

Theo Francis

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Award-winning business and investigative journalist specializing in uncovering and explaining complex corporate, regulatory, legal and policy issues, often harnessing public data. I've freelanced and written for newspapers, blogs & a newsmagazine. I've covered finance, retirement, healthcare, politics, labor & more.

EXPERIENCE

- November 2013 – present* **The Wall Street Journal**, senior writer; Washington, D.C.
Covering large companies across industries, often using public data. Launched & wrote successful *2020 Election + Business* newsletter. Built lightweight, internal, online tools.
- January 2013 – December 2013* **University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism**, adjunct lecturer
Taught sections of introductory reporting and TA'd a communications survey course.
- September 2012 – October 2013* **Disclosure Matters LLC**, principal
Launched & ran independent research, training & freelance writing business.
- March 2010 – October 2013* *footnoted* (part of **Morningstar Inc.** until September 2012), senior reporter
Covered public-company filings, including for *footnotedPro* subscription service for investors. Helped lead business-plan overhaul. Built online tools with PHP & MySQL.
- December 2009 – March 2010* **Bloomberg News**, regulatory reporter; Washington, D.C.
Covered housing & derivatives regulation after Bloomberg acquired *BusinessWeek*.
- August 2008 – December 2009* **BusinessWeek**, correspondent, Washington, D.C.
Covered business & financial regulation from D.C., including 2008 election, financial crisis & recession; wrote analytic online daily stories & more in-depth magazine pieces. Helped launch widely read blog. Appeared in video & cable news segments.
- September 2000 – August 2008* **The Wall Street Journal**, staff writer; New York
Covered health care, pensions, employee benefits, executive pay, insurance, hospitals, mutual funds & stock-market investing. Wrote investigative, explanatory & personal-finance articles, spot news, industry trends & more; occasionally shot photos, video; helped develop online & print graphics.
- October 1998 – September 2000* **Arkansas Democrat-Gazette**, business writer; Little Rock, Arkansas
Wrote investigative stories on tight deadlines, on healthcare, development & more.
- June 1997 – October 1998* **Daily Record**, municipal reporter; Morris County, New Jersey
- January 1996 – August 1996* **Publication Services Inc.**, technical production support assistant, Champaign, Illinois
- January 1995 – January 1996* **Petersburg Pilot**, reporter-photographer; Petersburg, Alaska

EDUCATION

- May 1997* **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism**
Master of Science in Journalism, with honors
- May 1994* **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Communications**
Bachelor of Science in Journalism, news-editorial

SELECTED AWARDS

Pulitzer Prize in explanatory reporting (2003) for coverage of corporate scandals (team)

George Polk Awards: financial reporting (2003)[†] for series on 'janitor's insurance'; **economics reporting (2005)**[†] for series on retiree health benefits

New York Press Club award (2004) for **business reporting** for "Hidden Roots of the Pension Crisis."[†]

William Brewster Styles Award (National Journalism Awards), Scripps-Howard Foundation, for **Business/Economics Reporting (2005)**[†] for retiree-health articles

Loeb Awards, UCLA Anderson School of Business: deadline writing (2004) for "The Day Grasso Quit as NYSE Chief" (team); **beat writing (2005)**[†], for "The Short Life of 'Lifetime' Health-Care Benefits"; also, **finalist for beat-reporting (2004) & deadline (2005)** awards

Jack Newfield Award for Excellence in Investigative Reporting, Friends & Relatives of the Institutionalized Aged (2009), for article on nursing-home evictions

Clarion Award for Newspaper Investigative Series (2009), Association for Women in Communications, for articles on executive pensions and Social Security[†]

[†] With Ellen E. Schultz