



SPECIAL AWARDS



Use the specially designated entry blank for these categories.

FOR ALL NEWSPAPERS:

★ MEDIA AND THE LAW AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Media and the Law Awards Competition is sponsored by the North Carolina Bar Association to recognize outstanding legal reporting. Judges will be looking for insightful coverage of law-related topics that foster greater public understanding of the legal system and the role of lawyers in today's society. Stories published by North Carolina-based newspapers between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009 are eligible to compete.

Only one entry per person will be accepted. Depending on the number and quality of entries, awards may or may not be presented in each category.

The categories are:

1 ~ Daily Newspapers / 2 ~ Non-Daily Newspapers

★ DUKE UNIVERSITY/GREEN-ROSSITER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED NEWSPAPER WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Open to all newspapers. This award is sponsored by Duke University in cooperation with NCPA. The basis for the award is coverage of higher education through editorials, news or feature articles, photos or cartoons, or any combination thereof. Each entry must consist of no more than five articles, of which only one can be a series. No more than one entry per newspaper.

★ DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RELIGION REPORTING

Open to all newspapers. These awards are sponsored by the Duke University Divinity School in cooperation with NCPA. The basis for these awards is outstanding coverage of religion, faith and/or spirituality issues and the clarity of explanation to a secular audience through editorials, news or feature articles, photos or cartoons, or any combination thereof. Each entry must consist of no more than five articles, of which only one can be a series. No more than one entry per newspaper. Two awards will be presented, one for daily newspapers and one for community newspapers.

★ HENRY LEE WEATHERS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD

This award was created through a generous donation by the family of Henry Lee Weathers, former owner/publisher of The Star in Shelby, and NCPA president 1981-82, to honor journalists or newspapers for exceptional work in advancing or upholding the cause of open government and freedom of information. It also recognizes excellence in reporting about access to government-held information or the First Amendment. NOTE: This is NOT an investigative reporting category; entries must be about the freedom of information, limitations of such laws and/or the process of enforcing open-access laws. Entries must NOT be investigative stories or series based on information obtained under the law. Such entries will be disqualified.)

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must have been published between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009. Entries must relate directly to sunshine laws, the Freedom of Information Act, or the First Amendment, including access to public records, government meetings, court records and proceedings, censorship or secrecy in government. Entries can be comprised of a story, series, editorials or special projects. Please complete the enclosed entry form and submit it along with your entry. Please attach a letter to your entry summarizing obstacles encountered in obtaining access, how the issues were resolved, why the information is of significant concern to readers. Please include any supporting materials that document the issue tackled and any results the work has achieved locally or on a public policy or legislative platform.

NEWSPAPER DIVISIONS

One first place award will be given in each newspaper division: newspapers with circulation over 20,000 and newspapers with circulation below 20,000.



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★ HUGH MORTON PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award honors the late Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain, but best known for his passion for photography. He helped to start the N.C. Press Photographers Association and the Southern Short Course in News Photography. Morton's pictures appeared in Time, Life and National Geographic magazines, and in countless newspapers. The award recognizes a photographer's body of work for the contest year.

Judging of the portfolio will take into account the content and composition of the photographs, as well as their technical quality and story-telling impact. Cropped photos are eligible. Digitally or otherwise enhanced or altered photos are not eligible. Minor adjustments, including slight contrast or color adjustments are acceptable.

HOW TO ENTER

An entry consists of 10 photographs that must have run in the newspaper, taken by the same photographer during the contest year, October 1, 2008, to September 30, 2009.

Submit 10 8X10-inch prints, the full tearsheet on which the photograph ran and a single cd with tif or jpg files of each photo.

NEWSPAPER DIVISIONS

One award will be given in two divisions: Community Newspapers and Daily Newspapers.

★ FOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS ONLY:

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

For a distinguished example of meritorious public service by a daily newspaper, reflecting exceptional courage or enterprise. The entry should be on one general subject. It may be a single day's effort, a series or an extended campaign, and may include stories, editorials, cartoons, photographs, etc. Materials must be submitted together in a manila folder or a three-ring binder. A cover letter should be included to explain the origin of the project, any major difficulties encountered and the results obtained. No more than one entry per newspaper.

First through third place awards will be given in each newspaper division: Daily newspapers with circulation over 25,000 and Daily newspapers with circulation below 25,000.

★ FOR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS AND SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS ONLY:

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

In recognition of outstanding service rendered by a community newspaper to its local community. The entry may include news stories, features, editorials, photographs, etc. Materials must be submitted together in a manila folder or a three-ring binder. A cover letter should be included to explain the origin of the project, any major difficulties encountered, and the results obtained. No more than one entry per newspaper.

Please note: If your entry for any of the specialty categories is too large for a manila folder, please use a three-ring binder to organize and submit your entry.

