

Sigrid Bathen - A Bibliography

Note: As a working journalist for many years—including 13 years as a staff writer and investigative reporter for the *Sacramento Bee* and more than 40 years as a magazine writer and editor -- my bibliography of published works is extensive. I have attempted here to divide my published writing into several categories, which will include the most significant examples of my work, with the most recently published listed first. Many articles are available at www.sigridbathen.com (organized by type of publication) and other media websites. This list does not include many presentations, interviews, oral histories, podcasts and other special projects, which can be found on my website.

Examples of my extensive writing in the public relations field (as press secretary/media director in three state agencies) are also available, often in portfolio, packet or digital format. See “Other Writing” below.

Magazine and Newspaper Articles, Online Media (1987-present) *Note: Website links for recent articles included here, other articles available on www.sigridbathen.com, organized by type of publication. Links will (eventually) be added to this bibliography.*

[“Passing ‘grave disability’ was hard – getting counties to implement it has been harder.”](#) Examination of county resistance to implementing long-awaited legislation expanding the definition of “grave disability” to compel treatment for severely mentally ill individuals. *Capitol Weekly*, Jan. 31, 2024. <https://capitolweekly.net/passing-grave-disability-reform-was-hard-getting-counties-to-implement-it-has-been-harder/>

[“The Capitol Weekly interview: Sen. Susan Eggman’s long battle for mental health reform.”](#) Interview with Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, author of major mental health legislation, for an annual special health care edition (online and print). *Capitol Weekly*, Sept. 11, 2023. <https://capitolweekly.net/the-capitol-weekly-interview-sen-susan-eggmans-long-battle-for-mental-health-reform/>

“The growing push for major action on mental health and homelessness.” Review of significant recent proposed changes in mental health policy, with wide-ranging legislation long in the making -- as the Newsom administration, state legislators and local officials are “pushed by escalating homelessness and the increasing clout of family members.” *Capitol Weekly*, Feb. 22, 2023 <https://capitolweekly.net/the-growing-push-for-major-action-on-mental-health-and-homelessness/>

[“Capitol Weekly Interview: Randall Hagar and mental health care.”](#) In-depth interview with legislative advocate Randall Hagar, who has helped write major mental health legislation over decades, for the annual special edition on health care (online and print). *Capitol Weekly*, Sept. 12, 2022. <https://capitolweekly.net/capitol-weekly-interview-randall-hagar-and-mental-health-care/>

“Helping mentally ill people: The debate over ‘involuntary treatment’.” Examination of entrenched resistance to mental health reform, based on long-standing objections to

“forced” treatment. *Capitol Weekly*, May 18, 2022. <https://capitolweekly.net/helping-mentally-ill-people-the-debate-over-involuntary-treatment/>

“[A deep dive into Newsom plan to overhaul mental health policy](https://capitolweekly.net/a-deep-dive-into-newsom-plan-to-overhaul-mental-health-policy/).” Examination of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s sweeping “CARE Court” proposal. *Capitol Weekly*, March 24, 2022. <https://capitolweekly.net/a-deep-dive-into-newsom-plan-to-overhaul-mental-health-policy/>

“Lawmakers agree: Little change in CA’s mental health care system.” Despite “decades of new laws and huge infusions of public funds,” mental health reform is often blocked. *Capitol Weekly*, Dec. 23, 2021. <https://capitolweekly.net/lawmakers-agree-little-change-in-cas-mental-health-care-system/>

“Real change proves elusive in mental health care system.” Overview of legislative challenges in reforming California’s broken mental health system. *Capitol Weekly*, Nov. 10, 2021. <https://capitolweekly.net/real-change-proves-elusive-in-mental-health-care-legislation/>

“[Capitol Weekly Interview: Susan Talamantes Eggman](https://capitolweekly.net/capitol-weekly-interview-susan-talamantes-eggman/).” In-depth interview with state Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, author of major mental health legislation over decades, for the annual special edition on health care (online and print). *Capitol Weekly*, Sept. 20, 2021. <https://capitolweekly.net/capitol-weekly-interview-susan-talamantes-eggman/>

“‘Laura’s Law’ okayed in 30 counties — a major statewide turnaround.” *Capitol Weekly*, June 17, 2021. After nearly 20 years, Laura’s Law is finally adopted in 30 California counties, including all of the larger counties. <https://capitolweekly.net/lauras-law-okayed-in-30-counties-a-major-statewide-turnaround/>

“Legacy of a young woman’s murder: Will the counties step up?” Intense debate over Laura’s Law in California Counties. *Capitol Weekly*, April 7, 2021. <https://capitolweekly.net/legacy-of-a-young-womans-murder-will-the-counties-step-up/>

“For the mentally ill, a life-and-death debate over Laura’s Law.” Part of a continuing series of articles on Laura’s Law (Assisted Outpatient Treatment, AOT), one of the few legal avenues for families to get help for seriously mentally ill relatives. *Capitol Weekly*, April 6, 2021. <https://capitolweekly.net/for-the-mentally-ill-a-life-and-death-debate-over-lauras-law/>

“Mental health courts cut costs, inmates, but lack oversight, data.” Part Two of a two-part article on mental health courts, designed to divert mentally ill defendants charged in criminal court, *Capitol Weekly*, Nov. 12, 2020. <https://capitolweekly.net/mental-health-courts-cut-costs-inmates-but-lack-oversight-data/>

