GARY COHN

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**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism** January 2004 to present

*Adjunct Professor*

Teaching courses on investigative reporting, fundamentals of print reporting, computer-assisted reporting, and reporting on juvenile justice and youth issues. I’ve also taught the journalism practicum, supervising Annenberg students during their summer internships, and this summer I am part of the team teaching the summer immersion course for incoming graduate students. Also, taught seminar for incoming freshman entitled “Investigative Reporting and Journalism Ethics in the Age of the Internet.” In previous years, served as contest coordinator for print entries in the Hearst Journalism Awards Program and other student journalism contests. During summer 2011, worked as an adjunct professor and editor with a group of News21 Fellows (second-year graduate students) on reporting projects involving money and politics.

**Freelance investigative reporter and writer** January 2009 to present

Focusing on investigative stories involving the economy, the environment, politics, education, California state government, health care, food safety and medical issues and the federal government. Worked as a senior reporter for Capital and Main, covering investigative, economic and political stories. Also served as Los Angeles bureau chief for Juvenile Justice Information Exchange and Youth Today, nationwide publications covering juvenile justice and youth issues.

**Service Employees International Union – United Health Workers** June 2010 to June 2013

*Consultant and researcher*

Helping to investigative abuses, improper and possibly illegal practices by Prime HealthCare Services, including upcoding and possible Medicare fraud and working with national and local reporters to present news stories about the abuses. Among other things, this work resulted in a Polk Award series of stories by the Center for Investigative Reporting/California Watch as well as stories on PBS NewsHour, the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, the Sacramento Bee and numerous other media outlets. The SEIU-UHW investigations and news stories helped spur federal and state investigations into Prime’s business and medical practice.

More recently, I have also worked as a consultant for International Brotherhood of Teamsters, investigating food safety and worker treatment issues involving Taylor Farms and the food supply network in California.

**Bloomberg Markets Magazine, Bloomberg News Service** August 2007 to December 2008

*Senior Writer*

Investigative reporting on a variety of public service, financial and government topics for Bloomberg Markets, the monthly magazine of Bloomberg News Service. Based in Los Angeles.

**Los Angeles Times** July 2003 to July 2007

*Reporter*

Investigative reporting on a variety of topics, including the 2003 special gubernatorial election, business and national stories. One recent project was an investigative series that documented widespread abuse and exploitation of women and children in polygamous communities over the past 50 years – abuses that occurred with the knowledge and complicity of government authorities at all levels.

**University of Alaska** **at Anchorage** August 2001 to June 2003

*Atwood Chair, Department of Journalism and Public Communications*

The Atwood Chair was created in 1980 by Robert B. Atwood, publisher of the Anchorage Times for more than 50 years, “to advance the quality of print and broadcast journalism in Alaska.” Worked with journalism students and print and broadcast reporters throughout the state and taught courses on investigative reporting, basic news writing, advanced news writing, information gathering and other topics.

**The Baltimore Sun** October 1993 to August 2001

*Reporter*

Reported and wrote threepart investigative series, *The Shipbreakers,* which documented the dangers to workers and the environment when old ships are dismantled. The series detailed how the littleknown industry called shipbreaking has compiled a record of deaths, accidents, mishandling of asbestos and environmental violations while dismantling old ships at ports around the country. The series also described how the U.S. Navy was planning to send its old ships to be discarded in south Asia, where workersafety and environmental regulations are virtually nonexistent. The series awakened the public and Congress to significant dangers that had gone unnoticed. In response to the articles, Congressional hearings were held before the House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. The Navy suspended plans to scrap American warships overseas. A Defense Department panel called for more rigorous management of the shipscrapping program. And the Senate approved legislation banning overseas scrapping and voted to set up a pilot project to test new ways of dismantling old Navy ships in the United States. The series won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting and five other national journalism awards.

