Journalism is a public service.

We empower people with the information they need to make informed decisions and hold the government accountable.
Letter from Rosey

Journalism is a public service—this principle has always guided The Center for Investigative Reporting’s work. Without accurate information, people can’t make informed decisions for their own lives and can’t hold the government accountable. At a time when many newsrooms are putting up paywalls and disinformation bombards people from all directions, CIR’s commitment to revealing the facts is more crucial than ever. This past year, CIR has embodied the concept of journalism as a public service, exposing critical information about reproductive rights and health care, the criminal justice system, climate and sustainability, and so much more. Because of our reporting, people were vindicated, legislation was introduced and laws were changed, and misinformation was combated. I am grateful for every partner and supporter who joined with us to make the past year’s investigations, reporting and impact possible.

Sincerely,

Robert J. "Rosey" Rosenthal
CEO of The Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

“This is the kind of investigative reporting we need.”

-CIR Supporter

Worker in the Dominican Republic cuts sugarcane on a plantation run by the Central Romana Corp. Credit: Pedro Farias-Nardi
### Our impact in the last year by the numbers

(Sept 2022 - Sept 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy changes</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Government actions</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Legal actions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film festivals</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborations with local &amp; national newsrooms</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio stations</td>
<td>600+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total podcast downloads</td>
<td>11.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reveal Reporting Network members</td>
<td>1300+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### CIR is collaborating with newsrooms nationwide to amplify the power and reach of investigative journalism.

After a yearslong legal battle, we forced the government to **release the largest trove of corporate diversity information ever made public.** We now have details on the diversity of staff, executive and lower-level, of more than 19,000 companies that’ve held contracts with the federal government – but we are still litigating for the release of diversity records from thousands of companies that are withholding data.

With our partners at USA Today, we found that **deep racial divides** cut through the workforces of federal contractors, which employ 1 in 5 American workers. As a part of this collaboration, USA TODAY built a lookup tool that makes the data searchable by company, city or state. To support local investigations, we held a training session with our **Reveal Reporting Network** to teach journalists how to leverage this data to investigate hiring practices in their communities.

In 2021, we partnered with Mother Jones on an investigation into the Central Romana Corp., the Dominican Republic’s largest private employer and a major sugar exporter. We found that it forced its workers to work in inhumane conditions for poverty-level wages and denied them benefits like pensions, social security and medical care.

The U.S. government took action: The State Department cited our work in its **annual human rights report**, a House Ways and Means subcommittee called on federal agencies to address “slave-like conditions” in the Dominican cane fields, and last year the U.S. moved to **block sugar imports from Central Romana**. The company is now under criminal investigation.
CIR is informing local communities and reaching federal policymakers about critical reproductive and family health issues.

As part of our ongoing investigation into the lack of regulation over the pregnancy center industry, CIR reporter Laura C. Morel exposed infection control issues at one crisis pregnancy center in Kentucky. We republished the story in local news outlets and reached out to local legislators, activists and journalists to ensure that it reached the impacted community. In direct response to our investigation, a Kentucky lawmaker introduced a bill to regulate crisis pregnancy centers. This bill is part of a nationwide effort to regulate such centers in over a dozen states. Through the Reveal Reporting Network, our national investigation has produced local stories in New York, California and Florida. Unregulated crisis pregnancy centers are prevalent nationwide; it’s urgent that we address this dangerous assault to women’s safety.

In A Mother’s Worst Nightmare, co-published with The New York Times Magazine and aired on Reveal, CIR senior reporter and producer Shoshana Walter uncovered the horrific consequences of a federal law that directs medical providers to notify child protective services when infants are born with drugs in their system – even when those medications are legally prescribed to the mother to take during pregnancy. Across the country, mothers who have simply followed their doctors’ medical recommendations face investigations that can lead to losing custody of their infants.

“I was deep into my reporting when the Supreme Court’s decision came down overturning Roe v. Wade,” Shoshana said. “Talking to parents for this story, I realized that our nation’s drug war policies began eroding the rights of pregnant women and new mothers a long time ago.”

Our story focused on women who take addiction treatment medications such as Suboxone during pregnancy – according to federal and state authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they are the standard of care for any mother-to-be struggling with addiction. Weaning off such medications during pregnancy can have disastrous long-term consequences for both mother and baby. But around the U.S., we found, new mothers are routinely reported to child welfare agencies for taking the prescribed medications they need to have a healthy pregnancy.

Citing our story, federal and state lawmakers told us they were planning to introduce legislation to ensure mothers in recovery aren’t penalized for following doctors’ orders.

“By allowing parents and caregivers to be punished for getting the treatment they need, Congress is betraying their trust, making it that much harder to keep families together, and harming not just this generation but the next. It’s time we fix broken rules that rip families apart and create a system of care that treats people with compassion, dignity, and respect.” – Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass.
CIR is using documentary feature films to bring humanity into our investigations – so that those with the power to effect change cannot look away.

“Victim/Suspect,” an investigation into how law enforcement agents turn alleged victims of sexual assault into suspects by accusing them of filing false reports, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January and was released on Netflix in May, skyrocketing to the No. 1 documentary and a top 10 film globally the week of its release. CIR reporter and producer Rachel de Leon has been invited to present her work in front of thousands of professionals who interact with victims – police, prosecutors, advocates, nurses and journalists. And because of her reporting, two local news sites removed their original coverage of false reporting cases, which included the full name and mugshot of one of the film’s survivors and parroted the false police narrative that she had fabricated her assault.