“Santa Clara judge creates ‘gold standard’ for mental health courts.” Part One of a two-part article on expanding mental health courts designed to divert mentally ill defendants

charged in criminal court, *Capitol Weekly*, Nov. 11, 2020. <https://capitolweekly.net/santa-clara-judge-creates-gold-standard-for-mental-health-courts/>

“[Lawmakers send historic mental-health bills to Newsom.](#)” Review of major mental health legislation passed in 2020, *Capitol Weekly*, Sept. 3, 2020. <https://capitolweekly.net/lawmakers-send-historic-mental-health-bills-to-newsom/>

“[Darrell Steinberg’s longtime focus on mental health.](#)” The *Capitol Weekly* Interview, with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, former state Senate President and author of major mental health legislation over decades. Published in annual special edition on health care (online and print), *Capitol Weekly*, Sept. 16, 2020. <https://capitolweekly.net/qa-darrell-steinbergs-longtime-focus-on-mental-health/>

“Auditor Slams State Mental Health System, Revives Laura’s Law,” about state Auditor’s report on California’s broken mental-health system, recommendation that Laura’s Law be adopted statewide, *Capitol Weekly*, Aug. 7, 2020. <https://capitolweekly.net/auditor-slams-state-mental-health-system-revives-lauras-law/>

“Pressure Mounts on How Police Handle Mental-Health Crises,” Part I and II, examination of proposed changes in law enforcement response to mental-health crises, *Capitol Weekly*, July 20 and 21, 2020, <https://capitolweekly.net/pressure-mounts-on-how-police-handle-mental-health-crises/>

“Stronger ‘Laura’s Law’ wins Assembly approval,” about legislation to strengthen 2002 “Laura’s Law,” which gives family members a legal tool to get treatment for their severely mentally ill relatives,” *Capitol Weekly*, June 9, 2020 <https://capitolweekly.net/stronger-lauras-law-wins-assembly-approval/>

“From the Snake Pit to the Streets,” Analysis of Gov. Newsom’s 2020-21 budget proposal on homelessness and mental health, *Capitol Weekly*, Jan. 28, 2020 <https://capitolweekly.net/mental-health-care-from-the-snake-pit-to-the-streets/>

Oral History Project, *Capitol Weekly/Open California*, w/a grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the California State Library, histories. Video interview with legendary lobbyist Clay Jackson, Dec. 20, 2018 www.capitolweekly.net/oral

“Herrmann Spetzler Remembered as ‘Visionary’ Who Developed California Rural Clinics” *California Health Care Foundation*, May 1, 2018. <https://www.chcf.org/blog/herrmann-spezler-visionary-rural-clinics/>

“Mario Gutierrez: Improving Access for All, ‘Giving Voice to the Voiceless’,” *California Health Care Foundation*, Sept. 7, 2017. <https://www.chcf.org/blog/mario-gutierrez-improving-access-for-all-giving-voice-to-the-voiceless/>

“Former California Legislative Analyst Liz Hill, Renowned Straight Shooter, Turns Her Focus to Health Policy,” *California Health Care Foundation*, April 19, 2016.

Profile/Q&A with the first woman to head the LAO, one of the most influential positions in state government. Reprinted in *Capitol Weekly*, April 25, 2016.

<https://www.chcf.org/blog/former-california-legislative-analyst-liz-hill-renowned-straight-shooter-turns-focus-health-policy/> <https://capitolweekly.net/elizabeth-hill-profile-lao-california/>

“Doctors’ Drug Tests: A Divisive Issue,” *Capitol Weekly*, October 19, 2014. Physician substance abuse, proposals for drug-testing and the state of doctor discipline in California, as part of Proposition 46 on the November 2014 ballot.

<https://capitolweekly.net/drug-testing-doctors-prop-46-california7636/>

“Democrats Divided: The Race for State Schools Superintendent,” *Capitol Weekly*, September 23, 2014. The contentious and expensive 2014 Torlakson-Tuck election for state Superintendent of Public Instruction, an ordinarily low-key “down-ticket” election for a “nonpartisan” constitutional position with little real power.

<https://capitolweekly.net/state-schools-superintendent-democrats-election/>

“Tough Nut to Crack: Almonds bust then boom in China,” *Comstock’s* regional business magazine, April 2013. Examination of the meteoric marketing success of California almonds, California’s top food export. <https://www.comstocksmag.com/article/tough-nut-crack>

“The MBA Is Not Dead,” *Comstock’s* Magazine, August 2012. Job prospects for recent MBA grads. <https://www.comstocksmag.com/article/mba-not-dead>

“Law School Blues,” *Comstock’s* Magazine, July 2012. Challenges facing recent law school grads in difficult job market for lawyers.

<https://www.comstocksmag.com/longread/law-school-blues>

“The New Laws of Hiring,” *Comstock’s* Magazine, July 2012. What law firms are looking for in new hires. <https://www.comstocksmag.com/article/new-laws-hiring>

“Accidental Landlords,” *Comstock’s* Magazine, April 2012. Homeowners become “accidental landlords” for underwater properties in mortgage meltdown.

<https://www.comstocksmag.com/longread/accidental-landlord>

“Changes in mental health care system stir new optimism,” Aug. 18, 2011, *Capitol Weekly*. Examination of sweeping proposed changes to delivery of mental health care in California.

“Plan To Close UC Center Ill-advised,” Nov. 13, 2009, *Sacramento Bee*, op-ed article on UC President’s decision to close highly praised UC Center in Sacramento, which provides practical and internship experience for public policy and journalism students from UC campuses throughout California – a decision since revisited to allow the program to continue.

