



# TAMMY LEITNER

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST/  
DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER /  
WRITER / PRODUCER

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Investigative journalist with more than 20 years of experience in broadcast, newspapers and on digital platforms.
- Reported on-air at the network and local level.
- Co-developed with a Boston University faculty member the first specialty degree program (Advanced Journalism Studies) for the BU Journalism Department.
- Guest lecturer at ASU and BU.

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Competed in Ironman
- Swam from Alcatraz
- Residence at Himalayan ashram studying meditation and yoga.
- Photographer
- Cast member of "Survivor Marquesas"

## CONTACT

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tmleitner@gmail.com  
West Hollywood, CA

## EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

### Boston University

Master of Science, Print Journalism, 1998

Graduate Certificate Program, Advanced Journalism Studies in Crime Reporting, 1998

### University of California Los Angeles

Bachelor of Art, English Literature, 1995

Semester abroad in Stratford-upon-Avon studying Shakespeare, 1995

## CAREER HISTORY

### Author

True Crime Book (Present)

- Publishing deal with Thomas & Mercer (Imprint of Amazon)
- Nonfiction book on a serial rapist who hunted women across the country and eluded law enforcement for two decades.

### Volition Films

Founding Partner, Los Angeles (2020-Present)

- Developed two documentaries. In talks for funding

### Network Correspondent

NBC News - Miami Bureau (2016 - 2019)

- Report, wrote and produced national stories for the Today Show, Nightly News and MSNBC. Covered breaking news from natural disasters and race riots to mass shootings.
- Worked with NBC's investigative unit on breaking news.
- Produced a documentary for NBC's Nightly Films on a polygamist town as modernization threatened its way of life.
- Foreign correspondent based in the London bureau for months covering politics, war crimes and refugee crisis.

### Investigative Reporter

WMAQ - NBC Chicago (2014 - 2016)

- Sourced investigative stories from conception to pitch.
- Skilled interviewer, conducting thousands of interviews that varied from cooperative, to confrontational.
- In-depth coverage of terrorism-related issues.
- Developed on-going series on cyber security issues that exposed flaws in a drug infusion pump and revealed vulnerabilities in commercial airplanes.
- Worked collaboratively with internal marketing team to develop promotional material.
- Worked closely with legal affairs as well as standards and practices on all investigative stories.



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## CAREER HISTORY

### Investigative Reporter

**WCBS - TV, NY, New York (2013)**

- Adept at quickly switching between reporting investigative and breaking news stories.
- Focused on handling workflow to meet tight deadlines.
- Self-starter capable of working on investigations independently and collaboratively.
- Exposed contractor scams following Hurricane Sandy, tracked domestic drones used for spying and uncovered an organized crime syndicate of thieves targeting cargo trains.
- Also conducted the first television interview with the man who showed the world how to print 3-D guns.

### Investigative Reporter

**KPHO-TV, CBS Phoenix, AZ (2002 - 2013)**

- Wrote, field produced and narrated Peabody award-winning documentary exposing a three-decade old government cover-up revealing how Agent Orange was secretly buried on a U.S. military base in South Korea. The film shows the link between Leukemia cases in children in South Korea and mysterious health problems among a group of U.S. veterans.
- Unprecedented access to the U.S. Border Patrol along Arizona-Mexico border. Reported on drug-running operations infiltrating the U.S., illegal immigrants smuggled by coyotes, and shipments of illegal guns.
- Year-long investigation into people driving under the influence of methadone which led to changes in Arizona DUI laws.
- Live, round-the-clock coverage of what was then the longest prison standoff in U.S. history.
- First female reporter to stay overnight with inmates to examine Sheriff Joe Arpaio's notorious Tent City.
- Ability to find a distinctive voice or character and build a story around him/her.
- Identified stories in diverse communities including: drug cartels, migrants camps, female prisoners, and Native American Tribes.

### Print Reporter

**The East Valley Tribune, Scottsdale, AZ (1999 - 2001)**

- Investigated a series of child drownings which led to ordinances requiring fencing around backyard pools.
- Tracked multi-state police manhunt, exposing a two-decades-long search for a serial rapist.
- Discovered that the terrorists responsible for 9/11 had trained in Arizona.



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## CAREER HISTORY

### Print Reporter

#### New York Post, Phoenix, AZ (2001)

- Broke story of the Bronx DA's failure to use key testimony in the Amadou Diallo trial.
- Multiple reports on Sammy "The Bull" Gravano's arrest in Arizona for running an Ecstasy ring.

### Print Reporter

#### The Leader, Corning, NY (1998 - 1999)

- Sourced, researched and wrote long-form, investigative newspaper stories.
- Covered police and courts in four-county region of New York and Pennsylvania.
- First-person account of life in the county jail where I was locked up with the same criminals whose cases I covered.
- Investigation into a love triangle that led to the murder of a beloved small-town businessman.

## JOURNALISM AWARDS

### GLADD

"Murders Raise Alarm for Transgender Community",  
Outstanding TV Journalism Segment, 2018

### Associated Press Broadcasters Association

"Best Reporter" First Place, 2015

### Peter Lisagor

"Best News Specialty", 2015

### Edward R. Murrow

"Toxic Secrets", Investigative Reporting, 2012

### George Foster Peabody

"Toxic Secrets" 2011

### Sigma Delta Chi

"Toxic Secrets" Investigative Reporting, 2011



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## JOURNALISM AWARDS

### Emmys

- "The Baseline Killer", Societal Concerns, 2013
- "Toxic Secrets", Investigative, 2012
- "Toxic Secrets", Environmental Program Special, 2012 Rocky
- "Arizona's Broken Border", Continuing Coverage, 2012
- "St. Luke's Sex Offender", Societal Concerns", 2011
- "High Technology High Risk", Specialty Assignment Report, 2010
- "Assault on Arizona", Investigative Advanced Media, 2009
- "Assault on Arizona", News special, 2009
- "Air of America", Continuing Coverage, 2007
- "Caught on Tape", Best Spot News Story, 2006
- "Behind the Barbed Wire", Best Feature Writing, 2004

### Associated Press Awards

- "Tyson's Cage Fight", First Place for Sports Coverage, 2005
- "Feel the Burn", First Place for Feature, 2005
- Reporter of the Year, Runner-up, 2005.

### Newspaper Awards

- Arizona angle of the Sept. 11 Terrorist Attacks, Arizona Press Club First-place, 2002
- Series on Child Drownings, Associated Press Managing Editors award First Place, 2002
- "Police Hunt Serial Rapist; Inside the Mind of a Serial Rapist," Arizona Newspaper Association, 2001
- Sammy "The Bull" Gravano's Arrest in Arizona, Arizona Press Club First Place, 2001

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Syrian American Medical Society Journalism for Humanity Award, 2015

City of Scottsdale Humanity Award (for saving a drowning man in a Scottsdale lake), 1999