

Minnesota Senate
**Capitol Press Corps
Directory**

2010

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Minnesota Senate

Capitol Press Corps Directory 2010

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Members of the press corps are accredited through:
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Senate Rule 16

Privilege of Reporters

16.1 The Secretary shall provide space for news reporters on the Senate floor in limited numbers, and in the Senate gallery. Because of limited space on the floor, permanent space is limited to those news agencies that regularly cover the legislature, namely: The Associated Press, St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul Legal Ledger, Star Tribune, Duluth News-Tribune, The Forum, Rochester Post-Bulletin, St. Cloud Times, WCCO radio, KSTP radio, Minnesota Public Radio and Minnesota News Network. The Secretary shall provide an additional two spaces to other reporters if space is available. One person from each named agency and one person from the Senate Publications Office may be present at the press table on the Senate floor at any time. Other news media personnel may occupy seats provided in the Senate gallery.

16.2 The Secretary shall compile and distribute to the public a directory of reporters accredited to report from the Senate floor. The directory must include each reporter's picture and news organization and a brief biography.

16.3 The Secretary must issue each accredited reporter an identification badge showing the reporter's name and news organization. The reporter must wear the badge when in the Senate Chamber.

Brian Bakst

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821
Fax: 651-222-2208
E-mail: bbakst@ap.org

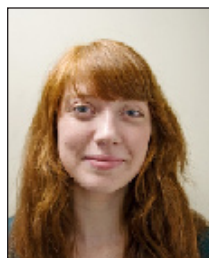


Education: BA, Political Science/Journalism, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Copy editor, Albuquerque Journal; legislative correspondent, Murphy McGinnis Media; legislative reporter, Associated Press, since 1999.

Briana Bierschbach

Associated Press

Newsroom: 612-222-4821
Fax: 612-222-2208
E-mail: bbierschbach@ap.org



Education: University of Minnesota graduate.
Experience: Beats at Minnesota Daily included city government, transportation, and projects.

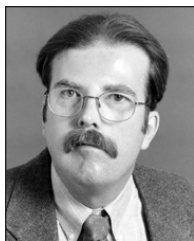
Martiga Lohn

Associated Press

Capitol: 651-222-4821
Fax: 651-222-2208
E-mail: mlohn@ap.org



Education: BA, International Studies, Macalester College; MS, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.
Experience: Associated Press, 2004-present; Bloomberg News (Germany), 2002-04; Duluth News Tribune, 1999-2002; (Minneapolis) Southwest Journal, 1996-99.



Timothy Budig

ECM Publishers, Inc.

Capitol: 651-224-8143
Fax: 651-224-8143
E-mail: tim.budig@ecm-inc.com

Education: BA, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
Experience: Six years, ECM Capitol reporter; previously, ABC Newspapers, Coon Rapids, now part of ECM.



Don Davis

Forum Communications

Capitol: 651-290-0707
E-mail: ddavis@forumcomm.com

Education: Journalism degree, Drake University (Des Moines, Iowa).
Experience: Editor of daily newspapers, mostly in the Midwest, before covering politics in North Dakota and Minnesota. Covered Minnesota government and politics since 1998.



Andrew Tellijohn

Forum Communications

Capitol: 651-290-0707
E-mail: mnrbureau@forumcomm.com

Education: BA, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Freelance reporter for numerous local and national publications since 2004. Previously a reporter for The Business Journal and Star Tribune.

John Croman

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988
Newsroom: 763-797-7290
Fax: 651-227-1488
E-mail: jcroman@kare11.com



Education: BS, Journalism, University of Kansas, 1980.
Experience: KARE-TV, 1997-present. Previously at KNXV, Phoenix; KETV, Omaha; Cable 6, Lawrence, Kan.; KSAL-AM, Salina, Kan.; Audio Reader Network, Lawrence, Kan.; KGGF-AM, Coffeyville, Kan.

Aethan Hart

KARE-TV 11

Capitol: 651-292-8988
Newsroom: 763-797-7215 (KARE Assignment Desk)
Fax: 651-227-1488
E-mail: ahart@kare11.com



Education: Duluth Central High School; College of St. Scholastica; BA, Art/Art History.
Experience: KDAL-TV, KSTP-TV, KTCA-TV, KARE-TV.

