

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2017**

**Susanne Craig of *The New York Times* Named 1<sup>st</sup> Winner of  
The Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting**

**ALBANY** -- *New York Times* investigative reporter Susanne Craig, whose mailbox mysteriously yielded leaked pages from Donald Trump's 1995 tax return, has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting.

Craig, a former Albany bureau chief for *The Times*, has also led a number of investigations into allegations of wrongdoing in state government, including a months-long examination into New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's decision to shut down a much-heralded commission investigating public corruption.

The Museum of Political Corruption established the Nellie Bly Award to recognize the vital role investigative reporting plays in government oversight and maintaining an informed electorate. Craig is the award's inaugural winner. The award is named after late 1800s pioneering investigative reporter Nellie Bly.

"I was thrilled on learning that I had won this award," Craig said. "There is no greater calling as a reporter than to be able to focus a spotlight on government and what often goes wrong when money and politics collide.

"It has been amazing to watch the groundswell of support for newspapers and the role they play in the wake of Donald Trump's election. This award underscores that hard-hitting reporting at all levels of government is crucial," she added.

"We're delighted to honor Susanne," said Museum of Political Corruption founder and president Bruce Roter. "Our museum's mission is to learn from the past so we can create better government. By chronicling what has happened and creating transparency, Susanne's work gets us closer to this goal," he said.

"Nellie Bly has long been a heroine of mine," said Craig. "She truly understood the corrupting force of money in politics and government, and she was able to write about it in such a way that we are still talking about her stories more than 100 years after she penned them. The sad part is that the wrong-doing Bly wrote about is still alive and well in many corners of government."

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 recipient of the Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting. The money was raised 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 Craig's career, investigative subjects, and passion for journalism that mimic Bly's innovation and sense of adventure.

Craig joined *The Times* in 2010. She covered Wall Street for several years and was promoted to Albany bureau chief in late 2013. While there Craig led *The Times* investigation into the shutdown of the Moreland Commission on public corruption and wrote dozens of articles on political skullduggery while covering the downfall of Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and New York State Senate President Dean Skelos.

In early 2016 Craig moved to cover City Hall in New York but was soon asked to switch her focus to covering Donald Trump and his finances.

Before *The Times*, Craig reported for *The Wall Street Journal* and the *Globe and Mail*, Canada's largest national newspaper. At *The Wall Street Journal* she frequently wrote about abuse of power and was the lead reporter on a team that was a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for national affairs reporting for their coverage of the fall of Lehman Brothers and the 2008 financial crisis.

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.

The museum, still in the planning stages, has organized a variety of exhibitions and public forums. More information about the museum and its educational and outreach wing, The Center for Ethical Governance, can be found at: [www.museumofpoliticalcorruption.org](http://www.museumofpoliticalcorruption.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW:**

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