

2024
*Fourth Estate
Award Gala*

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JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE**

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CONGRATULATIONS!



Jim VandeHei & Mike Allen

RECIPIENTS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB'S
2024 FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

AXIOS



WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us at the National Press Club for this exciting night of celebrating journalism excellence and innovation. This year's Fourth Estate Award Gala brings together journalists, communicators, and supporters from around the world at a time when journalism has never been more important.

Tonight, we honor Mike Allen and Jim VandeHei of Axios, the staff of Mississippi Today, Wael al-Dahdouh of Al Jazeera Media Network, and Yvette Cabrera of The Center for Public Integrity.

We are grateful to the members of the National Press Club Board of Governors, the Board of Directors of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, and our Fundraising Committee led by Danielle Coffey. We celebrate together this evening because of their hard work. And a special thank you to our gala sponsors, whose support helps make our work possible.

Thank you, and here's to a memorable evening!

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Gil Klein

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TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

WELCOME

National Press Club President Emily Wilkins, CNBC

&

National Press Club Journalism Institute President Gil Klein

JOHN AUBUCHON PRESS FREEDOM AWARD

International Honoree

Wael al-Dahdouh, Al Jazeera Media Network

DINNER

JOHN AUBUCHON PRESS FREEDOM AWARD

U.S. Honoree

Staff, Mississippi Today

NEIL AND SUSAN SHEEHAN AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Honoree

Yvette Cabrera, Center for Public Integrity

FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

Honorees

Mike Allen and Jim VandeHei, Axios

FAREWELL

National Press Club President Emily Wilkins, CNBC



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Abdullah Al-Sayid Ismail Al-Ghout Rami Al-Rifi Mohamad Majid Abu D
Al-Rifaat Hossam Murtaja Ibrahim Muhareb Tamim Muammar
Sharia Ola Al-Dahdouh Mahmoud Jahjouch Hael Al-Najjar Baha Akasha
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In Memory of Gaza's Fallen Journalists

Journalists in Gaza paid the ultimate
price to convey the truth

Even in death their voices resonate

Targeting Journalists is a Crime

#Justice4Journalists

PAST HONOREES

The National Press Club confers the annual Fourth Estate Award on the person who, in the judgment of the NPC Board of Governors, has achieved distinction for a lifetime of contributions to American journalism. Recommendations are made by a distinguished committee representing all branches of news media.



2023: Kristen Welker, NBC News
2022: Clarissa Ward, CNN
2021: Lester Holt, NBC Nightly News and Dateline NBC
2020: Susan Zirinsky, CBS News
2019: Amanda Bennett, Voice of America
2018: Martin Baron & Dean Baquet, The Washington Post and The New York Times
2017: Tony Kornheiser & Michael Wilbon, ESPN
2016: Wolf Blitzer, CNN
2015: Gwen Ifill, PBS Newshour
2013: Andrea Mitchell, NBC News
2012: Bob Woodward, The Washington Post
2011: Jim Lehrer, PBS Newshour
2010: Bob Schieffer, CBS News
2009: Thomas Friedman, The New York Times
2008: Christiane Amanpour, CNN
2007: Paul E. Steiger, The Wall Street Journal
2006: Marvin Kalb, The Joan Shorenstein Center for Press and Public Policy, Harvard University
2005: Austin Kiplinger, Kiplinger Washington Editors
2004: William J. Raspberry, Washington Post Writers Group
2003: Tom Brokaw, NBC Nightly News
2002: Brian Lamb, C-SPAN
2001: Robert D. Novak, Syndicated Columnist
2000: Jack W. Germond, The Baltimore Sun
1999: Carl T. Rowan, Syndicated Columnist
1998: Mary McGrory, The Washington Post
1997: James M. Perry, The Wall Street Journal
1996: Charles R. McDowell, The Richmond Times-Dispatch

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1994: Charles Kuralt, CBS News
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1988: David S. Broder, The Washington Post
1987: David Brinkley, ABC News
1986: Art Buchwald, Syndicated Columnist
1985: Flora Lewis, The New York Times
1984: Helen Thomas, United Press International
1983: Eric Sevareid, CBS News
1982: Simeon S. Booker, Johnson Publishing Company Inc.
1981: Nick B. Williams, Los Angeles Times
1980: Theodore H. White, Author
1979: Clayton Kirkpatrick, Chicago Tribune
1978: Vermont Royster, The Wall Street Journal
1977: Herbert Block, The Washington Post
1976: John S. Knight, Knight-Ridder Newspapers
1975: Richard Strout, The Christian Science Monitor and New Republic
1974: James Reston, The New York Times
1973: Walter Cronkite, CBS News

2024 FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

MIKE ALLEN & JIM VANDEHEI

Each year, the esteemed Fourth Estate Award honors the person whom the NPC Board of Governors decides has achieved distinction for a lifetime of contributions to American journalism.