Reported and wrote fourpart investigative series, *Battalion 316,* that documented how a CIAtrained Honduran army unit kidnapped, tortured and executed hundreds of suspected subversives during the 1980s with U.S. knowledge and complicity. The series was based on interviews with victims and their families, torturers and U.S. and Honduran officials and on U.S. government documents obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act. The series produced major results in the United States and Honduras. The U.S. Senate passed a resolution calling on the administration to expeditiously declassify government documents about the torture and murder of Honduran citizens by Battalion 316 and the CIA’s director ordered the agency to review the history of its relationship with the Honduran military during the 1980s. In Honduras, prosecutors filed criminal charges against nine military officers for kidnapping and torturing student activists and murder charges against the former leader of Battalion 316 for the killing of a man whose disappearance and murder were detailed in The Sun's series. Also, the Honduran Supreme Court ruled unanimously that military officers charged with human rights abuses of the 1980s could be tried in civilian courts. The series won numerous national journalism awards and was a finalist for the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

**The Philadelphia Inquirer** September 1986 to September 1993

*Reporter*

Reported and wrote investigative series that documented corruption by the president of Philadelphia’s largest municipal union. As a result, the union president was voted out of office, convicted of corruption charges in federal court and imprisoned. Another series revealed why city residents paid the highest auto insurance rates in the nation. The series was cited by state officials when the legislature passed an insurance reform law that lowered rates. A third series, *No se Habla Español,* reported that because police didn't understand Spanish, crimes involving Hispanic farm workers in suburban Philadelphia often went unsolved and crime victims received no help. The series also revealed that interpreters were not provided for Spanish speaking defendants at court hearings. Information from the series helped police solve a fouryear old murder case and prompted the hiring of Spanishspeaking police officers and court interpreters.

Also as a beat reporter covered Federal Court, real estate and the Port of Philadelphia.

**The Wall Street Journal** (Miami Bureau) February 1984 to August 1986

*Reporter*

Reported and wrote feature articles and breaking news stories on the airline industry in South Florida, particularly Eastern Airlines. This coverage included a reconstruction about the sale of Eastern Airlines and the first indepth national report on the company’s landmark powersharing plan with its unions. Also reported on narcotics trafficking, moneylaundering operations and other business and nonbusiness topics.

**Lexington HeraldLeader** November 1980 to January 1984

*Reporter*

Reported and wrote indepth investigative projects on topics of statewide and national importance. These special reports explored such issues as the muzzling of a public official at a state university and its relationship to academic freedom and the pursuit of excellence in a university community; the quality of scientific research at a taxpayersupported tobacco and health research institute over a 10year period, with emphasis on the ways the tobacco interests influenced the scientific research at the institute; and the state’s blacklung benefits program. These stories resulted in significant reforms. Also reported exclusive stories on a federal grand jury investigating corruption in Kentucky state government and covered breaking news stories on topics such as coal mining disasters in eastern Kentucky.

**Jack Anderson’s Column** August 1975 to November 1980

*Reporter*

Reported and wrote investigative stories for the nationally syndicated column. Reported on items of national interest including congressional corruption, white-collar crime, wrongdoing in the federal judiciary, consumer ripoffs, labor union scandals and White House improprieties. Covered the 1976 Republican Convention in Kansas City.

**Southern Regional Council** June 1975 to August 1975

*Investigator*

Probed various aspects of the New Orleans city government. One investigation showed that the city’s health department was mishandling a federally funded sicklecell anemia testing program. Important changes were made in the program as a result of the investigation.

**JOURNALISM AWARDS**

**Pulitzer Prize** for Investigative Reporting, 1998, for the series *The Shipbreakers.* The series detailed the dangers to workers and the environment when old ships are dismantled.

**Finalist, Pulitzer Prize** for Public Service, 1996, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Finalist, Pulitzer Prize** for National Reporting, 2002, for the series *Of Patients and Profits*.

**George Polk Award** for environmental reporting, 1997, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Selden Ring Award** for the best investigative story of the year, 1998, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Selden Ring Award** for the best investigative story of the year, 1996, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Medal,** 1997, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Overseas Press Club of America Award** for 1997 for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Overseas Press Club of America Award** for 1995 for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Sigma Delta Chi's first prize** for investigative reporting for 1997 for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Barlett & Steele Awards for Investigative Business Journalism**, 2009,silver award, formagazine story *AARP’s Stealth Fees Often Sting Seniors with Costlier Insurance.*

**National Press Club Award for Consumer Journalism/Periodicals,** 2009, for magazine story *AARP’s Stealth Fees Often Sting Seniors with Costlier Insurance.*

**New York Press Club Award,** 2009, for consumer reporting for magazine story *AARP’s Stealth Fees Often Sting Seniors with Costlier Insurance.*