“Tackling the Teacher Tenure Issue,” May 20, 2009, Los Angeles Times. Commentary on the origins of teacher tenure and the evolution of the teacher-dismissal process in California school districts.

“Out of the Snakepit, a Personal Odyssey; New Hope Dawns for Mental Health System,” and “New Money for Mental Health Care; Families Hopes Rise,” Sept. 1 and 8, 2005, Capitol Weekly. A two-part examination of mental health care in California and improvements as a result of new funding made available through passage of Proposition 63.

“The ‘Mississippification’ of California Schools,” California Journal, September 2004. Cover article on disparities in K-12 public education in California.

“Cut to the Bone,” California Journal, June 2004. Cover article on the impact of budget cuts on California nonprofit agencies that provide “safety net” services to the poor.

“A System with No Center: An Interview with former state Inspector General Steve White,” California Journal, May 2004. Q&A with Sacramento Superior Court Judge Steve White about his experiences as Inspector General of the troubled California prison system, for a special issue on prisons.

“One to Six,” California Journal, March 2004. Examination and analysis of recently implemented nurse-patient staffing ratios in California hospitals.

“How to Turn Out Successful Teachers,” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion section, March 26, 2000. Commentary on teacher training, turnover and how some schools retain good teachers.

“A Success Story for Kids Who Can’t Make it in Regular School,” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion section, January 2, 2000. Commentary on the alternative-school movement and one teacher who makes a difference.

“The Deeper Inequality behind the AP-Course Suit,” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion section, October 17, 1999. Commentary on the inequitable availability of high school advanced-placement courses.

“A Sense of Place, a Clash of Memory,” California Journal, June 1999. An account of the changes in the community where I was raised, Chico, Calif., for a special issue on the Central Valley.

“Wilson Riles: ‘Reinventing the Wheel,’” California Journal, May 1999. Tribute to former state Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson Riles, who died in April 1999.

“Tracing the Roots of Teacher Tenure,” California Journal, May 1999. Examination of teacher tenure issues in K-12 schools. Included companion articles: “The Teachers

Unions under Fire,” and “Case Study: Origins of Tenure,” about the discrimination against women which were at the roots of teacher tenure.

“Frank McCulloch: Asking the Questions,” California Journal, April 1999. Commentary on first recipient of California Journalism Awards’ Lifetime Achievement Award for Extraordinary Contributions to American Journalism

“Elderly Health-Care Crisis Sneaking Up on Davis,” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion section, March 7, 1999. Commentary on Gov. Gray Davis’ failure to deal with elder care reform.

“Elder Care: The Hidden Crisis for California Families,” California Journal, March 1999. Cover article on growing elder care scandals and abuse in nursing homes.

“Eduspeak,” California Journal, February 1999. Commentary on education jargon.

“Like a Bulldog,” California Journal, February 1999. Profile of California State University Chancellor Charles Reed.

“Readin’, Writin’ and Reform,” California Journal, January 1999. Analysis of Gov. Gray Davis’ education reform proposals.

“Can Another Task Force Lead Us to Education Reform?” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion section, November 22, 1998. Commentary on Gov. Gray Davis’ education task force.

“Moving Beyond Gridlock,” California Journal, November 1998. Analysis of California transportation problems.

“Nurses Under Seige,” California Journal, August 1998. Cover article on the changing role of nurses in the California health care system.

“Women’s Work,” California Journal, August 1998. Commentary on historic stereotyping and discrimination against nurses.

“Whose Test Is It Anyway?” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion, July 12, 1998, on the California’s controversial new standardized testing of public school students.

“Three Education Initiatives Make for Odd Bedfellows,” Los Angeles Times, Sunday Opinion, May 31, 1998.

“In the Shadows,” California Medicine, May/June, 1998. Examination of physician training for abortion and declining availability.

"Abortion in the Shadows" and "The Politics of Abortion," California Journal, April 1998. Examination of the declining availability of legal abortion and the lack of training

for new doctors in how to perform abortions, as well as the political and social issues surrounding the subject.

"Delaine Eastin," California Journal, March 1998. Profile of state Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin.

"Los Angeles Unified," California Journal, January 1998. Examination of the huge, diverse and much-criticized L.A. Unified School District, for a special issue, "Race in California."

"California's Lost Children," California Journal, December 1997. Cover article on the state's controversial foster care system.

"Online Disclosure," California Medicine, November 1997. Cover article on new physician disclosure laws in California.

"California Mental Health Care: From the Snakepit to the Streets?" and "The Faces of Mental Illness," California Journal, October 1997. Cover article on the troubled system of mental health care in California, and profiles of individuals and families in the system.

"The HMO Wars," California Journal, August 1997. An examination of the state of managed care in California, and legislation to change it.

"Minorities at UC: Going, Going. . .Gone?" California Medicine, July 1997. Examination of the decline in the number of minorities in UC medical schools.

"The MTA: Los Angeles' Transit Nightmare," California Journal, July 1997. An investigative report on the troubled Metropolitan Transportation Authority, for a special issue on Los Angeles.

"Who's in Charge?" California Journal, June 1997. Analysis of California's unusual system of education governance, for a special issue on education.

"Down from the Pedestal," California Journal, April 1997. Examination of new laws proposed to investigate and disclose physician incompetence.

"The Prison Dilemma: Prevention vs. Lockups," California Journal, March 1997. Examination of prison construction in California and alternatives to incarceration.

"Attorney General '98," California Journal, February 1997. Analysis of potential candidates in 1998 election for California Attorney General.

"Destroyed by Drink," Sacramento Magazine, February 1997. Profiles of recovering alcoholics for February Health section.