Tanner Curl

KFAI Radio News

Capitol: 763-923-5085
Newsroom: 612-205-4766
E-mail: tanner.curl@gmail.com



Education: BA in English, COE College.
Experience: Reporter for KFAI, 2009-Present.



Martin Owings

KFAI Radio News

Capitol: 612-599-3030
Newsroom: 612-205-4766
E-mail: owings1064@hotmail.com

Education: St. Paul College, Metro State University,
History and Political Science.

Experience: 12 years experience reporting for local and national news organizations, broadcast news, spot-news for Public Radio for two years. Capitol Press Corps Association; member of Society of Professional Journalism.



Mark Albert

KSTP-TV 5

Capitol: 651-642-4327
Newsroom: 651-647-2895
Cell: 612-618-5762
Fax: 651-642-4409
E-mail: malbert@kstp.com

Education: BA, Broadcast Journalism, minor in Political Science,
University of Southern California.

Experience: Reporter, KSTP-TV, August 2005-present; reporter and political correspondent, WWMT-TV, Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo, Mich., July 2001-August 2005; reporter and weekend anchor, KHSL-TV, Chico/Redding, Calif., July 1999-June 2001; reporter, IMPACT Cable News, L.A.



Tom Hauser

KSTP-TV 5

Capitol: 651-642-4327
Newsroom: 651-642-4455
Fax: 651-642-4409

Education: BA, Journalism and Political Science, University of St. Thomas; MA, Journalism and Mass Communications, Drake University.

Experience: KAAL-TV, Austin, Minn.; WINK-TV, Fort Myers, Fla.; WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa; KSTP-TV, Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Mark Fischenich

Mankato Free Press

Newsroom: 507-344-6321
Fax: 507-388-4355
E-mail: mfischenich@mankatofreepress.com

Education: University of Minnesota, Journalism.

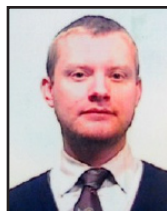


Jon Strandlie Collins

Mesabi Daily News/ American Consolidated Media

Newsroom: 612-208-8479
Cell: 612-805-5496
E-mail: coll0229@gmail.com

Education: BA, Journalism and History, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Minnesota Daily, Mesabi Daily News, American Consolidated Media.



Bill Werner

Minnesota News Network

Capitol: 651-224-0355
Newsroom: 612-321-7211
Fax: 612-321-7222
E-mail: bwerner@mnnradio.com

Education: BA, Political Science, Macalester College.
Experience: Political correspondent, Minnesota News Network since 1993.





Tim Nelson

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-315-4900
Newsroom: 651-290-1393
E-mail: timnelson@mpr.org

Education: BA, Gustavus Adolphus College.
Experience: Minnesota Daily, St. Paul Pioneer Press.



Tim Pugmire

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035
Newsroom: 651-290-1424
Fax: 651-227-5238
E-mail: tpugmire@mpr.org

Education: BS, St. Cloud State University.
Experience: Minnesota Public Radio, 1990-present.



Tom Scheck

Minnesota Public Radio

Capitol: 651-291-1035
Newsroom: 651-290-1424
Fax: 651-227-5238
E-mail: tscheck@mpr.org

Education: Degrees in Broadcast Journalism and English, Syracuse University.
Experience: Reporter/producer, Minnesota Public Radio, 2000-present; reporter/producer, Indiana Public Radio, 1996-2000.

Steve Perry

Politics in Minnesota/Capitol Report

Capitol: 612-238-7043
Newsroom: 651-293-1981
E-mail: steve.perry@politicsinmn.com



Education: BA, Drake University; MA, University of Iowa.
Experience: Editor, City Pages, 1989-97, 2002-07; editor, MN Independent, 2008; managing editor, PIM/Capitol Report, 2009-present.

Heather Carlson

Rochester Post-Bulletin

Capitol: 507-281-7482
Newsroom: 507-281-7482
E-mail: hcarlson@postbulletin.com



Education: MA in Journalism, University of Missouri; BA, College of St Catherine.
Experience: Rochester Post-Bulletin, four years; Associated Press.

