

January 31, 2024

BART RICHARDS AWARDS COMMITTEE

A young reporter's firing that concealed broader wrongdoing by powerful figures.
The consequences of the Trump administration's attempts to politically hijack
federally funded international news networks

A brash scoop that hyped the facts and hid the truth.

The fundamental failing at the core of Fox News in a season of defamation.

The overlooked role a much admired newspaper publisher played in covering up
an earlier scandal.

For just shy of two decades, NPR media correspondent David Folkenflik has
delivered what he calls "earned conclusions" to the network's audiences, a blend
of rigorous reporting and carefully constructed analyses.

In 2023, he delved into stories that were close to home and others that spanned
the globe. They had an impact. And they were heard and read by NPR's audiences
first.

In West Virginia, Folkenflik's reporting revealed a years-long effort by the governor
and his allies to pressure and punish West Virginia Public Broadcasting for holding
state officials accountable. Those allies included the network's chief executive and
state-appointed oversight board. Folkenflik's reporting fueled a legislative
investigation and helped to drive the CEO's firing in an emergency meeting several
months later.

In May, Folkenflik disclosed that a spicy *Rolling Stone* scoop suggesting a reporter
for ABC had been targeted by prosecutors despite the Biden administration's
promise of protections for journalists had withheld a key fact from readers: he was
being investigated for distribution of child pornography.

Folkenflik repeatedly broke stories about the allegations and backstory on the Dominion Voting Systems defamation lawsuit against Fox; At one point, the voting tech company's lawyers cited his exclusive story in angrily asking the judge to compel Fox to turn over more materials. After the trial, Folkenflik painstakingly documented how Fox had corporately and journalistically rejected transparency, accountability and other values intrinsic to presenting the news.

Folkenflik also disclosed the results of a formal investigation into former U.S. Agency for Global Media Michael Pack's efforts to politicize the Voice of America, its sister networks, and the parent agency itself. The findings at times cited Folkenflik's reporting and echoed troubling developments first reported for the network, a demonstration both of the Trump administration's contempt for the press and of its drive to compromise the professionalism of the federal workforce.

Late last year, as new *Washington Post* publisher and CEO Will Lewis was being welcomed by a beleaguered staff, Folkenflik reported on documents that had arisen in recent British court hearings about Lewis' role in covering up the actions of senior executives at Murdoch's British tabloids during the hacking scandal more than a decade earlier.

Original coverage. Fearless reporting. Incisive analysis. We are proud to submit these examples of David Folkenflik's exemplary work for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Kopp
Deputy Business Editor
NPR NEWS
Email: EKopp@npr.org
Phone: (202) 306-8001

PORTFOLIO:

Reporter's dismissal exposes political pressures on West Virginia Public Broadcasting
NPR.org & *Morning Edition*, Feb. 13, 2023

<https://www.npr.org/2023/02/13/1153590012/west-virginia-public-journalist-dismissed-wvpb-political-interference>

The FBI raided a notable journalist's home. Rolling Stone didn't tell readers why.
NPR.org March 21, 2023

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/21/1164360143/rolling-stone-fbi-raid-journalist-james-gordon-meek>

Fox isn't in the apology business. That could cost it a ton of money

NPR.org & *Morning Edition*, May 9, 2022

<https://www.npr.org/2023/05/09/1171642501/fox-news-lachlan-murdoch-investors-no-apology>

Federal Inquiry details abuses of power by Trump's CEO over Voice of America

NPR.org, May 21, 2023

<https://www.npr.org/2023/05/21/1177208862/usagm-michael-pack-voa-voice-of-america-investigation-trump-abuse-of-power>

New 'Washington Post' CEO accused of Murdoch tabloid hacking cover-up

NPR.org & *Morning Edition*

<https://www.npr.org/2023/12/20/1219570870/washington-post-will-lewis-tabloid-hacking-prince-harry>