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Contact: Navid Nonahal, SPJ/LA, (818) 317-2234

Roberta Wax, SPJ/LA, (818) 718-8184

[spjbanquet@hotmail.com](mailto:spjbanquet@hotmail.com)

## **SPJ/LA Announces 2011 Distinguished Journalist Honorees**

LOS ANGELES – The Greater Los Angeles chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists will honor five local journalists and an attorney at its 36th annual awards banquet next spring.

The Distinguished Journalist honorees include longtime regional journalists practicing in print, radio, television and new media. They include: Bob Pool, staff writer at the Los Angeles Times; Howard Fine, a 10-year veteran of the Los Angeles Business Journal; Bob Moon, senior business correspondent, Marketplace; and Lisa Bartley, investigative producer at ABC7, Eyewitness News. Jesus Sanchez, editor and publisher of The Eastsider LA, is the recipient of the chapter's Distinguished Work in New Media Award. Don Zachary, attorney and counsel for RTNA, will receive the chapter's Freedom of Information Award.

SPJ/LA presents the Distinguished Journalist awards to members of the profession who demonstrate good news judgment, a strong sense of ethics and a passion for getting the story right. Honorees are journalists who have achieved a record of accomplishments over the course of several years. For the past three decades, the chapter has recognized reporters, editors and photographers in print and broadcast journalism. Since 1997, the chapter has honored journalists in four categories: television, radio, newspapers with a circulation of less than 90,000 and newspapers with a circulation of 90,000 or more.

The Distinguished Work in New Media award was created in 2008 and is given to a journalist who uses the new media's unique characteristics and capabilities while striving to uphold traditional journalism's highest standards of honesty, accuracy, responsibility and accountability.

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter honors a non-journalist who has helped promote First Amendment issues as the recipient of its Freedom of Information Award.

The awards banquet will be held in March 2012, with the date and location to be announced.

The Society of Professional Journalists is the nation's largest and most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to promoting high standards of ethical behavior and encouraging the free practice of journalism. Founded in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, SPJ works to inspire and educate the next generation of journalists and protects First

Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and press. The Los Angeles professional chapter marked its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

## **Distinguished Journalist Award Winners**

### **Television**

Lisa Bartley is an investigative producer at ABC7, Eyewitness News. She's a graduate of UCLA and has been with ABC7 since 2000. Bartley began her first paid job in journalism at KCAL. From there she started line producing on the overnight shift at KESQ, after which she landed at KNTV in Las Vegas. At ABC7, Bartley has been a writer, field producer, line producer, she learned to shoot and edit, and has even been on-air. Most meaningful to her has been her investigative work on a series about the MTA that looked at the disparities and treatment of disabled people who depend on the MTA to get around. That series resulted in the Board of Supervisors ordering a full-scaled review of the agency and a Department of Justice investigation looking into ADA violations. Bartley's ongoing series on serial plaintiffs has also had an impact. A California state senator who is fighting to get legislation passed that would cut down on frivolous lawsuits is using her stories. Bartley has also worked as a field producer during the trials of Michael Jackson and Scott Peterson. She received an Emmy nomination for investigative reporting in the MTA series and a Genesis award for a piece on greyhounds who were rescued from racetracks.

### **Radio**

Bob Moon is senior business correspondent for American Public Media's Peabody Award-winning Marketplace. His prior assignments include covering the White House, the U.S. space program, and five years as Marketplace's New York bureau chief. Moon's career spans nearly four decades. He has reported on stories from all 50 states and far-reaching international datelines. Before joining Marketplace in 2001, he served for two decades at The Associated Press. As White House correspondent for The AP's broadcast division, Moon witnessed President Ronald Reagan's famous "Tear down this wall" speech in what was then West Berlin. For more than 10 years, Moon covered the U.S. space program, describing firsthand more than 50 shuttle launches and landings, and even logging a session in NASA's shuttle flight simulator at Mission Control. Moon won several national awards while heading radio news departments in Salt Lake City and was lead evening anchor and news director at WLEX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Lexington, KY.

### **Print (circulation over 90,000)**

Bob Pool is a general assignment reporter on the metro staff of the Los Angeles Times. He joined the newspaper in 1983 after spending a dozen years as a reporter-photographer at the Thousand Oaks News Chronicle. At the Times, Pool has primarily written news features. Among his more than 3,600 Times stories was a 12-part series in 1990 that detailed the month he spent in a Santa Claus suit at shopping malls across Los Angeles – including his Christmas Eve appearance at the wrong mall. When it turned out the Glendale Galleria already had another Santa on duty, the Galleria's manager

saved the Times' Santa's padded behind by letting him fill in during their guy's lunch hour. He's been sued (the case was thrown out), shot at (the shooter told authorities it was "a warning shot") and assaulted (a firefighter pulled the attacker off). All three incidents occurred at the News Chronicle. A Los Angeles-area resident since 1958, Pool has a journalism degree from San Fernando Valley State College, now California State University, Northridge.

### **Print (circulation under 90,000)**

Howard Fine joined the Los Angeles Business Journal in 1997 as staff reporter covering state and local government and politics and their impact on local businesses. He has also covered energy, transportation and banking and finance for the Business Journal. Fine has won several awards, including the top individual prize from the Association of Area Business Publications for best overall body of work. He also won AABP awards for his coverage of California's recall election and energy crisis. Recently, he won a Los Angeles Press Club award for Best Business Story for a package on the revitalization of South L.A.'s Crenshaw corridor. Prior to joining the Los Angeles Business Journal, Fine spent seven years as the government and environment reporter for the Orange County Business Journal. He also covered utilities, engineering, transportation, economic development and professions. At the OC Business Journal, Fine won the top award for Best News Story and two second-place awards for environmental beat reporting from the Orange County Press Club. He was also named in an Orange County chamber member survey as the most credible business reporter. Prior to the OC Business Journal, Fine was Orange County Bureau Chief for City News Service. A Los Angeles native, Fine graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Bates College, a liberal arts school in Lewiston, Maine. He obtained a Master of Science degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

### **Distinguished Work in New Media**

Jesus Sanchez, editor and publisher of a community-based news blog, The Eastsider LA, has worked as a newspaper journalist and a blogger for nearly 25 years. Sanchez has primarily reported on business news for such publications as USA Today and the Los Angeles Times. After covering a variety of beats for the Times Business section, Sanchez served as one of the newsroom's first online reporters. Sanchez studied journalism at East Los Angeles College and received his bachelor's degree from Cal State Long Beach, where he majored in business. The Los Angeles native lives in Echo Park.

### **Freedom of Information Award**

Donald L. Zachary, attorney and counsel for RTNA, practices intellectual property, transactional business and litigation in Los Angeles. His battle for First Amendment rights has included fighting for cameras in the courtroom, provisions for the news media to interview jurors, even media parking issues. Zachary has extensive experience in copyrights and trademarks, constructing business relationships and negotiating agreements and in litigation. With more than 30 years of experience in state and federal courts and as a former vice president, law, west coast for NBC, Zachary has extensive experience in entertainment and communications law in television, feature

films and publishing. Zachary was listed three times in ALM Magazine as one of Southern California's Best Lawyers in the area of intellectual property law. Zachary graduated from University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree.