

William (Rocky) Kistner



MULTIMEDIA REPORTER/PRODUCER

20+ years of experience as a print, broadcast and online reporter/producer

- Award-winning journalist and reporter for national media
 - Received The Huffington Post “Game Changer” award for reporting on the BP oil spill
 - George Polk award for television reporting on the S&L bailout
 - IRE national television award for investigation of a Hollywood celebrity AIDS charity that led to an IRS investigation
 - National Press Foundation and RTNDA awards for stories that provided key information for an overhaul of travel rules for members of Congress and their staffs
- International reporting
 - Reported broadcast and print stories along the Mexican border that led to more oversight of toxic waste shipments and pollution along the border
 - World Affairs Council award for international reporting in Mexico that led to more coverage of pesticide poisonings of Mexican farmworkers who grow U.S. produce
 - Investigated arms trafficking in war-torn West Africa and Eastern Europe that helped lead to the prosecution of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor

- Reporter and field producer in news-breaking environments
 - Based in the Louisiana bayou for 7 months and produced videos, radio stories and blogs during and after the 2010 BP oil spill.
 - Produced a series of blogs and videos during demonstrations and across the U.S. about the Keystone XL pipeline that helped lead to more field reporting on the issue
 - Reportorial producer for the ABC News Washington bureau working on breaking news stories, including information about the pilot who crashed his plane into the White House

- Multimedia experience in video, photography and radio
 - Published over 100 blogs with photos and video about the BP oil spill and the Keystone XL pipeline in The Huffington Post
 - Produced and edited over 30 videos about climate change and clean energy for NRDC
 - Reported on a series of award-winning stories for Marketplace public radio about Congressional travel and money and politics in Washington

Award-winning multimedia reporter/producer with experience working on complex environmental topics. Excel at reporting and producing stories quickly and efficiently for broadcast, print and online media outlets. A team player with a wide range of contacts in government and in the environmental and climate-change fields.

Professional Experience

Independent journalist/communications

2017 to present

Washington, DC

- Produced videos and communications work for Oceanites, a science based non-profit focusing on the impacts of climate change on penguins and wildlife in Antarctica.
- Video coverage of an international journalism conference of 1,200 reporters hosted by the Global Investigative Journalism Network in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Designed TheRockyFiles.com, a website focused on stories about people on the front lines of climate change and the environment.

Natural Resources Defense Council

2009 to 2016

Washington, DC

Reporter/Field producer and communications associate

- Reporter/video producer and editor in NRDC's Washington office

- Wrote stories for *onEarth* magazine
- Edited and produced a weekly DC video series *The Deans List* about political stories
- Traveled across the country and in Canada as a field producer on video projects
- Staffed NRDC's Gulf Resource Center in Louisiana during the BP oil spill
 - Wrote dozens of blogs for *The Huffington Post* and covered oil spill impacts in four states
 - Field producer for NRDC feature film that aired on *The Discovery Channel* and for a *Story Corps* radio project
- Communications associate in DC
 - Investigated fossil fuel industry interests and their connections to nonprofits
 - Traveled with and blogged about military veterans on a bus tour through the Midwest and South to discuss national security issues and climate change
 - Collaborated with NRDC staff to edit blogs for *Live Science* and *The Huffington Post*

U.S. Library of Congress Congressional Research Service

2008-2009

Washington, DC

Quality Assurance Editor

- Collaborated with a team of editors to reformat and update CRS Reports into an internet-user environment. Responded to requests from members of Congress and staff to update and improve reports for publishing to the internet.

Independent Consultant

2007-2008

Washington, DC

- Volunteered at a Washington, DC, child care facility and wrote a *USA Today* op-ed about raising young children while my military spouse was deployed. Was invited by the U.S. Navy to speak to service members about the child-rearing challenges of a non-military parent.

Marketplace public radio and American RadioWorks

2005-2006

Washington DC

Staff on-air reporter and producer

- Staff investigative reporter for the American Public Media radio programs. Developed stories on money and politics and helped manage a database project tracking congressional travel with the Medill School of Journalism. The project helped lead to reforms in Congress and won awards from the National Press Foundation and the 2006 Radio Television Digital News Association.

Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

2002-2004

Washington DC

Staff reporter

- Worked on a year-long project that focused on corporate ties to the federal judiciary. Produced a website and searchable database tracking judicial financial disclosure information and links to special interests.
 - Wrote stories about illegal timber shipments from international markets to the U.S. for The Philadelphia Enquirer, The San Jose Mercury News and The Christian Science Monitor.

Independent television news producer and reporter

1996-2002

Washington, DC

- Investigative reporter and producer for national television documentaries and print outlets
 - Co-Producer of “Gunrunners,” a 2002 *PBS Frontline/World* investigation of illegal small arms trafficking from Ukraine to Charles Taylor’s Liberia and Sierra Leone.
 - Reporter for “Blackout,” a *PBS Frontline* investigation of the 2000 electricity crisis including interviews with Vice President Dick Cheney.
 - Co-Producer of *CIR/PBS Frontline* documentary “The Future of War” about the post-Cold War transformation of the U.S. Army. Exclusive interviews with Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki.
 - Co-authored an investigative story about the international caviar trade for the Los Angeles Times, “Wide Net for Illegal Caviar,” April 8, 1999.
 - Reporter and field producer for *PBS Frontline*’s “Justice for Sale,” an investigation of state judicial elections with Bill Moyers and featuring interviews with Supreme Court Justices Anthony Kennedy and Stephen Breyer.
 - Field producer and reporter for “Fooling with Nature,” a *CIR/PBS Frontline* documentary on the health impacts of man-made chemicals in the environment.
 - Segment producer for *PBS Frontline*’s “So You Want to Buy a President,” featuring an investigation of American Financial Group’s Carl Lindner.
 - Field producer for two-hour segments of “Gunpower,” a three-hour *Discovery Channel* investigation of the America’s gun industry and culture.