"The Politics of Government P.R.," California Journal, January 1997. Examination of state-funded public relations practices.

"Phil Guthrie: An Appreciation. . .without Spin," California Journal, January 1997. Tribute to the late Phil Guthrie, longtime spokesman for the California Department of Corrections.

"Election 1996: Moolah Madness," California Journal, December 1996. District-by-district analysis of legislative and congressional races and initiatives.

"Policewoman," California Journal, November 1996. Profile of Katherine Mader, Inspector General of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

"The Welfare Puzzle," California Journal, November 1996. Analysis of proposed federal welfare reform law and impact on California.

"Election '96," California Journal, October 1996. Special issue with district-by-district analysis of legislative and congressional elections.

"November Initiative Wars," California Journal, September 1996. Special issue containing detailed analysis of initiatives on November 1996 ballot.

"Life after Death: Resources for Widows," Sacramento Magazine, August 1996, a special issue on seniors.

"Grandparents as Parents," Sacramento Magazine, August 1996.

"Follow the Leaders: Women in the Recreation Industry," Sacramento Magazine, July 1996.

"Breast Cancer: One in Eight," Sacramento Magazine, June 1996

"Saving Face: A Local Look at Plastic Surgery," Sacramento Magazine, May 1996.

"Junior Achievement starts young: Venerable service group pushes into elementary school classes," Sacramento Business Journal, February 1996, special supplement, *Partners in Education*, on business-school partnerships.

"The Energy to Manage," Sacramento Magazine, April 1996. A profile of Sacramento Municipal Utility District General Manager Jan Schori.

"Q&A: Bobbie Metzger -- A public affairs powerhouse with deep California roots," Sacramento Magazine, April 1996.

“Giving Kids a START: Volunteers from business, community key to program’s success,” Sacramento Business Journal, February 1996, for its special supplement, *Partners in Education*, on business-school partnerships.

“Life of Brian,” Sacramento Magazine, January/February 1996. A profile of Fresno Assemblyman Brian Setencich, who was briefly speaker of the California State Assembly.

“Hormone Replacement: Miracle or Curse,” Sacramento Magazine, December 1995.

“Bilingual Education: What can business do to help?” Sacramento Business Journal, November 1995, for its special supplement, *Partners in Education*, on business-school partnerships.

“Clay Jackson in Prison.” A lengthy prison interview with prominent former lobbyist Clay Jackson, convicted of political corruption in a federal investigation of the California State Legislature, California Journal, November 1995. (*Awarded First Place for Enterprise Reporting, Society of Professional Journalists, Central Calif. Chapter, 1996*)

“State of the Heart: Heart Health is Not a Concern Just for Men,” Sacramento Magazine, October 1995.

“Ovarian Cysts: Do They Mean Cancer?” Sacramento Magazine, September 1995.

“Computers to Schools,” Sacramento Business Journal, September 1995. An examination of efforts by businesses to provide computers to schools, for a special supplement, *Partners in Education*, on business-school partnerships.

“Bases Loaded: Hard Times for California’s Military Bases Mean Boom Times for Specialists in Base Reuse,” for a special issue of California Lawyer Magazine on new areas of legal practice, August 1995.

“Sisters,” profiles of two families of sisters, for Sacramento Magazine’s annual issue devoted to families, August 1995.

“Women at Work: Since 1975,” profiles of three women in business in Sacramento since 1975, for a special Sacramento Magazine retrospective issue marking the magazine’s 20th anniversary, July 1995.

“Children at Risk,” an essay on the status and future of children in California, California Journal, June 1995. (*Awarded Second Place for Commentary, Society of Professional Journalists, Central California Chapter, 1996*)

“Senior Entrepreneurs,” interviews with entrepreneurs over 55 who have started their own businesses, Sacramento Magazine, June 1995.

“Birthing Babies,” a review of childbirth choices available to women, and stories of older women who did not have the same choices, Sacramento Magazine, May 1995.

“Gabriele Bender,” an interview with the first woman to head the Homicide Bureau of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, Sacramento Magazine, May 1995.

“Taking That First Step,” Sacramento Business Journal, May 1995. A review of juvenile crime intervention and mentoring programs for a special supplement, *Partners in Education*.

“Nina Boyd Krebs,” an interview with a Sacramento psychologist and author of Changing Woman, Changing Work, about the obstacles faced by women in the workplace, Sacramento Magazine, April 1995.

“The Needles and the Damage Done: Sacramento tests the legality of needle exchanges,” California Lawyer Magazine, March 1995.

“Faulty Image,” an examination of women’s body images, including the high incidence of eating disorders and cosmetic surgery, Sacramento Magazine, March 1995

“Extraordinary Measures,” three accounts of extraordinary medical intervention in cases involving life-threatening illnesses or accidents, Sacramento Magazine, January/February 1995.

“Diversion Tactics,” a story about juvenile crime diversion programs in Sacramento, Sacramento Magazine, December 1994

“Lobbyists: Walking a Fine Line,” an examination of the role of lobbyists in the Capitol, Sacramento Magazine, November 1994.

“Women: The New Network,” and “Networking in the Old Girls’ Tradition,” an examination of women and “networking,” Sacramento Magazine, October 1994.

“The Child Care Challenge,” analysis and review of child care options, cost, availability, for special issue, “Focus on Families,” Sacramento Magazine, September 1994.

“Terry Grier: Swimming Upstream,” a profile of Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Terry Grier, Sacramento Magazine, August, 1994.