Mark Sommerhauser

St. Cloud Times

Capitol: 651-224-4937
Newsroom: 320-259-3680
Fax: 320-255-8775
E-mail: msommerhauser@stcloudtimes.com



Education: BA, Journalism and History, University of Missouri-Columbia.
Experience: Reporter, Fulton, Mo., Sun, 2004-2007; reporter Winona Daily News, 2007-2010; currently, reporter at St. Cloud Times.

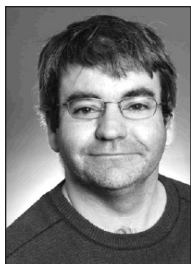


G. R. Anderson, Jr.

St. Paul Legal Ledger Capitol
Report/MinnPost

Newsroom: 612-220-3098
E-mail: randerson@minnpost.com

Education: BA, Drake University, Des Moines, IA; MS, Columbia University, NYC, NY; Adjunct - University of Minnesota Journalism School.
Experience: Five years freelance, salon.com, Washington Monthly; seven years reporter, news editor, City Pages.



Paul Demko

St. Paul Legal Ledger Capitol
Report/Dolan Media

Capitol: 651-221-9996
Newsroom: 651-602-0575
Fax: 651-222-2640
E-mail: paul.demko@legal-ledger.com

Education: BA, New York University.
Experience: Chronicle of Philanthropy, 1995-1998; New Times Broward-Palm Beach, 1998-2000; City Pages, 2000-2008; MN Independent, 2008-2009; Capitol Report & Politics in MN, 2009-present.



Charley Shaw

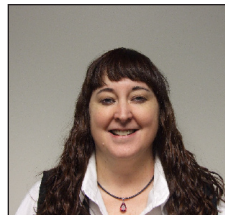
St. Paul Legal Ledger Capitol
Report/Politics in Minnesota

Newsroom: 651-602-0578
Fax: 651-222-2640
E-mail: charley.shaw@legal-ledger.com

Education: BA, History, Lawrence University.
Experience: Ogle County (Ill.) Newspapers, 1999; Stevens Point (Wis.) Journal, 1999-2001; St. Paul Legal Ledger, October 2004-present.

Betsy Sundquist

St. Paul Legal Ledger Capitol
Report/Politics in Minnesota



Capitol: 651-221-9996
Newsroom: 651-287-1306
Fax: 651-222-2640
E-mail: betsy.sundquist@legal-ledger.com

Education: Studied Mass Communications and Film at Moorhead State University.

Experience: Sioux Falls Argus Leader; Fargo Forum; Minneapolis-St Paul Business Journal; Legal Ledger Capitol Report and Politics in Minnesota.

John Autey

St. Paul Pioneer Press



Newsroom: 651-228-5497
Cell: 651-328-1753
E-mail: jautey@pioneerpress.com

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer, 14 years experience.

Megan Boldt

St. Paul Pioneer Press



Newsroom: 651-228-5495
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: mboldt@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Journalism, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Pioneer Press, 2003-present; Associated Press, Bismarck, N.D., 2002-03; Murphy-McGinnis Newspapers, legislative correspondent, 2001-02.



John Doman

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5534
Fax: 651-228-2169
E-mail: jdoman@pioneerpress.com

Education: Bowling Green State University.
Experience: Lake County News-Herald, 1972-1977; The Miami Herald, 1977-1982; St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1982-Present.



Ben Garvin

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 612-554-5450
Fax: 651-228-2169
E-mail: bgarvin@pioneerpress.com

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer.



Jason Hoppin

St. Paul Pioneer Press

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Cell: 651-228-1172
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E-mail: jhoppin@pioneerpress.com

Dennis Lien

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5588
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: dlien@pioneerpress.com



Education: BA, American Studies, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Pioneer Press, 1978-Present; Rochester Post-Bulletin, 1977-78; Marshall Independent, 1975-1977.

Richard Marshall

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5503
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E-mail: rmarshall@pioneerpress.com



Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer.

Debra O'Connor

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5453
Fax: 651-228-5500
E-mail: doconnor@pioneerpress.com



Education: BA, Political Science and English, University of South Dakota; graduate courses University of South Dakota and University of Minnesota.

Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press, 21 years covering politics and education; now the Watchdog consumer reporter.



Jeremy Olson

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5583
Fax: 651-228-5500
E-mail: jolson@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Print Journalism and English, University of St. Thomas.
Experience: Medical reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 2005-present; reporter, Omaha World-Herald, Jan. 1999-April 2005; reporter, The (Aurora, Ill.) Beacon News, April 1996-Dec. 1998.



