



About the Center

The Center for Public Integrity is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative journalism organization founded in 1989 by former *60 Minutes* producer Charles Lewis. The Center's mission is to produce original, responsible investigative journalism to make institutional power more transparent and accountable. Since its inception, the Center has produced more than 400 investigative reports and 17 books. It has received the prestigious George Polk Award and more than 26 other national journalism awards and 16 finalist nominations from a wide range of organizations, including PEN USA and Investigative Reporters and Editors.

The Center's Work

Among its "firsts," was the disclosure of the use of the Lincoln Bedroom for political contributors in the Clinton administration ("Fat Cat Hotel"); the posting on the Center's website of the secret Patriot II Act draft legislation; and indentifying Halliburton as the largest private contractor in Iraq and Afghanistan ("Windfalls of War"). The Center's quadrennial book project, *The Buying of the President*, was a best-seller in 2004 and work is well underway for 2008 at www.buyingofthepresident.org.

The Center's high-quality, publicly accessible investigations feature documents, contextual analysis, and databases. These are widely disseminated to journalists, policymakers, scholars, and the public using a combination of digital, electronic, and print media, and are also featured on our website, www.publicintegrity.org.

The *National Journal* referred to the Center as a "watchdog in the corridors of power"; Kevin Phillips wrote: "No other investigative organization shines so many probing flashlights into so many Washington dirty-laundry baskets"; the late Arthur Schlesinger Jr. said the Center is "an indispensable truth-teller in a treacherous time"; and the late John Kenneth Galbraith observed, "Nothing is so inconvenient, so unwelcome and often so powerful as the cold truth. This, the [Center for Public Integrity] for our pleasure and for our benefit provides."

Bill Buzenberg became the Center's executive director in January 2007 following a 27-year-career in public radio.

The Center depends on foundations and individual contributors for its financial support. The Center does not accept contributions from labor unions, governments, or anonymous donors.



Mission

The mission of the Center for Public Integrity is to produce original investigative journalism about significant public issues to make institutional power more transparent and accountable. To pursue its mission, the Center:

- * Generates high-quality, accessible investigative reports, databases, and contextual analysis on issues of public importance.
- * Disseminates work to journalists, policymakers, scholars, and citizens using a combination of digital, electronic, and print media.
- * Educates, engages, and empowers citizens with the tools and skills they need to hold governments and other institutions accountable.
- * Organizes and supports investigative journalists around the world who apply the Center's values, mission, and standards to cross-border projects.
- * Remains independent by building a strong and sustainable financial base of support, including a community of committed individuals and foundations.

The Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, non-advocacy, independent investigative journalism organization based in Washington, D.C.



Bill Buzenberg
Executive Director



Bill Buzenberg became executive director of the Center for Public Integrity in December 2006. He has been a journalist and news executive at newspapers and in public radio for more than 35 years. Most recently, as senior vice president of news at American Public Media / Minnesota Public Radio, Buzenberg launched such programming initiatives as *American RadioWorks*, public radio's major documentary and investigative journalism unit, and *Speaking of Faith*, public radio's signature program on religion. He also began Public Insight Journalism, an innovative use of technology to draw knowledge from the audience. Buzenberg was vice president of news and information at National Public Radio from 1990 to 1997. He was responsible for launching *Talk of the Nation*, as well as the expansion of *All Things Considered* and the extension of NPR's newscasts services to 24 hours a day. During his tenure, the NPR News Division was honored with 9 DuPont-Columbia Batons and 10 Peabody Awards. At both NPR and MPR, he was active in helping raise significant foundation funding to bolster public radio programming. Buzenberg joined NPR in 1978 as the first reporter to help start *Morning Edition*. For 11 years, he was a foreign affairs correspondent based mostly in Washington, D.C. He was named London bureau chief in 1986 and became NPR's first managing editor in 1989. He began his journalism career in newspapers, serving as city editor of the *Colorado Springs Sun* in the early 70s. Buzenberg was a Peace Corps volunteer in Bolivia from 1968 to 1970. He has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award, public radio's highest honor. He was co-editor of the memoirs of the late CBS News President Richard Salant. *Salant, CBS, and the Battle for the Soul of Broadcast Journalism* was published in 1998 by Westview Press. A graduate of Kansas State University, Buzenberg has also studied at the University of Michigan as part of its mid-career professional journalism fellowship program, in the M.A. program at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy, and as a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



What Others Say About the Center for Public Integrity

“No other investigative organization shines so many probing flashlights into so many Washington dirty-laundry baskets.”

— *Kevin Phillips, Author*

“...there is no more effective public interest watchdog in Washington, D.C.”

— *Bill Moyers, Journalist*

“Ethics must be reintroduced to public service to restore people’s faith in government. Without such faith, democracy cannot flourish. Your ambitious agenda is filling a desperate need.”

— *Walter Cronkite, Journalist*

“Investigative reporting is the bone structure without which the journalistic body collapses. The Center for Public Integrity’s constant and consistently enterprising investigative work is an invaluable contribution not only to journalism, but to society and to a healthy democracy”

— *Alma Guillermoprieto, Journalist*

“Where would we in Washington and we in America be without the Center? We would know much less about the workings of our Congress, and our tax dollars. We would know much less about the powers of the Executive, and its ability to hide wrong doing behind secrecy and classification. The Center takes the notion of integrity very seriously, and its investigations are a model for today's good journalism and, we all hope, an inspiration for the mainstream press to do more.”

— *Seymour Hersh, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter and author*

"Sometimes I am convinced there is nothing wrong with this country that couldn't be cured by the magical implantation of ethical standards on us all - leaders and followers. Until that becomes doable, the Center for Public Integrity is just about the best thing we have going for us."

— *Ben Bradlee, Vice President-at-Large, The Washington Post*

“In this very uncertain time for the media, serious investigative reporting - the expensive, time-consuming stuff - is under enormous pressure at newspapers and other commercial news organizations. Non-profits such as the Center for Public Integrity are taking on this vital work and without them the prospects for investigative reporting would be even more dire. The Center has been properly celebrated for its careful, rigorous work, and to my mind it has now ascended to the status of national treasure.”

— *Alex S. Jones, Director, Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, Harvard University*

“The Center for Public Integrity is the real thing. A group of dedicated people who remember that great journalism is about grit and guts and stamina and razor-sharp instincts. They are, thank heaven, here to stay.”

— *Diane Sawyer, ABC News*

“...watchdog in the corridors of power.”
— *The National Journal*



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The Center does not accept contributions from labor unions, governments, or anonymous donors.

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