“Look, Mom’s on TV!”, interviews with Sacramento television anchorwomen who are also mothers, about job and family stresses, Sacramento Magazine, May 1994.

“Sheriff Glen Craig: Sacramento County’s Top Cop,” a profile of Sacramento County Sheriff Glen Craig, Sacramento Magazine, April 1994.

“Where Women Are,” interviews with four prominent Sacramento women about the progress of women in various fields, for a special women’s issue of Sacramento Magazine, October 1993.

“The Girls on the Bus,” about women reporters in Sacramento’s Capitol Press Corps, for a special women’s issue of Sacramento Magazine, October 1993.

“It May Be the Year of the Woman for Politicians, But It’s the Same Old Boys’ Club that Covers Them,” about women reporters in Sacramento’s Capitol Press Corps, California Republic Magazine, August 1992. (*Awarded Honorable Mention for Enterprise Reporting by the Central California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, 1992.*)

“Dan Lungren Shakes Up Justice,” an examination of the administration of California Attorney General Dan Lungren, California Journal, January 1992.

“Lungren in Limine: The New Attorney General Ruffles A Few Feathers as He Settles into His Job,” an examination of the administration of California Attorney General Dan Lungren, California Lawyer Magazine, August 1991.

“D.A.: Sacramento County District Attorney Steve White Is Tackling Big City Crime in His Once Sleepy Hometown,” a profile of Sacramento County District Attorney Steve White, Sacramento Magazine, September 1990. (*Named Runner-up for Best Profile, Micromedia Affiliates, Inc. “Mike” Award, 1990.*)

“Lawyer-Lobbyists Become Big Fish in the Capital Pond,” an examination of the increasingly important role played by lawyer-lobbyists in California government, California Journal, February 1990.

“Lobbyist Clay Jackson: The New ‘Big Daddy’,” a profile of powerful Sacramento lawyer-lobbyist Clayton Jackson, California Journal, February 1990.

“The Sacramento Sting: A State Senator Goes on Trial in the First Test of the Capital Corruption Probe,” an examination of legal strategy in the trial of Sen. Joseph Montoya, California Lawyer Magazine, December 1989.

“Lawyers Learn to Play the Lobbying Game,” an examination of the role of lawyer-lobbyists in Capitol politics, California Lawyer Magazine, August 1989.

“Help for the Homeless,” a feature article on a Sacramento County program to place homeless people in housing and jobs, Sacramento Magazine, December 1988.

“Dollars for Design,” a feature article about the custom home industry in Sacramento, Sacramento Magazine, September 1988.

“Common Ground: For Property Owners, Common-Interest Developments Can Be a Dream—or a Nightmare—Come True,” a feature article about homeowners associations and common-interest developments,” Sacramento Magazine, May 1988.

“Trashed Out: By 1990, Sacramento’s Dump Will Fill to Bursting,” an examination of landfill use in Sacramento County, Sacramento Magazine, August 1987.

Columns: “Capital Insider” (1989)

Note: As a senior writer for California Lawyer Magazine, I wrote a monthly column on political and governmental issues of concern to the state’s legal community:

“The Gripes of Wrath: Willie Brown’s Management Style Irks Assembly Staff Members,” October 1989.

“An Aide to Legislation: Legislative Staffer Gene Erbin Screens Most of the Bills that Affect Lawyers,” September 1989.

“No Sex Please, We’re Lawyers: the state Legislature May Direct the State Bar to Ban Lawyers from Having Sex with Clients,” July 1989.

“Van de Kamp’s Achilles’ Heel: The Attorney General’s Decision not to Prosecute the Hillside Strangler May Affect the 1990 Governor’s Race,” June 1989.

“Big Daddy Speaks Out: Lobbyist Clay Jackson Finally Talks about Last Year’s Insurance Initiatives,” May 1989.

“Low Crimes in High Places: When Politicians Are Put on Trial, It’s Political,” April 1989.

Columns: First-Person (Magazines and Newspapers, 1978-present)

“Circles of Smoke,” on teenagers and cigarette smoking, Sacramento Magazine, April 1995.

“Driving: Why Is it that We Often End Up Handling the Tumult of Adolescent Children and the Unsettling Changes of Aging Parents All at the Same time?” Sacramento Magazine, December 1993.

“The Death of Innocence,” about the murder of a disabled youth in a community park and the changes in that community, Chico News & Review, December 27, 1990. (*Awarded Second Place for Commentary, Society of Professional Journalists, Central California Chapter, 1991.*)

“She’ll Work for Food and Diapers,” about homeless families on Sacramento streets, Sacramento News & Review, November 29, 1990.

“A Remembrance of ‘Old Hutch’,” about an exceptional history professor at California State University, Chico, after his death, Chico News & Review, March 29, 1990.

“Not Having It All. . .And Loving It,” about the conflicts of careers and motherhood, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, March 26, 1989.

“Seabright Beach Memoirs,” about childhood vacations in the ‘50s, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, October 23, 1988.

“Growing, Growing. . .Gone,” about children growing up, adolescent rebellion, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, August 7, 1988.

“Bus-Stop Blues: Mothers Are Excess Baggage When Kids Are Riding High,” Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, November 15, 1987.

“Daddy and the Store Were Inseparable in Our Eyes,” about my father, a smalltown businessman and Mayor of Chico, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, September 6, 1987.

“The Aunt I Never Knew: She Was A Smiling, Blond Norwegian Girl, the Picture of Health,” about my aunt, after whom I am named, who died of Tuberculosis in 1943, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, February 22, 1987.