Jan Pieri

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5497
Fax: 651-228-2169
E-mail: jpieri@pioneerpress.com

Education: University of Minnesota.
Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer, 26 years experience.



Ginger Pinson

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5497
E-mail: gpinson@pioneerpress.com

Education: BA, Stephens College; MMC, University of So. Carolina.
Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer since 1989.

Chris Polydoroff

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-228-5497
E-mail: cpolydoroff@pioneerpress.com

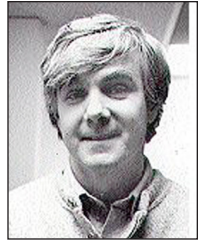


Education: BA, University of Virginia; MA, Ohio University.
Experience: St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer, 22 years experience.

Jim Ragsdale

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5529
Newsroom: 651-228-5491
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: jragdale@pioneerpress.com



Education: BA, University of California-Santa Barbara, 1972.
Experience: Pioneer Press, 1984-present, editorial writer, 2006-present; MPR, 1982-84; Star Tribune, 1981-82; Charleston (W.V.) Gazette, 1977-81; United Press International, Los Angeles and San Francisco, 1972-76.

Bill Salisbury

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Capitol: 651-228-5538
Newsroom: 651-228-5555
Fax: 651-228-5528
E-mail: bsalisbury@pioneerpress.com



Education: BA, History, University of Minnesota, Morris.
Experience: Reporter, St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1977-present; reporter, Rochester Post-Bulletin, 1972-77; reporter, Fairmont Sentinel, 1971-72.

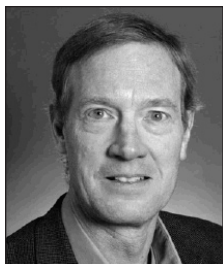


C. Scott Takushi

St. Paul Pioneer Press

Newsroom: 651-325-6022
E-mail: stakushi@pioneerpress.com.

Education: BA, Wheaton College.
Experience: Seattle Times, 1985-1987; St. Paul Pioneer Press photographer since 1987.

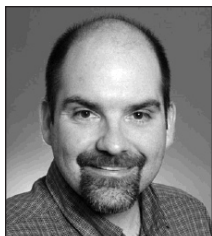


Pat Doyle

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 651-222-1210
Cell: 612-616-2026
E-mail: pdoyle@startribune.com

Education: Bachelors Degree
Experience: 35 years experience as a newspaper reporter, covering politics, economic development, education, gambling, and other issues.



Baird Helgeson

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-1288
Newsroom: 651-222-1288
Fax: 651-222-0101
E-mail: baird.helgeson@startribune.com

Education: BA, Print Journalism, University of St. Thomas
Experience: City Hall and Legislative reporter, Daily News, Minot, ND; reporter, Rochester Post-Bulletin and Duluth News Tribune; general assignment reporter for The Tampa Tribune.

Emily Johns

Star Tribune



Newsroom: 651-298-1541
E-mail: emily.johns@startribune.com

Education: University of Minnesota, BA, Journalism.
Experience: Star Tribune education issues since 2005; Interned at the Star Tribune, Duluth News Tribune and the Associated Press

Michael J. Kaszuba

Star Tribune



Capitol: 651-222-1673
Cell: 612-201-3283
E-mail: mkaszuba@startribune.com

Education: BA, University of So. Florida.
Experience: Star Tribune, 1980-present.

Patricia Lopez

Star Tribune



Newsroom: 612-673-7028
Cell: 612-599-2654
E-mail: patricia.lopez@startribune.com

Education: California State University, LA.
Experience: Star Tribune, city all reporter, 1992-94; politics and government reporter, 1994-present; education reporter, Cincinnati Enquirer, Roanoke Times and World News; immigration and projects reporter, Orange County Register; cities reporter, LA Times.



Rachel Stassen-Berger

Star Tribune

Newsroom: 651-292-0164
Cell: 612-718-6184
E-mail: rstassen-berger@startribune.com



Lori Sturdevant

Star Tribune

Capitol: 651-222-6126
Newsroom: 612-673-4505
Cell: 612-644-6963
E-mail: lsturdevant@startribune.com

Education: BA, Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; graduate work, University of Minnesota.