ABC News Day One

1992 to 1995

Washington, DC

- Staff reporter and producer for the ABC News weekly magazine show. Researched, reported and produced investigative stories and covered Congress and other political events for the ABC News Washington bureau. Major stories included:
 - “Taking the Trees.” An investigation of timber theft on U.S. Forest Service lands. Story interviewed government whistleblowers who explained how the government turned a blind eye to timber companies profiting off illegal timber sales and helped lead to internal Forest Service management changes.
 - “S&Ls,” investigated banking institutions that cost taxpayers billions in losses and were profiting from the government’s asset selling program.
 - “Herr Mohnke,” investigation of former German SS general linked to atrocities against American, British and Canadian POWs. Story showed the CIA and intelligence community shielded Mohnke from prosecution of war crimes.
 - “That’s What Friends Are For,” a year-and-a-half-long investigation of AIDS fund-raising activities of singer Dionne Warwick. Story showed that Warwick’s AIDS foundation failed to adequately fund AIDS groups after lavish fundraising concerts across the U.S. and the Caribbean resulting in an IRS investigation.

Center for Investigative Reporting

1982 to 1992

San Francisco and Washington, DC

- Reporter for national investigative news service. Served as associate producer of PBS *Frontline* documentaries, provided research for network and local television news programs, published articles in magazines and newspapers. Projects included:
 - "Global Dumping Ground," associate producer for a CIR/PBS *Frontline* documentary with Bill Moyers on the international trade in hazardous waste. Investigated illegal trafficking of wastes to Mexico, China and the Caribbean that led to U.S. reforms for tracking and policing international hazardous waste shipments.
 - "The Politics of Power," associate producer for a CIR/PBS *Frontline* documentary about how special energy interests influenced major energy legislation to push oil and gas interests after the U.S. Gulf War. Shed new light on government policies that focused on fossil fuels and nuclear technology that put the nation at risk.
 - "The Great American Bailout," reporter and associate producer for a CIR/PBS *Frontline* documentary about the S&L crisis and the billions of taxpayer funds spent recklessly by the newly formed Resolution Trust Corporation to dispose of S&L assets. Led to calls for reforms about who the government disposed of these assets. Story won a George Polk award for national television reporting.
 - "The Dirtiest River," researcher for CBS *60 Minutes* report and co-author of a *San Francisco Examiner* story on toxic waste dumping along US-Mexico border. Led to Congressional calls for cleaning up the New river along the Mexican border. Also researched investigative stories for CBS *Evening News* on pesticide poisonings and a two-part series on aviation safety for ABC *World News Tonight*.
 - Published investigative articles and reported on environmental and business topics for *US News & World Report*, *Mother Jones* magazine, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, and *E Magazine*. Stories also distributed nationally through the News America Syndicate.

Professional Pilot magazine

1997 to 1982

Washington, DC;

- News editor and staff writer for national monthly aviation trade magazine.
 - Edited the magazine's news section, covered business and commercial aviation issues on Capitol Hill, and wrote feature stories on general and commercial aviation topics. Covered the historic 1981 national air traffic control strike. Served as western correspondent in San Francisco.

Awards

- Radio-Television Digital News Association 2006 Edward R. Murrow award for investigative reporting on U.S. congressional travel violations, American Public Media's Marketplace and American RadioWorks.
- 2006 National Press Foundation Dirksen Award for Distinguished Coverage of Congress for radio stories on congressional travel, Marketplace and American RadioWorks.
- George Polk award for national television reporting, "The Great American Bailout," associate producer PBS *Frontline*, 1991.
- Investigative Reporters and Editors national television award, "That's What Friends Are For,"

Investigation of AIDS charity abuses by Dionne Warwick's foundation, reporter and producer, ABC News *Day One*.

- National Emmy news and documentary award nominations: "That's What Friends Are For," producer ABC News *Day One*, 1994; "Justice for Sale," field producer, PBS *Frontline*, 2000.
- Thomas Storke award, World Affairs Council, San Francisco, "Scrutiny of the Bounty," investigation of pesticide abuse involving Mexican farmworkers who grow produce for U.S. markets, *Mother Jones* magazine, 1987
- 1992 National Press Club Consumer Journalism Award, honorable mention, "The Shell Game," *E Magazine*, about pesticide companies that sell dangerous products in Mexico that had been discontinued in the U.S.

Education

- National Press Foundation Spanish language fellowship, Cuernavaca, Mexico
- Bachelor of Journalism, University of Missouri School of Journalism
- Institute of European Studies, French and history college courses, Nantes, France
- University of Santa Clara, CA, history major