



Session 11 | Media: Does their camera report the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

August 5, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT

The media has tremendous power to shape the public's perception of people and events. What precautions do reporters and news anchors take to ensure their reporting is fair, balanced and unbiased? What is the responsibility of law enforcement spokespeople in providing information to the media? This panel will consist of experienced media practitioners and scholars who will explore how and why the media decides to report on incidents and how this reporting is viewed by various sectors of our community.

Speakers will highlight challenges and best practices to maintaining journalistic integrity and producing a fair and balanced report. Panelist will also explore the challenges of journalism in today's society with advanced technology, such as cell phones and social media, and they will contemplate the impact their reporting has on their viewers and local communities.

Speakers:

- Jasmyne Cannick, Social Critic & Political Commentator, Los Angeles, CA
- Dave Lopez, General Assignment Reporter, CBS 2, Los Angeles, CA
- Susan Swanberg, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona-School of Journalism, Tucson, AZ

Moderator:

- Brian Williams, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission, Los Angeles, CA

Speaker Biographies

Jasmyne Cannick | Jasmyne Cannick is a longtime on-air contributor who writes and speaks about collisions at the intersection of politics, race and social issues. She has bylines aplenty including Ebony Magazine, L.A. Weekly, The Advocate, Los Angeles Daily News, HuffPost and more.

Dave Lopez | Award-winning journalist Dave Lopez celebrated his 40th anniversary with CBS 2 in 2017. He joined the station in 1977 as a general assignment reporter and has covered nearly every major local event in Southern California during his more than four decades with the station. He has also reported for KCAL 9 since 2002, when CBS 2 and KCAL 9 became the largest local TV news organization in the country.

Throughout his career, Dave Lopez has received numerous journalism awards for his work, including Emmy Awards, Golden Mike Awards, Associated Press Awards and recognition from the Radio Television Digital News Association.



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Prior to joining CBS 2, Lopez was a general assignment reporter, weekend anchor and sports reporter at KFMB-TV in San Diego. Before that, was a general assignment and sports reporter at KHJ-TV (now KCAL 9) and also produced the station's sports specials.

Lopez was a sports writer at the Huntington Park Daily Signal newspaper before beginning his career in television news.

Lopez attended East Los Angeles College and graduated from California State University in Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism. He has two grown children and lives in Long Beach.

Susan E. Swanberg | Susan E. Swanberg, M.A., M.S., J.D., Ph.D., formerly a bench scientist and criminal defense attorney, is now an assistant professor at the University of Arizona School of Journalism where she teaches news reporting, science journalism, environmental journalism and media law. Swanberg has published peer-reviewed scholarly articles in science and journalism as well as science stories for the public in newspapers, magazines and online. Her research interests include journalism's historical portrayal of national and global scientific knowledge, events and policies; scientific expertise, propaganda and the nuclear age; the public understanding of science and science writing as literary journalism. In 2018, she was awarded a Udall Fellowship to study the impact of three journalists, William L. Laurence, Marjorie Van de Water and John Hersey, on the public's understanding of the Atomic Age. She also examines science journalism's portrayal of "difficult histories" including the American eugenics movement and Hiroshima. Her interdisciplinary approach often highlights the intersection of science, law and journalism.

Brian K. Williams | Brian K Williams. Esq., serves as the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission. This advisory Commission serves as a liaison between the community and the Sheriff's department as well as provides policy and other recommendations concerning the department. Williams also maintains a law practice, the Brian K. Williams Law Group. Prior to his appointment as executive director of the Civilian Oversight Commission, Williams served as President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southern California, one of the nation's preeminent educational programs for youth. During his career, Williams has also served as the executive director of the Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN). The SCLN is one of the nation's premiere leadership development programs and is affiliated with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Williams served for 11 years as an Assistant City Attorney in the Los Angeles City Attorney's office where he handled hundreds of criminal and civil matters and tried more than 100 cases. When Los Angeles City Attorney James K. Hahn was elected Mayor of Los Angeles, Mayor Hahn appointed Williams as his Deputy Mayor. Williams served for four years as the Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles for Transportation, Environment, and Infrastructure. Upon leaving the Mayor's Office, Williams was appointed the Assistant City Manager for the City of Pasadena, where he oversaw the police, fire, planning, water and power, and human resources departments.

Williams, a two-time UCLA Chancellor's Marshall, earned a B.A. in Political Science at UCLA and received a Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law. Williams has lectured at the UCLA School of Law, USC School of Law, Loyola University, and has provided commentary in national, regional and local media outlets. Williams is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Boule', the Pacific Council and numerous other organizations. A native of Southern California, Williams is married and the proud father of two outstanding sons.



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