

# MARK OBBIE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTER AND EDITOR

6476 COUNTY ROAD 32, CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424

MARK@MARKOBBIE.COM

(585) 454-9269

HTTP://MARKOBBIE.COM

## Summary

Decades of experience in legal affairs journalism as a reporter, editor, publisher, and teacher, with a focus since 2012 on reporting and writing longform narratives on criminal justice policy.

## Professional Journalism Experience

June 2004-present: Freelance reporter and writer (full time since May 2012)

Specializing in long-form reported narratives on criminal justice policy. Work published by Longreads, TheAtlantic.com, *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *Pacific Standard*, *The Trace*, *Politico Magazine*, and many others. Author of best-selling true-crime Kindle Single *God's Nobodies* (Amazon, 2012).

May 2020-December 2021: Solutions specialist, Solutions Journalism Network

Curated criminal justice journalism for large, international non-profit that trains journalists to produce solutions-focused reporting. Work included producing numerous reports on the latest solutions reporting on criminal justice topics in the news.

October 2018-present: Co-editor, Crime & Justice News

Research and write Criminal Justice Journalists' national daily news digest as the regular substitute for the primary writer. Assisted lead editor in moving the service from The Crime Report at John Jay College of Criminal Justice to the National Criminal Justice Association, with support from Arizona State University.

May 2014-May 2015: Soros Justice Media Fellow and contributor to *Slate*

Named to the prestigious year-long fellowship to produce a series of six longform narrative stories examining crime victims' perspective on criminal justice reform.

1987-2004: American Lawyer Media, Inc. (New York, N.Y.)

*The American Lawyer* (1999-2004): Executive editor of the monthly feature magazine. Managed the staff and story budget day to day. Edited features and the front of the book. Oversaw satellite publications, including two other magazines.

Digital Publishing Division (1994-99). Lead manager of all editorial and business operations of the online services for this national network of legal magazines and newspapers (now called Law.com). Lead relationship manager with corporate partner Lexis-Nexis. Managed difficult transitions from proprietary online service to the web and to new ownership (from Time Warner Inc. to Wasserstein & Co.).

*Texas Lawyer* (1987-1994, Dallas, Texas): As managing editor (1987-88), editor (1988-89), and editor/publisher (1989-94), managed and edited all aspects of the statewide weekly newspaper, including staffing, budgeting, marketing, subscriptions, and advertising sales. Developed successful conference and book publishing ancillary businesses.

1983-86: *The Houston Post* (Houston, Texas)

City desk reporter covering general assignments, federal courts and law enforcement, state civil and criminal courts, police, city hall.

1982-83: *The Tribune-Chronicle* (Warren, Ohio)

City desk reporter covering police, state courts, and federal courts.

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## Teaching Experience

2004-2012: Full-time visiting assistant professor (2004-07) and associate professor (2007-12), Magazine Department, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University. Taught courses in magazine editing and writing, news reporting, and media law. Principal instructor in the capstone courses for seniors and graduate students in magazine startups, with hands-on training from concept through reporting and editing to production of prototype issues. Co-founded the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics, and the Media and team-taught a law school course on that topic. Won a multi-year Carnegie Corp. grant to create and run a legal reporting program.

2003: Adjunct instructor, New School University, New York. Created and taught investigative reporting class for two semesters.

## Education

M.A., School of Journalism, University of Missouri at Columbia (December 1981). News/editorial major, Washington, D.C., Reporting Program.

B.A., St. John Fisher College, Rochester, N.Y. (May 1980). Communications/journalism major, history concentration.

## Memberships

Investigative Reporters and Editors

Criminal Justice Journalists (board member since November 2019)

## Volunteer Work

2013-2022: Tutor, Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates (N.Y.), teaching English as a second language and tutoring high school students incarcerated in the county jail or under probation supervision.

2018-present: Board member, Bristol Hills Historical Society, Bristol, N.Y. Created and manage website and Facebook page and handle public relations for multiple educational events per year.

## Personal

Native of Webster, N.Y. First-generation college student and grandson of Italian immigrants. Married 40 years to Nancy Lane, a painter and children's book illustrator. Two children, ages 35 and 33. Adopters of multiple rescue dogs. Avid reader, hiker, and live-music fan.