local liaison for the 2019 convention, attended by about 800 journalists. Launched a day of programming advancing representation in all forms of media. Helped coordinate speakers including John Lewis, Maria Ressa and George Takei. At the Atlanta chapter, I increased participation and

revenue; revived the annual student workshop; added programming; and served as a national board representative.

## **SELECTED TEACHING/PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**ENTERPRISE TEAM COACH**, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, THE RED & BLACK independent student newspaper, 2021 - present. Meets weekly and as needed with staffers to discuss and edit enterprise and investigations.

**PANELIST, MODERATOR, INSTRUCTOR**, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS AND EDITORS/NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTER-ASSISTED REPORTING, most recently in 2020, 2022 and 2023. Subjects included housing, data and fact checking. Also taught the IRE watchdog reporting workshop at the 2019 AAJA national convention.

**PANELIST, EXPERT REVIEWER**, PEN AMERICA, Reviving Local News event, 2022; and Keeping It Local: Community Reporters Elevating Local Discourse town hall, 2021; reviewer for Losing the News report, 2019.

**PRESENTER** for classes at Cornell University, Georgia State University, Harvard Law School and elsewhere on journalism and housing.

**BROADCAST APPEARANCES** on news outlets including NPR, CNN, CBSN, WSB-TV and elsewhere to speak about Georgia politics, COVID-19 and other news.