Mike Allen and **Jim VandeHei** co-founded Axios, which they launched with co-founder Roy Schwartz in 2017. Axios is among the most celebrated digital media success stories of the past decade and was acquired by Cox Enterprises in 2022. They launched Axios Local in 2021 to provide original reporting, scoops, and local coverage worthy of readers' time. Axios Local is now in 30 markets around the country and has nearly 2 million subscribers.



In addition to co-founding Axios, **Allen** writes the Axios Daily Essentials newsletters, Axios AM, Axios PM, and Axios Finish Line. He was also an executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning docu-news series, "Axios on HBO," and co-author of *Smart Brevity: The Power of Saying More with Less*.

Allen was a co-founder of Politico, where he created Politico Playbook and helped build the company for its first decade. He has been named several times to Vanity Fair's "New Establishment" list. He is also an alumnus of TIME, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and the Richmond Times-Dispatch. He is from Orange County, California, and graduated from Washington and Lee University.



As its co-founder and CEO, **VandeHei** has steered Axios into becoming one of the most celebrated digital media success stories of the past decade.

VandeHei is the author of best-selling "Just the Good Stuff," where he shares lessons he's learned from founding two successful media companies and his tricks for thriving at work and in leadership. He also serves as the chairman of Axios HQ, a software company that helps organizations create essential communications. He was an executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning docu-news series, "Axios on HBO" and co-author of *Smart Brevity: The Power of Saying More with Less*.

Before Axios, VandeHei co-founded and was CEO of Politico. Prior, VandeHei spent more than a decade as a reporter, covering the presidency and Congress for The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. VandeHei is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Words.

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TONIGHT'S HONOREES

THE NEIL AND SUSAN SHEEHAN AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

This award promotes the practice of investigative journalism exemplifying compassion, courage, and integrity.



Yvette Cabrera, senior reporter at the Center for Public Integrity and a dedicated environmental justice journalist, covers inequality in economic and social well-being with a focus on climate justice issues. Throughout her career, Cabrera has reported on the impact of systemic disparities, such as environmental pollution and contamination, on marginalized communities throughout the United States. She is the immediate past president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and a founding member of The Uproot Project. In 2022, Cabrera was selected as a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center practitioner to create a journalist's guide for reporting on soil lead contamination, and in 2024 she presented a Ted Talk on solutions to this problem.

JOHN AUBUCHON PRESS FREEDOM AWARD HONOREES

This award is given each year to an honoree in the United States and an honoree overseas who bravely push to disclose the truth in trying circumstances.



INTERNATIONAL HONOREE

As Gaza Bureau Chief for Al Jazeera, Wael al-Dahdouh was severely injured when fired upon by a drone being controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) while driving to cover the bombing of a school in Khan Yunnis. He has suffered deep tragedy while reporting round the clock from Gaza; while reporting on the air about an IDF missile strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp, he learned that among the victims were 11 relatives including his wife and two children. His remaining son Hamza, also a reporter for Al Jazeera, was killed by an IDF-operated drone while reporting from Gaza. Still, Dahdouh continued to fight to keep his bureau open. Eventually, the Al Jazeera feed was taken off the air in Israel. The AJ bureau in Israel was closed and just recently the AJ bureau in Ramallah was stormed by IDF forces and shut down.

DOMESTIC HONOREE

Mississippi Today is currently involved in a legal case to protect privileged documents used in producing a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation and named in an ensuing defamation case brought by the state's former governor. The case has wide-ranging implications for press freedom in the United States, including journalist-source protections. The outlet won a 2022 Pulitzer Prize for its investigation into a \$77 million welfare scandal that revealed how the state's former governor, Phil Bryant, used his office to benefit his friends and family. Bryant then sued Mississippi Today and its CEO Mary Margaret White in July 2023, claiming that the series defamed him. The case is ongoing.





The News/Media Alliance proudly supports the National Press Club
Fourth Estate Award Gala 2024
And celebrates tonight's honorees:

Mike Allen & Jim VandeHei

Axios

The News/media Alliance thanks you for your significant
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CHEERS! **TO MIKE ALLEN & JIM VANDEHEI**

**AND THE OUTSTANDING
JOURNALISTS HONORED
AT THE 2024 NPC FOURTH
ESTATE AWARD GALA**

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Mike Allen & Jim VandeHei
Axios Co-founders
and all other Fourth Estate Award Gala
honorees.**

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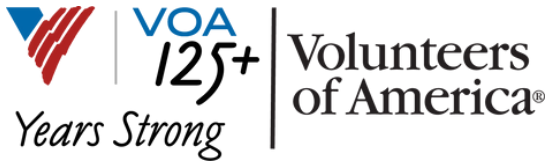
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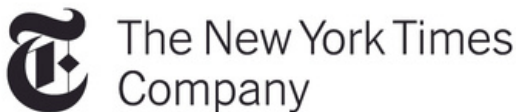
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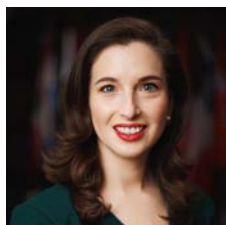
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