SB1. FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

This award is presented for a distinguished contribution to freedom of the press. Entries will exemplify the spirit and intent of the First Amendment and should demonstrate the news organization's ability to fulfill its public service role and to overcome obstacles in gathering information. The recipient committed all necessary resources to overcome obstacles on behalf of the unrestricted flow of information vital to free society. By so doing, the recipient has served the public and has honored journalism. You are encouraged to nominate your own news organization, or another news organization whose work is visible to you, for the First Amendment Award. The award will be presented to individuals or news organizations that made a major contribution during the past year of 2022 on behalf of the First Amendment or Freedom of Information. If your news organization or an individual was engaged during the past year in an effort to advance or protect the First Amendment concerns of the media and the public, or waged a battle on behalf of Freedom of Information, please attach a letter outlining the details with your entries for the judges to consider.

B1. BEST NEWSCAST

A locally originated, unedited, regularly scheduled newscast. Entry limited to 30 minutes of real time.

B2. BEST SPOT NEWS COVERAGE

Coverage of a breaking news event that is unplanned, unscheduled and requires immediate news department response. Entry limited to 15 minutes.

B3. BEST CONTINUING COVERAGE

Continuing coverage by a news department on a single developing subject. Entries should demonstrate how a station covered a story over a period of time. Entry limited to 30 minutes.

B4. BEST SERIES

For a series of individual reports pertaining to one topic. (Unlimited entries permitted; 30 minutes maximum each entry; remove commercials.)

B5. BEST INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Entry should show extraordinary effort and research into a previously unexplored or unknown issue resulting in a significant original story. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B6. BEST ENTERPRISE REPORTING

A single story or series that demonstrates ability to develop in-depth, explanatory treatment of a topic and breaks new ground. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B7. BEST FEATURE

A story or series covering an event or topic that is not hard news. Report must have aired during a regularly scheduled news program. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B8. BEST DOCUMENTARY

In-depth coverage of a community problem or a significant news event. Entries may be a single report or a series of reports. Entries limited to 30 minutes.

B9. BEST PUBLIC SERVICE

Comprehensive, informed and effective public service reporting. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B10. BEST REPORTER/ANCHOR

Entry should reflect a reporter or anchor’s work during the year. The entry may include samples from newscasts as well as other work broadcast on your station (i.e., news or live special report, reporting from a special out-of-town assignment, etc.). An individual nominee may only be submitted once. A station may nominate multiple nominees. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B11. BEST WEATHERCAST

For the best regularly scheduled weathercast. Judging will be based on content, format, overall appeal to the audience, pacing, graphic presentation and comprehensiveness in the presentation. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B12. BEST REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWS OR SPORTS TALK PROGRAM

For the best local, live news or sports talk or interview program, based on relevance of subject matter, focus of the host or hosts, involvement of audience and overall appeal. (Unlimited entries permitted; 60 minutes maximum each entry; remove commercials.)

B13. BEST DIGITAL PRESENCE

Judges will be asked to view a station’s website(s), social media feeds and apps. A station will be judged on its entire digital presentation, including content, overall appearance, ease of navigation, success at building an online audience and whether the site appears to be a valuable resource to the community.

B14. BEST SPORTSCAST

A locally originated, regularly scheduled sportscast. Entry limited to 30 minutes.

B15. BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

To recognize outstanding reporting on a sports topic. Entry can be a story or a series of reports on a single subject. Entries are limited to 15 minutes.

B16. BEST SPORTS FEATURE

For excellence in special sports feature material contained within a regularly scheduled sportscast. Entries are limited to 15 minutes.

B17. BEST USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

For excellence in news photography. Entries may cover a single news story or several stories.

B18. BEST USE OF SOUND

For best use of sound to tell a news story. Entry will be judged on technical quality, editing and contribution to the news story. Entry is limited to 15 minutes.

B19. PODCAST

A single entry can include up to three episodes of a podcast series. Judges will look for innovative use of original content, storytelling, technical and journalistic quality, and value to the listener.