

# J. David McSwane

[davidmcswane.com](http://davidmcswane.com)

## EXPERIENCE

### ***The Dallas Morning News*, Austin, Texas — Investigative Reporter**

NOVEMBER 2015 – PRESENT

Led investigations from the Capitol, coordinated with politics and investigative teams and produced quick hit watchdog stories and long-term projects that effected change.

- **“Pain & Profit”**: Investigation showed Texas’ outsourced Medicaid system enriched companies that systematically deny care to sick kids and disabled adults and spurred multiple investigations. The Legislature swiftly approved \$7 million a year to hire 100 new regulators. More than 20 reform bills were filed as a direct result.
- **Foster care crisis**: Using leaked data, exposed that caseworkers weren’t checking on tens of thousands of abused children. The story forced belt-tightening lawmakers to invest millions to hire hundreds more caseworkers to investigate abuse and neglect.
- Exposed how Gov. Greg Abbott built a costly, **secret police force**. Rolling investigation showed politically connected ex-state-employees secretly remained on payrolls for months, **collecting millions**. Lawmakers swiftly stopped the practice.

### ***Austin American–Statesman*, Austin, Texas — State Enterprise Reporter**

JUNE 2014 – NOVEMBER 2015

Investigated officials who enriched themselves and friends with taxpayer money.

- **21CT Contract Scandal**: Exposed how a top state official broke the law to give a \$110 million contract to a company that promised to hire him as an executive. The series spurred criminal investigations, and lawmakers passed several contract reforms.
- Using check register data, showed **\$270 million** in secret bonuses had been paid to state employees connected to Gov. Rick Perry and other top officials.

### ***Sarasota Herald–Tribune*, Sarasota, Florida — Deputy Projects Editor, Environmental Reporter, City Hall Reporter**

SEPTEMBER 2010 – MAY 2014

Regularly produced longform narratives and investigations, promoted to lead newsroom projects as a deputy editor on an award-winning I-team.

- **“The Stolen Ones”**: Narrative about child sex-trafficking won several awards.

### ***CBS 4 (KCNC-TV)*, Denver, Colo. — Investigative Producer**

MAY 2006 – MAY 2007

Hired, at age 18, after a story published in my high school newspaper, **later aired on CBS4**, showed Army recruiters were creating fake diplomas and skirting drug tests to enlist unfit recruits. The story triggered a Pentagon investigation and a court-martial. The story is to this day used in Army recruiter training. The story won the **Peabody Award**, and I became the youngest person ever to win an IRE award.

**Other Experience:** Village Voice Media, editorial fellow; *The Denver Post*, freelancer; editor of CSU’s *The Rocky Mountain Collegian*.

## AWARDS INCLUDE

**Goldsmith Prize For Investigative Reporting**, 2019

**Scripps Howard Award – First Amendment**, 2019

**Peabody Award**, 2005

**Best in Business – Investigative**, SABEW, 2019

**John Jay Criminal Justice Reporting Award**, 2014

**2x Best Investigative Report Of The Year**, Texas APME, 2015 & 2019

**Freedom Of Information Award**, Texas APME, 2015

**Spirit Of FOI Award**, Freedom Of Information Foundation Of Texas, 2017

**Showcase For Enterprise And Innovation – Gold**, Texas Headliners Foundation, 2015

**4x Livingston Award Finalist**, 2019, 2016, 2015, 2014

**Green Eyeshade Award**, SPJ, 2014

## SPECIALTIES

**SKILLED:** SQL, Excel

**DABBLING:** R, Python

**PROFICIENT:** Radio, Video

## EDUCATION

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**, 2009

B.A. Journalism, Honors  
Minor: Political Science  
First Generation Scholar