Experience: Reporter, assistant city editor, editorial writer and columnist for the Star Tribune since 1975; involved in state Capitol coverage since 1979. Press, Cincinnati and Helena, Mont.



Mary Lahammer

Twin Cities Public Television

Capitol: 651-221-1937
Newsroom: 651-229-1388
Cell: 651-402-8848
E-mail: mlahammer@tpt.org

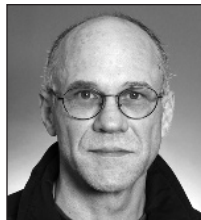
Education: University of Minnesota; major: Journalism and Mass Communications; honors: Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Experience: Host, Almanac at the Capitol; reporter, Almanac; anchor/reporter, WQOW-TV, Eau Claire, Wis.; anchor/reporter, KUMV-TV, Williston, N.D.; winner of several Emmys and other awards for hosting, reporting, producing, and photography.

Mike Phillips

Twin Cities Public Television

Capitol: 651-221-1937
Newsroom: 651-485-8576 (cell)
E-mail: mphillips@tpt.org



Education: Two years 916 VO-TEC T.V. Production.
Experience: 28 years experience at TPT as camera operator.

Jason Barnett

The UpTake

Capitol: 612-708-8224
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-Mail: jason.barnett@theuptake.org



Education: BA, Gustavus Adolphus College.
Experience: Executive Director of The UpTake

Matthew R. Johnson

The UpTake

Capitol: 763-647-8332
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-Mail: matthew.johnson@theuptake.org



Education: BS, Electrical Engineering, So. Dakota State University.
Experience: August 2008 to present, Technology lead for The Uptake.



Erin Maye

The UpTake

Capitol: 612-280-2254
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-mail: ekmaye1@gmail.com

Education: BA, Political Science, Justice and Peace Studies, University of St. Thomas.
Experience: Reporter/intern, The UpTake, 2009-Present.



Michael McIntee

The UpTake

Capitol: 651-261-2272
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-mail: michael.mcintee@theuptake.org

Education: BA Journalism, University of Minnesota.
Experience: WMMR-AM news director, 1977-81; WCCO -TV producer, 1979-1982; KGBT TV producer, 1982-84; KETV TV producer 1984-87; KWTW TV 1987-89; KWTW TV producer, 1987-89; Conus Communication 1989-2002; Co-founded The UpTake and executive producer, 2007-present;



Chuck Olsen

The UpTake

Capitol: 651-270-4392
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-mail: chuck.olsen@theuptake.org

Education: BA, University of Minnesota.
Experience: Senior web producer, TPT, 1997-2004; Founded "Minnesota Stories, 2005; Co-founded The UpTake, 2007-present.

Christian J. Torkelson

The UpTake



Capitol: 651-270-8616
Newsroom: 651-583-0411
E-mail: christian.torkelson@theuptake.org

Education: Student.
Experience: Interest in technology, media, and politics. Film and editing, event production, and citizen journalist training, The UpTake.

Jacob Wheeler

The UpTake



Newsroom: 612-804-5975
E-mail: jacob.wheeler@theuptake.org

Education: MFA, Creative Nonfiction.
Experience: Editor, publisher, journalist, blogger.

Jennifer C. Whigham

The UpTake



Capitol: 612-234-1336
Newsroom: 651-538-0411
E-mail: jennifer.whigham@theuptake.org

Education: University of Minnesota, Theatre and Political Science.
Experience: Former Franken for Senate intern; currently in charge of Communications and Volunteer Coordination, The UpTake.



Eric Eskola

WCCO Radio

Capitol: 651-222-7806
Newsroom: 612-370-0691
Fax: 651-290-0913
E-mail: eeskola@csa.com, eeskola@aol.com

Education: BA, University of Minnesota-Duluth.
Experience: WCCO Radio, 1980-present; Capitol correspondent, 1985-present; Co-host, Almanac, Twin Cities Public Television, 1986-present; KDAL Radio, Duluth, 1971-80.



Pat Kessler

WCCO-TV 4

Capitol: 651-224-7051
Newsroom: 612-330-2509
E-mail: pjessler@wcco.cbs.com

Education: Macalester College, English/Journalism.
Experience: WCCO-TV; Minnesota Public Radio.

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