

The Center for Integrity in News Reporting Award of Excellence - Texas

Texas is among the 14 states chosen to participate in the Center for Integrity in News Reporting Award of Excellence. Through a grant from the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, each state prize includes a \$5,000 award.

Texas Press Association members may enter the CFINR contest through the Texas Better Newspaper Contest during the TPA contest's entry period Jan. 19 - Feb. 13, in the category called Center For Integrity in News Reporting Award of Excellence - Texas. This category is not part of the regular TxBNC but will be judged through the association's swap with the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

Representatives of CFINR and/or SNPAF will announce and award the state prize at the Texas Press Association Convention and Trade Show June 18 - 20 in Dallas.

Participants will enter one major news story or series of news stories that meet the following criteria:

- The entry must be a straight news report and not an editorial, opinion piece, or column.
- The work should focus on verifiable facts, balanced perspectives, neutral tone/language, transparency, and thoroughness of sourcing, while excluding opinion and emotional appeals.
- All factual claims should be supported by evidence and all information verified through multiple independent and reliable sources.
- The language used should be objective and informative, not sensationalized, or emotionally charged. Writing should avoid loaded adjectives, adverbs, or framing that tell the reader how to interpret the facts or feelings.
- Reporters should clearly identify their sources, ideally with verifiable details (e.g., name, position, institution) rather than vague references like "leading doctors say."
- The entry should be complete and within context, providing enough context and background information for the reader to understand the broader implications of the subject. The report should also cover "the whole story," not just the parts of a story that support a particular narrative.

Entries should be uploaded in the special category added to this year's Texas Better Newspaper Contest. Entry period is Jan. 19 through Feb. 13.

The name(s) of the writer(s) producing the story or series must be included as the award is presented to the reporter, not the newspaper. One state prize of \$5,000 will be awarded by representatives of the Center for Integrity in News Reporting.