Rachel’s work not only reached policymakers, but also more victims: Dozens of people have reached out to her to share their stories. One viewer thanked her “for giving a voice to victims of sexual violence who are criminalized by the police.” The viewer wrote: “For decades, I’ve been afraid to speak out about what happened to me. Your documentary ‘Victim/Suspect’ validated my experience.”

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“The patterns of police behavior toward rape victims that (CIR reporter Rachel de Leon) uncovers, through thorough and meticulous reporting, will make your blood boil.”
- Decider

“Grabs hold of you simply through the power of its subject”
- NYT

Our documentary “The Grab,” an investigation of the global grab for land and water resources, has continued to reach policymakers. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes announced investigations into the Saudi farms draining aquifers and the state government pension fund’s complicity in a similar scheme nearby. California lawmakers organized a screening attended by over 100 lawmakers and staffers amid an ongoing debate over how to handle foreign investments in agricultural land. Senator Melissa Hurtado, who represents the agricultural Central Valley, proposed a bill that would ban foreign governments from buying California farmland – a central issue raised in the film.
CIR is elevating marginalized voices to our national platform so communities can hold corporations and the government accountable.

In The Battle for Clean Energy in Coal Country, CIR reporter and producer Jonathan Jones took us to Montana, where he uncovered the economic motivations driving the state’s retrenchment around coal dependency in the context of ongoing legislative battles. In May, the governor signed a bill barring the state from calculating the climate impacts of major projects like coal mines and power plants. Around the same time, 16 Montana youth began their trial in a lawsuit against the state, leveraging a clause in the state constitution to argue they are being denied their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment. In August, they won, and the judge required the state to consider climate impacts in approving fossil fuel projects – effectively reversing the governor’s new legislation.

Fifteen-year-old plaintiff Mica Kantor told us, “This is the most hope that I’ve had in a long time that there will be a livable future for all.”

Our investigation into the federal response to a damaging storm in Alaska found that the Federal Emergency Management Agency failed in its effort to alert Alaska Native communities about disaster relief services. The agency hired a private company to translate relief notices into local languages, but the company botched the translations, delaying aid and sowing distrust. Native America Calling – a Native-operated call-in show that airs on nearly 90 public, community and tribal radio stations in the U.S. and Canada – interviewed the journalist, Emily Schwing, about her reporting. In response to our story, the translation company formally apologized and is reimbursing the federal government for its shoddy work. Reveal’s investigation is now being used by professors at the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ Alaska Native Language Center and in grade schools in Canada.

“In this ominous time for democracy, investigative journalism is needed more than ever.”

- CIR Supporter

Typhoon Merbok. Credit: Emily Schwing/KYUK
“I think you do some of the most important journalism I’ve ever seen.”
- CIR Supporter
Thank you for your support!

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George Zimmerman and Merle Kurzrock
Elana Zuber

“You cover topics I don’t hear elsewhere and with a deeper or different angle.”
- CIR Supporter
Awards

2023 Edward R. Murrow Awards
Winner – News documentary for network radio
My Neighbor the Suspected War Criminal
(Reveal & PRX)
Winner – Investigative reporting for network radio
The Ballot Boogeymen (Reveal & PRX)
Winner – Excellence in diversity, equity and inclusion for network radio
Locked Up: The Prison Labor That Built Business Empires (Reveal, AP & PRX)

2022 Sigma Delta Chi Awards
Winner – Podcast, narrative/radio documentary
Inside the Global Fight for White Power
(Reveal & Scripps News)

2023 National Headliner Awards
First place – Documentary or public affairs by broadcast radio networks and syndicators
Inside the Global Fight for White Power
(Reveal & Scripps News)

2022 IRE Awards
Winner – Longform journalism in audio
After Ayotzinapa (Reveal, National Security Archive, PRX & Adonde Media)

2022 Overseas Press Club Awards
Winner – Lowell Thomas Award for best radio, audio or podcast coverage of international affairs
My Neighbor the Suspected War Criminal
(Reveal & PRX)

2022-23 Third Coast/Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Competition
Finalist – Impact
My Neighbor the Suspected War Criminal
(Reveal & PRX)
Finalist – Best serialized story
After Ayotzinapa (Reveal, National Security Archive, PRX & Adonde Media)

2023 Livingston Awards
Finalist – National reporting
The Grift Behind the Big Lie, Cassandra Jaramillo
(Reveal & WHQR)

2023 National Native Media Awards
Second Place – Best Multimedia
Buried Secrets: America’s Indian Boarding Schools, Part 1
(Reveal & ICT)

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Celine Piser, Director of Foundations
Missa Perron, Membership Manager
Amy Kessler, Development Manager

Printing and Mailing:
Bay Area Graphics

Cover Photo:
An Election Day volunteer in Phoenix places a sign to direct voters to a polling station.
Credit: Jonathan Gibby/Getty Images
“I believe in the power of free press. Without fact based journalism democracy cannot flourish.”

- CIR Supporter