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Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of *The New York Times* Named Winners of the Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting

ALBANY -- *New York Times* investigative reporters Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, who broke the Harvey Weinstein story and ignited the #MeToo movement, have been selected as this year's recipients of the Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting.

"Kantor and Twohey defined political reporting the same way Nellie did, as the exposé of power relationships," said Rosemary Armao, a member of the selection committee. "Their initial reporting out of Hollywood and subsequent reports by them and others who took up the story have opened up every institution in the U.S.—and globally—to examination. Congress, church, business, you name it, things have changed."

The Museum of Political Corruption established the Nellie Bly Award in 2017 to recognize the role investigative reporting plays in rooting out high-level corruption and graft, exposing flaws in social justice, and maintaining an informed electorate. The award is named after late 1800s pioneering investigative reporter Nellie Bly.

"We're so grateful for this recognition," Kantor said. "Doing this work has been an honor from the first day, before there were any prizes involved. As always, the real heroes of this story are the brave women who shared their experiences, using their own painful memories to create a better and safer future for others."

"With this year's award we honor two tremendous journalists, whose work reminds us that the politics in our daily lives is just as susceptible to corruption as the politics in Albany or Washington," said Museum of Political Corruption founder and president Bruce Roter. "At times we fight corruption by raising our voices at the ballot box. The #MeToo movement announces that we can also fight corruption when we join together and raise our voices in a chorus of outrage."

Bly is the famous *New York World* journalist who spent 10 days in the women's insane asylum on Blackwell's Island. Her exposé on the institution's cruel conditions led to major reforms. Bly is perhaps best known for her solo trip around the world in 72 days. She performed another major feat of investigative reporting when, in 1888, she took the train to Albany and arranged, through a crooked lobbyist, to buy a vote in the New York State Legislature for \$1,250.

Bly never paid the lobbyist, but the Museum of Political Corruption *will* be paying a \$1,250 cash prize to the recipients of the Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting, know as the "Nellie." The money was raised over the last two months in a Kickstarter campaign launched by University at Albany journalism students.

Judges for the award included Frank Anechiarico, Susan Arbetter, Rosemary Armao, Thomas Bass, Bruce Roter, and Meave Tooher. The judges found much about Kantor and Twohey's careers, investigative subjects, and love of journalism that mimic Bly's innovation and sense of adventure.

A magna cum laude graduate of Columbia University, Kantor dropped out of Harvard Law School after a semester to go to work as a journalist at *Slate*. After criticizing the *New York Times* for its fuddy-duddy coverage of the arts, the newspaper hired her as its youngest section editor. She engaged more women and added more color to the Arts and Leisure section, before turning to reporting major stories—and getting workplace conditions changed—at Starbucks and Amazon.

Much of Megan Twohey's reporting has focused on the treatment of women and children. As a journalist at *Reuters*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, before joining the *Times* in 2016, Twohey wrote about untested rape kits, predatory doctors, and abandoned children. She and Kantor took three decades of allegations against Harvey Weinstein and managed—while facing a barrage of threats and potential suits—to break the groundbreaking story of the year.

Chartered in 2015 by the New York State Board of Regents, The Museum of Political Corruption is an Albany-based, 501(C)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan institution committed to educating and empowering the public by offering a better understanding of political corruption, and encouraging solutions that promote ethics reform and honest governance.

More information about the MPC and its educational and outreach wing, The Center for Ethical Governance, can be found at www.museumofpoliticalcorruption.org.

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