“Brace Yourself: If Your Daughter Can Grin and Bear It, Mom, So Can You,” about orthodontic adventures, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, February 1, 1987.

“Letting Go: This Summer She’s Not a Baby Anymore,” about career-motherhood conflicts for women in demanding professional positions, Sacramento Bee Sunday Magazine, August 17, 1986.

“Some Working Moms Find It’s Agony and Ecstasy,” about career-motherhood conflicts, Sacramento Bee, August 12, 1981.

“Failure of ‘Superwoman’ Role,” Sacramento Bee, January 14, 1980.

“Growing Into the Mantle of Motherhood,” Sacramento Bee, March 13, 1978.

Selected Newspaper Articles: Sacramento Bee (1969-81)

Education:

“Education Board Faces Bias Issue,” October 7, 1981.

“Federal Switch: State Special Ed Wins High Praise,” October 2, 1981.

“Bilingual Ed Furor Mires State Board,” September 20, 1981.

“What’s Wrong with These Children: (Hint: Do you See a TV Anywhere Nearby?),” August 9, 1981.

“Options To Discourage Dropouts Urged: Report Backs School Attendance Law,” July 23, 1981.

“San Juan Follow-Up: Grads—How’re They Doing?” July 7, 1981.

“Schools Chief Wilson Riles: He’s Come Long Way,” profile of California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson Riles, June 21, 1981.

“Political Infighting Paralyzes State Board of Education,” May 17, 1981.

“GOP Urges Stiff Teacher Tenure Laws,” April 21, 1981.

“Riles Suggests Program To Voluntarily Integrate Schools,” April 21, 1981.

“State Report Assails Independent Study Programs,” April 12, 1981.

“Educators Junk Key Bilingual Placement Rules,” April 10, 1981.

“Assembly Panel Endorses Teacher Proficiency Tests,” April 8, 1981.

“24% Fail Rate for Seniors?” April 7, 1981.

“Drug, Liquor Abuse Worsening Among San Juan Students,” March 29, 1981.

“Officials Foresee Hungry Students If Budget Is Cut,” March 16, 1981.

“Dilemma At San Juan: What Schools To Close?” February 22, 1981.

“Science Curriculum: Waiting In Search of a Mission in School,” January 15, 1981.

“Her Math Plan Adds Up,” profile of exceptional high school mathematics teacher who helps minority and female students succeed in math, December 21, 1980.

“Student Suspensions Up for Second Month in Sacramento Schools,” December 8, 1980.

“State Board to Consider Fate of School Activity Fees,” November 13, 1980.

“School Headaches: Suspensions Provoke Problems,” November 11, 1980.

“Suspensions: Schools Report Figures Up Despite Decline in Enrollment,” November 10, 1980.

“12th Grade Reading Skills Still on Decline,” November 7, 1980.

“Study: Too Much TV Viewing Lowers Students’ Test Scores,” November 7, 1980.

“Tiny School District Struggles to Return Pupils to its Rolls,” October 29, 1980

“San Juan Teachers’ Vote Averts Strike,” October 16, 1980

Foster Care:

“Ex-Residents Tell of Bizarre ‘Therapy’, Abuse,” September 23, 1980.

“Family Feud: A Fight Involving a Foster Home,” August 4, 1980.

“Family Torn by Bitter Fight over Infant,” August 3, 1980.

“Group Home: State Takes Action to Revoke License,” March 19, 1980.

“Why Did He Die? Teen-Ager’s Lonely Journey to 10 Institutions,” and “Hanging: Lawyer Raises Questions About Probe of Boy’s Death,” two-part article examining the controversial death of a boy in a group home, February 11 and 12, 1980.

“‘Boy Without Hope’ Died When Life Promised More,” January 19, 1980.

“Preliminary State Master Plan: Radical Child-Care Changes Urged,” November 18, 1979.

“Children’s Lobby Challenges Brown to Protect the Helpless Young,” November 16, 1979.

“Ugly Death of California Boy, 6, Prompts Closer Look at Foster Care,” and “Death of a Child: The Insecurity of Foster Homes,” two-part story examining the beating death of a child in an unlicensed foster home, November 14 and 15, 1979.

Juvenile Crime:

“Gang Slayings: Youth Authority Rethinks Outlook,” January 20, 1978.

“CYA Officials Fear Youth’s Killing Was Gang-Related,” January 8, 1978.

“Alan Breed Talking,” profile of California Youth Authority director, October 10, 1976.

“Teen Offenders’ Reasons Varied,” “Racism and Violence Embitter Youths in Jail,” and “Lesser Offenders Get Counseling,” three-part series on juvenile crime, August 29, 30 and 31, 1976. (*Award-winning series: California State Bar Association, Berton J. Ballard*)

Press-Bar Award for Distinguished Reporting on the Criminal Justice System, and Catherine L. O'Brien Award, 1977.)

State Hospitals

“A Girl and Her Family: Story of Success in a State Hospital,” May 28, 1977.

“Death Coverup: How Did Retarded Youth Die? Truth Cloudy Four Years Later,” May 22, 1977.

‘Human Zoos’: M.D. Condemns State Hospitals,” March 26, 1977.

“Drug Limits Ordered in State Hospitals,” February 27, 1977.

“Why They Died: Hospitals Probe Shows Carelessness But Few Crimes,” February 13, 1977.

“State Hospital Probe: 1,000 Deaths, Few Prosecutions Likely,” January 20, 1977.

“Brown Boosts State Hospital Staffs by 1,000,” December 5, 1976.

