

# Tom Meagher

hello@tommeagher.com / www.tommeagher.com / Github: tommeagher

**The Marshall Project, New York, N.Y.** June 2014 – present  
Senior editor. Previously managing editor for digital and data, deputy managing editor and data editor

I manage The Marshall Project's reporting on prisons, jails and the death penalty, as well as leading collaborative, data-driven projects. Part of the original team that launched this nonprofit newsroom covering criminal justice, I led our effort with The Associated Press to track cases of COVID-19 — and deaths — in U.S. prisons. Prior to the pandemic, as deputy managing editor and managing editor, I ran an interdisciplinary digital team, that included data reporters, designers, visual journalists and interactive developers. And I contributed reporting and writing about the shortcomings of federal rape statistics to the series that won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting.

**Digital First Media, New York, N.Y.** August 2012 – May 2014  
Data editor

Led a team of journalist-developers at Project Thunderdome, the centralized news hub for Digital First Media, then the nation's second-largest newspaper chain. We built interactive web applications, supported computer-assisted reporting projects in the company's 75 local newsrooms and offered training in data analysis.

**The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J.** February 2009 – August 2012  
Data editor and news editor

At the largest paper in New Jersey, I oversaw reporters charged with developing enterprise stories using data reporting techniques, including an examination of \$250 million spent on rebuilding after Hurricane Irene (and how far that fell short). At the Star-Ledger's New Jersey Local News Service, I directed reporters covering towns in two counties, breaking dozens of front-page stories, including one on how \$30 million in public money was squandered on a malfunctioning regional sewage plant.

**Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.** July 2004 – February 2009  
City editor, computer-assisted reporter and city government reporter

I managed a desk of 15 reporters and assistant editors covering three cities and their surrounding suburbs as city editor. Focused on strong watchdog coverage, I coached reporters to write stories about imprisoned firefighters forging documents for work-release programs and contractors who duped homeowners into unneeded mortgages. Prior to that, as the paper's CAR reporter, I was responsible for databases and mapping, and one of my stories exposed a deal between Paterson's mayor and a developer that cost the nearly-bankrupt city more than \$10 million.

Early in my career, I was a night cops reporter for the Lawrence, Kansas, *Journal-World*, a sports stringer for The Associated Press, an intern in Washington, D.C. for the *Spokane Spokesman-Review*, and, in college, a reporter and copy editor at the *Columbia Missourian*.

References available on request.

---

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data analysis and visualization with Observable notebooks, JS, R, Python, SQL and relational databases
- Web scraping and data cleaning with Python
- Web development with Python, Flask, Django, Ruby, Rails, HTML, CSS and JS

---

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Since 2015, I have taught classes on criminal justice, data reporting and investigative techniques at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. I also regularly speak at conferences.
- Graduate of IRE's Computer-Assisted Reporting boot camp, Advanced CAR Statistics boot camp and Django mini-boot camp

---

## SELECTED HONORS

- Projects that I oversaw have won national Edward R. Murrow awards, Online Journalism Awards, a gold medal from the Society for News Design, an Eppy from Editor & Publisher and a National Headliner Award, among others.
- My reporting has received a Robert F. Kennedy Award for criminal justice reporting and a Nonprofit News Award for investigative journalism. I've been honored with a "Human Rights" award from Malofiej, the world's premier contest for news visualizations, a Data Journalism Award and more.

---

## EDUCATION

**Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism** Master of Science, 2004  
**University of Missouri** Bachelors of Journalism and of Arts in English, 1999