**Society of American Business Editors and Writers (SABEW) award,** 2008, projects, for *The Insurance Hoax.*

**New York Press Club Award,** 2008, for magazine story/consumer reporting for *The Insurance Hoax.*

**Gerald Loeb Award**, 2008, finalist/news services for *The Insurance Hoax.*

**Deadline Club Award (New York chapter, Society of Professional Journalists)** for 2008, finalist, for Daniel Pearl Award for Investigative Reporting; for Business News series or Investigative Reporting, and for the James Wright Brown Public Service Award for *The Insurance Hoax.*

**Society of Professional Journalists First Amendment Award** for 1997 in recognition of strong and continuing efforts to preserve and strengthen freedom of the press and the First Amendment.

**Washington Monthly Journalism Award,** May 2006, for the series *The Enclave*.

**Washington Monthly Journalism Award,** December 1997, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**Roy W. Howard Award** for public service, finalist, 1997, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**SAISCiba Prize for Excellence in International Journalism,** certificate of recognition, 1997, for the series *The Shipbreakers.*

**InterAmerican Press Association Award** for the best indepth reporting on Latin America, 1996, for the series *Battalion 316*

**TimesMirror Journalist of the Year,** 1996,for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Washington Monthly Journalism Award,** June 1995, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting,** finalist, 1995, for the series *Battalion 316.* This award is administered by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

**Heywood Broun Award,** honorable mention, 1995, for coverage that shows an abiding concern for the underdog and the underprivileged, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) Award,** finalist, 1995, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**SAISCiba Prize for Excellence in International Journalism,** certificate of recognition, 1995, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association** first prize for investigative reporting for 2000 for the series *The Visa Vendors*.

**Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association** best of show award for education reporting for 1999 for *It’s in the Book, and it’s Wrong*

**Maryland Press Club Media Award** for the best newspaper series, 1995, for the series *Battalion 316.*

**Excellence in Journalism Award,** Investigative reporting, 1996, for the series *Battalion 316.* This award is presented by the Maryland chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

**Robert F. Kennedy Award** for outstanding coverage of the problems of the disadvantaged, second place, 1992, for the series *No* *se Habla Español.* The series reported that crimes involving Hispanic farm workers in suburban Philadelphia often go unsolved.

**Philadelphia SPJ (Society of Professional Journalists),** special citation, public service, 1992, for the series *No se Habla Español.*

**Outstanding Human Service Award,** Governor's Commission on Latino Affairs, 1992, for the series *No se Habla Español.*

**Philadelphia SPJ (Society of Professional journalists),** firstplace, investigative reporting, 1990, for a series reporting on the high cost of automobile insurance in Philadelphia.

**Keystone (Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association) Award,** second place, investigative reporting, 1989, for a series about corruption inside Philadelphia’s largest municipal union.

**Edward W. Scripps First Amendment Award** for 1980. Helped the Lexington Herald win this award by resisting a federal subpoena to reveal news sources for stories about a federal grand jury investigating corruption in Kentucky state government.

**National Education Reporting Award,** investigative reporting, second place, 1981.

**National Education Reporting Award,** investigative reporting, special citation, 1982.

**Excellence in Journalism Award,** investigative reporting, finalist citation, 1983. This award is presented by the Atlanta chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

**Washington Monthly Journalism Award,** March 1982.

**FELLOWSHIPS**

**Media Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University,** September 2006, December 2007 and March-April 2009

**ACADEMIC/TEACHING RECOGNITION**

Paper entitled “Interviewing Great Reporters” selected for publication by the Newspaper Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The paper placed second in a teaching ideas competition sponsored by the Newspaper Division.

***Presentations***

**Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE) conference,** Orlando, FL, June 2011 – Presentation on covering nonprofit corporations, foundations and charities.

**Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE) conference,** Las Vegas, NV, June 2010 – Presentation on investigative business journalism.

**Covering the Green Economy seminar, Arizona State University,** Phoenix, AZ, June 2010 – Presentation entitled “The Shipbreakers: A Step-by-Step Guide To Taking Your Local Environmental Story Global.”

**EDUCATION**

**University of California at Berkeley Law School** June 1975

*First year completed*

GPA: 3.60

**State University of New York at Buffalo** June 1974

*BA in psychology and political science*

GPA: 3.84. Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude