

TOM MERRIMAN

EDUCATION:

Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1988.

University of Notre Dame, B.A., Economics, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, 1984.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE:

WJW-TV, Investigative Reporter, Cleveland, OH, 2001 – present.

WEWS-TV, Investigative Reporter, Cleveland, OH, 1995 – 2001.

Poynter Institute, Ethics Fellow, St. Petersburg, FL, 2006.

JOURNALISM HONORS:

Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University silver baton (2006)

I.R.E. Medal, Investigative Reporters & Editors (2005)

(Finalist: 2001, 2002, 2004)

National Headliner Awards

Health/Science Reporting (2008) Investigative Reporting (2006)

Investigative Reporting (2005) Continuing Coverage (2005)

Public Service (1998)

National Association of Black Journalists Award (2008)

Thirty Emmy Awards

Six (6) Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards

National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) Special Award for Reporting Runner Up (2007)

National Emmy Award Nominations for Investigative Reporting (2002, 2007)

IRE Tom Renner Award Finalist (2002)

Jack R. Howard Award Finalist (2005)

Best Reporter in Ohio, Society of Professional Journalists, (4)

Best Reporter in Ohio, Associated Press (2007)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Ohio Attorney General Lee I. Fisher, Cleveland, OH, 1991 – 1994.

Deputy Ohio Attorney General, 1993 – 1994.

Managing Attorney, Cleveland Office, 1991 -1992.

Attorney General's Executive Staff, 1991 – 1994.

Hahn, Loeser & Parks, Litigation Associate, Cleveland, OH, 1989-1990.

United States District Court, Judicial Clerkship, Cleveland, OH, 1988 – 1989.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Frank J. Battisti (deceased), Chief Judge, United States District Court,
Northern District of Ohio.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Poynter Institute, Visiting Faculty, Enterprise & Investigative Reporting, St. Petersburg, FL, 2005.

Investigative Reporters & Editors, National Conference Speaker, 2006-2008.

Lectured on broadcast writing, use of hidden cameras, and confrontation interviews.

Harvard Negotiation Project, Teaching Assistant, Cambridge, MA, 1987 – 1988.

Assisted Professor Roger Fisher, author of Getting to Yes.

TOM MERRIMAN

A winner of the 2006 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University silver baton and the I.R.E. Medal from Investigative Reporters & Editors, Tom Merriman has spent nearly two decades serving in the public interest in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio.

Graduating *magna cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*, Tom received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Notre Dame in 1984. After working in a volunteer service program in Seattle, Washington, he enrolled at Harvard Law School. While studying law, Merriman taught negotiation, serving as a teaching assistant to Professor Roger Fisher of the Harvard Negotiation Project ("Getting to Yes").

Graduating cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1988, Merriman earned a judicial clerkship with the late Chief Judge Frank J. Battisti of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. It was the first stop in what has become a diverse and unusual career. In 1989, he became a litigator for one of Ohio's largest law firms. Fifteen months later, at the age of 29, he was appointed to lead the Ohio Attorney General's Cleveland office.

As Deputy Attorney General, Merriman directed a team of 70 attorneys and investigators. He also became known for his leadership role in developing innovative law enforcement strategies including Operation Crackdown. Honored by the Council of State Governments' 1994 Innovations Award, the program closed notorious drug houses and turned them over to neighborhood development organizations. Merriman also directed Operation Windfall, believed to be the most successful fugitive sting in history. Over 1100 fugitive felons were arrested after responding to letters claiming they were owed money by the government. The success of the sting led to a change in federal law requiring county welfare officials to share information with law enforcement for the purpose of apprehending fugitives. Merriman also served as chief trial attorney for the Consumer Fraud Strike Force, which successfully shut down numerous scam businesses and illegal telemarketing operations.

Merriman broke into journalism as an investigative reporter with WEWS in 1995. Joining the WJW I-Team in 2001, he produced a series of investigative reports uncovering local imam Fawaz Damra's ties to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the original World Trade Centers bombers, and a charity set up to support Osama bin Laden's operations in Afghanistan. After the series aired, Damra was convicted of lying on his citizenship application. He was subsequently imprisoned and deported.

Merriman's hidden camera investigation in South Korea documented United States military police protecting American soldiers who patronize brothels where foreign women are held as sex slaves. The reports triggered a Department of Defense Inspector General investigation, a Congressional hearing, and a Korean National Police crackdown on human trafficking. The United States Forces Korea (USFK) Command adopted a comprehensive plan of reform and ordered 38,000 American soldiers to be retrained on the issue human sex trafficking. As part of this training, U.S. soldiers are required to view the WJW investigation.

In 2004 – 2005, Merriman aired 26 reports which exposed ghost employees, inflated bus ridership, and cover-up in the Cleveland Municipal School District's transportation department. This series triggered extensive firings, the repayment of \$729,000 in ill-gotten state transportation funding, a criminal conviction, an outside performance audit, an Ohio Department of Education investigation, and \$4,000,000 in costs savings for taxpayers. This series was ultimately awarded both the duPont-Columbia silver baton and the IRE Medal.

Profiled in the PBS documentary, "Telling the Truth: The Best of Broadcast Journalism," Merriman has also won five National Headliner Awards, six regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, and thirty Emmy Awards. The Society of Professional Journalists has named Tom Merriman the Best Reporter in Ohio for four times. In 2006, he served as a Poynter Institute Ethics Fellow. Tom and his wife Annie live in a Cleveland suburb with their four children Jackson, Dylan, Kiki, and Isabel.