

# IRE Board Vote by Email | June 20, 2023

## Special Citation for Efforts Surrounding Coverage of the 2022 Mass Shooting in Uvalde, Texas

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On June 20, 2023, following a recommendation from the IRE Awards Committee to recognize efforts surrounding coverage of the May 2022 mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, the committee's chair, Barbara Rodriguez, moved to approve a special citation crafted by the following IRE board members: Rodriguez, Aaron Kessler, Treasurer Brian Rosenthal and President Mark Walker. That same day, Kate Howard seconded the motion and voted "yes."

Also on June 20, the motion received unanimous approval of directors (8-0) who voted via email: Jodie Fleischer, Mark Greenblatt, Howard, Aaron Kessler, Rodriguez, Rosenthal, Lam Thuy Vo and Walker. The following directors abstained from the vote: Darla Cameron, Cindy Galli, Josh Hinkle, Neena Satija, Simone Weichselbaum.

Greenblatt noted for the record that his "employer, Scripps, was part of the media coalition that pushed for open access to these records but I did not personally play a substantial part in that push." Fleischer also noted for the record her "company (Cox Media Group) joined the Media Coalition in the fight for transparency, however we don't have any TV stations in Texas and I was not involved in any news coverage related to Uvalde."

The approved special citation is below:

*For collaborative efforts to relentlessly seek public records after one of the deadliest school shootings in American history, a coalition of media organizations receives an IRE Special Citation Award.*

*Following the tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022, government officials refused to provide the public with critical information, including about the law enforcement response.*

*In the face of obfuscation, a group of journalists, lawyers and families launched an extraordinary effort to obtain information. To date, they have filed hundreds of requests for information and filed lawsuits to force the state to release records. Collectively, this work — which led to the release of surveillance footage and body camera recordings, among other records — has greatly influenced the public's perception of the Uvalde shooting, challenged preconceptions and revealed crucial truths.*

*Their significant collaboration stands as a testament to the potential when newsrooms covering stories of key public significance eschew competition and work together, including with victims seeking the truth. IRE is proud to offer them a special citation.*