

The Columbus Dispatch

62 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

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Dear Judges:

Danae King uses her compassion for others, empathy and a deep reserve of sources to put the faces of real people on important news stories.

Her attention to detail and reporting skills allow her to craft interviews into personalized stories that draw readers in with storytelling, imagery and people they can relate to.

Using sensory details, Danae King brought readers into the mind and memories of a priest sexual abuse survivor and used his story to lay the groundwork for telling a much larger story.

King explained to readers how priest sexual abuse survivors often don't remember abuse they suffered as children until it's too late and statute of limitations have usually expired, meaning there is no justice.

Telling this survivor's story shed a light on how victims of childhood sexual abuse suffer well into adulthood and beyond and informed the public about the uphill battle to seek justice, while also holding lawmakers in Ohio and nationwide accountable.

While reporting on the immigration beat, King heard that many former refugees were being thrown out of their apartments with little notice in the middle of winter and a global pandemic. So, she set out to tell people their story by following the journey of a family as they were evicted and worked to find a new home.

Though being evicted and a victim of real estate developers' thirst for progress is something people may be able to relate to, King brought the emotions of those evicted to life through her stories. Her work explored issues that go beyond one apartment complex's decision and confronted problems with state laws regarding rental procedures.

Her work also made fair housing advocates question Ohio's laws on notices to vacate rental properties and brought light to a persistent local problem: the lack of affordable housing.

When the news broke that the leader of the Ohio chapter of the Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) had been fired for working with an anti-Muslim group to spy on local and nationwide Muslims, King got to work.

She dominated the topic with extensive coverage as news unfolded, and followed up with a deeper look into how the previously trusted organization would go on, with its new leader.

King informs readers while including a human viewpoint and holding the powerful accountable, without shying away from the challenge that can come with being a reporter who makes a difference.

Thank you for considering her in the Best Newswriter category.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lecker, Interim Editor