“New Disclosures of Patient Deaths Intensify State Hospital Tragedy,” December 4, 1976.

“‘Monster’ Falls . . . In Mental Hospital Sweep,” December 2, 1976.

“Mental Hospital Deaths—36 Are ‘Highly Suspicious’,” November 19, 1976.

“State Patients’ Deaths: Hospital Debate—Who, Why, How?” November 14, 1976.

“State Mental Hospitals Leave Painful Visions of Horror,” November 14, 1976.

“United Parents Lighting Up Darkness to Aid Retarded,” March 14, 1976.

(Award-winning articles: National and California Mental Health Association awards for “outstanding coverage” of conditions in state mental hospitals, 1977.)

Stockton State Hospital

“A Look Inside: Health Official Makes Surprise Visit to State Hospital,” March 29, 1975.

“Probe Reveals More ‘Mismanagement’ in Stockton Hospital,” January 20, 1975.

“San Joaquin Coroner Reopens Probe of State Hospital Death,” January 14, 1975.

“State Probes Possible Embezzlement at Stockton Mental Hospital,” January 11, 1975.

“Report Shows State Hospital Patient Died after Drug, Data Were Mislaid,” January 10, 1975.

“Health Care Probe in Stockton Prompts Prescription for Change,” December 18, 1974.

“Stockton Hospital Employee Transfer Called Warning against Criticizing Administrators,” November 29, 1974.

“Study of Patient Funds Looms at Stockton Hospital,” November 9, 1974.

“Stockton State Hospital Probe Imperils Medical Chief’s Job,” November 1, 1974.

“Stockton Hospital Probe Demanded,” October 30, 1974.

“Official Vows State Will Not Allow Coverup at Hospital,” October 23, 1974.

“Stockton State Hospital Child Abuse Charges Probed,” October 22, 1974.

“Understaffing Blamed: Was Boy Beaten at Hospital?” October 19, 1974.

(Award-winning articles: Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, 1975.)

The Firing of Dr. Josette Mondanaro

(An examination of the firing of the head of the state Health Department’s Division of Alcohol and Drug abuse by Gov. Jerry Brown. Mondanaro appealed the firing, saying she was fired because she was a lesbian, and was ordered reinstated after a state Personnel Board hearing which received national coverage.)

“Mondanaro: Ex-Drug Abuse Chief Still with State,” July 23, 1978.

“Mondanaro Raps Brown, Agency,” and “Chief Davis Emerges as Mondanaro Backer,” January 28, 1978.

“Lackner Says His Boss Played Role in Firing,” January 27, 1978.

“Procunier Tells Infighting over Firing of Mondanaro,” January 25, 1978.

“Lackner Contends Firing of Doctor Was Illegal,” January 24, 1978.

“Watergate Legacy? Mondanaro Accuses Governor of Coverup,” December 10, 1977.

“Story Behind Angry Letter Is Complex One,” December 8, 1977.

“Mondanaro Counsel’s Claim: Does the Brown Regime ‘Devour its Best Children?’”
December 6, 1977.

“Fired Doctor: Was She A Millstone?” December 4, 1977

Nursing

“Nurse-Midwives Caught in Web of Medical Politics,” and “Midwifery Dispute in Judicial Limbo,” two-part article, March 25 and 26, 1979.

“Harassed Nurses. . . War of Sexes Rages in Hospitals, They Insist,” “Women Fight Stereotypes: Doctor-Nurse Game Breaking Up,” “Often When a Nurse Speaks Up, She Risks Doctors’ Wrath, Firing,” “Training, Economics Shape Doctors’ View of Nurses,” “Nursing on the Road to Professional Growth,” five-part series on the nurse-doctor relationship in American medicine, July 22-26, 1979. (*Acclaimed series, received commendations from professional nurses’ organizations, women’s groups and others.*)

Prisons and Jails

“Vacaville Prison Air Still Tense Two Months Later,” October 5, 1980.

“Susanville Strife: Prison Scenery Belies Ugliness,” May 15, 1978 .

“Susanville: Crisis Blamed on Racism, Poor Dentention Facilities,” April 17, 1977.

“State Calls Gunfire Against Inmates at Susanville Excessive, Unjustified,” April 12, 1977.

“Death-Row Watch: Even the Waiting Takes its Toll among Condemned,” October 24, 1976.

“Worried Warden: New Folsom Head Faces Change in Problems,” October 17, 1976.

“Double-Celling Considered: Prison Population Rising,” September 12, 1976.

“Parole Chief Wants Out,” June 11, 1976.

“Procurier’s Beachcomber Soul Under Tough Facade,” profile of longtime state prison and parole chief Ray Procurier, April 25, 1976.

“Grand Jury Issues 9-Page Analysis of Probe into County Jail Deaths of 2,” September 24, 1973.

“Jail Deaths: Officials in Agreement: Pair Did Not Belong There,” September 20, 1973.

“Prisons in Crisis: Women in Prison,” three parts of a 20-part series on California Prisons, April 26, 27 and 28, 1971. (*Award-winning series: California Newspaper Publishers Association Award for Best Series, 1972*)

Sacramento Area Economic Opportunity Council

(A series of investigative articles on alleged mismanagement of Sacramento area antipoverty agency. Resulted in federal grand jury investigation and embezzlement convictions of SAEOC executive director and controller)

“SAEOC—What Went Wrong? ‘Agency Should Know Community, Listen to Staff,’” December 26, 1975.

“SAEOC Aide Fired after Probe Bid Urges Recall of Agency Directors,” December 26, 1975.

