



WCOG presents a Key Award to Melissa Santos and Crosscut

Seattle, Washington, April 21, 2021 – The Washington Coalition for Open Government on Wednesday presented a Key Award to journalist Melissa Santos and online media outlet Crosscut for reporting and publishing a package of stories about police officers statewide with credibility problems in court.

Santos filed more than 100 public records requests with public officials in all 39 counties in Washington state. Her reporting found 183 officers statewide who appear on so-called “Brady lists,” which identify them as having potential credibility issues. Officers land on Brady lists, named after a 1963 court case, for dishonesty and other reasons.

The coalition recognizes individuals and organizations with Key Awards whenever they do something notable and extraordinary for the cause of open government in Washington state. Coalition President Mike Fancher presented the Key Award to Santos and Crosscut during a remote staff meeting Wednesday.

“Her investigation took nine months of reporting. That’s one of the reasons why it’s exceptional,” Fancher said of Santos. “It’s a major commitment – and it’s a major commitment by Crosscut.”

“We’re thrilled,” said Donna Gordon Blankinship, Crosscut’s news and politics editor. “Melissa’s work deserves all the credit.”

Crosscut published the three-story package on April 8. The centerpiece story, with links to the other parts, is available online at <https://crosscut.com>.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government is nonpartisan and nonprofit. WCOG is an independent advocate for public records, open meetings and informed citizens. For more information, contact Executive Director Juli Bunting at info@washingtoncog.org or board Secretary George Erb at geoerb@seanet.com. We are on Twitter at @WashingtonCOG.

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