“Sacramento EOC Executive Board Votes to Suspend Indicted Director,” December 18, 1975.

“Grand Jury Indicts SAEOC Director, Former Controller,” December 17, 1975.

“The ASP Account—Elusive Snake in SAEOC Grass,” October 12, 1975.

“SAEOC Controller Downey is Out,” August 19, 1975.

“SAEOC Finances in Peril,” August 7, 1975.

“US Grand Jury Checks SAEOC for Criminal Acts,” July 31, 1975.

“SAEOC Officials Testify before US Grand Jury,” July 30, 1975.

“Auditor Raps SAEOC ‘Bad’ Management,” July 29, 1975.

“US Officials Move toward Bids for Audit of Troubled SAEOC,” July 26, 1975.

“SAEOC Staff Take Lie Detector Tests,” July 14, 1975.

“Antipoverty Program Audit Requested,” and “Sacramento EOC Director Accused of Assault,” July 14, 1975.

“Board of SAEOC Unit Rips Executive Director,” June 18, 1975.

“SAEOC Finances: Ex-Board Member Felt ‘Something Wrong’,” June 14, 1975.

“Robinson Denies any Part in Theft at SAEOC Office,” June 13, 1975.

“Director under Scrutiny: Sheriff, FBI Probe SAEOC Theft,” June 12, 1975.

Selected Articles, San Francisco Recorder, American Lawyer Newspapers Group (1987-89):

“Lloyd Connelly—A Legislative Anomaly,” a profile of Assemblyman Lloyd Connelly, January 25, 1989.

“State Special Prosecutor Proposal Under Scrutiny,” December 13, 1988.

“Try, Try Again on Judges’ Pension Shortfall,” December 5, 1988.

Sting Defenders Decry FBI, but Won’t Divulge Strategy,” November 18, 1988.

“Legislature Resists Initiative System Reform,” November 14, 1988.

“Insurance Initiative Campaigns Will Continue to Target Lawyers,” October 6, 1988.

“Legislative Intent Businesses Find an Open Market: Legal Demand High for Policy behind Statutes,” September 21, 1988.

“Once-Anonymous Baugher Now on FPPC Hot Seat,” profile of state Fair Political Practices Commission Director Gregory Baugher, August 30, 1988.

“Beating Up on Judiciary: Assembly Committee Criticized for Stands on Family Law Issues,” August 11, 1988.

“Small Claims Increase Ekes past Lobbyists,” July 29, 1988.

“Insurers, CTLA Pour Big Bucks into TV Ad Battle,” July 13, 1988.

“Serendipitous Route Leads Warriner to Toxics Wrangle,” profile of Thomas Warriner, chief legal counsel, state Health and Welfare Agency, July 7, 1988.

“Crumbling Opinions: Precious Records Disintegrating in Inadequate Sacramento Archives,” June 20, 1988.

“Workers’ Comp Under Siege,” an in-depth examination of California’s troubled workers’ compensation system, June 14, 1988.

“Confusion Surrounds Trial Court Funding,” May 17, 1988.

“Bar Discipline Hindered by Resignations, Low Morale,” April 27, 1988.

“Lawmakers Eye Sanctions on Frivolous Suits,” March 10, 1988.

“Insurance Initiative War Likely: Special-Interest Groups Gear Up for Multimillion-Dollar Campaigns,” March 7, 1988.

“Bond Business Fueled Battle over Lungren: ‘Red Book’ Firms Move in Mysterious Ways,” February 25, 1988.

“The Judges’ Man: Lobbyist Represents State Jurists while Handling Chores for Car Dealers, Bottlers,” profile of legislative advocate Loren Smith, February 1, 1988.

“Price of Power: California Legislature, once Dominated by Attorneys, now Scaring Them Away,” December 3, 1987.

“Crackdown on Lobbying Urged: Activities by former State Legislators and Staff Would Be Curtailed,” January 13, 1988.

“School Crime Reports: Legislature Wants to Punish Principals,” January 5, 1988

“AIDS Task Force Files First Suit Against ‘Cures’,” December 31, 1987.

“Legislative Counsel: Power is the Payoff in Chaotic Capital,” profiles of lawyers for key legislative committees, December 24, 1987.

“New ‘Big Daddy’: Towering Clay Jackson Has King-Sized Clout in the Legislature,” and “Lure of Lobbying Hooked Jackson Early in Career,” two-part profile of powerful lawyer-lobbyist Clayton Jackson, October 29 and 20, 1987.

“Insurers and Trial Bar Clash in Bruising Battle over Liability Reforms,” in-depth examination of controversy over insurance and tort reform, July 20, 1987.

“Cal-OSHA: Plan to Dismantle Agency Creates Stir,” in-depth examination of governor’s plan to eliminate worker safety panel, May 20, 1987.

Other Writing

“The Girls on the Bus: Women Reporters in the Capitol Press Corps,” Master’s Thesis for M.A. in English and Journalism, California State University, Sacramento, 1991.

“Hunger in the Heartland,” Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project in California’s Central Valley, a report on hunger among children in the Central Valley, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, March 1991. *(I worked as a media consultant for the project, edited the report, wrote the executive summary and organized press materials for two press conferences to announce release of report.)*

As press secretary to the state Superintendent of Public Instruction (1981-83) and the state Attorney General (1983-87), and as media director for the state Fair Political Practices Commission (1999-2005), I have written and/or edited numerous press releases.

reports, speeches, position papers, newsletter articles and other documents -- examples of which I will be happy to supply, but are far too numerous to list here.

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