

NEWS RELEASE



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TOGETHER AGAIN: JACOBSON AND KURTIS HEADLINE 21ST ANNUAL KOGAN AWARDS

CHICAGO, ILL. (April 20, 2010)-- Former WBBM Channel 2 (CBS) news co-anchors Walter Jacobson and Bill Kurtis will re-team to keynote the Chicago Bar Association's annual Herman Kogan Media Awards luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 4 at Petterino's Restaurant. "We are thrilled to host these legendary Chicago broadcasters," said Kogan Committee Co-Chair Angela Harkless. "We know our members and the honorees will be very interested to hear their remarks."

About the Kogan Awards

The Herman Kogan Media Awards Competition was established in 1989 to honor local journalists and legal affairs reporting. The competition celebrates the life of Herman Kogan, whose career spanned more than 50 years and included experience as a reporter, feature and editorial writer, editor, author, historian, biographer, literary critic, radio host and television executive. During its 20-year history, the award luncheon has attracted such speakers as Studs Terkel, Roger Ebert, Carol Marin, and other Chicago notables.

All journalists in the Chicago metropolitan area are invited to submit entries for the competition in three categories, Print, Broadcast and Online. The judging panel is comprised of lawyers,

judges, editors and lay persons knowledgeable about legal affairs and journalism.

The event is open to the public. To reserve your place, call 312-554-2013. Tickets are \$60.

Bill Kurtis

Acclaimed journalist and documentarian Bill Kurtis founded his company, Kurtis Productions, in 1990. Since then, he has created a singular presence on cable television as one of American's most prolific documentarians, traveling to the far ends of the earth for the Peabody Award-winning series, *The New Explorers*, for PBS and hosting and producing two of A&E's longest-running series, *Cold Case Files* and *Investigative Reports* among many other shows.

As a reporter, he covered the Richard Speck murders and the Charles Manson trial. He is credited with breaking the Agent Orange story (which won a national Emmy Award) and the story of Amerasian children in Vietnam. He was at the fall of Saigon, the sectarian war in Northern Ireland, the breakup of Rhodesia, and the poaching of rhinos in Zimbabwe.

In 2004, Kurtis added a new twist to his resume, providing satirical narration for the feature film comedy *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*, starring Will Ferrell. These days, he can also be seen on television fighting with Floyd Mayweather or traveling across the country in a sidecar in commercials for AT&T.

His numerous humanitarian, journalism, and broadcasting awards including Emmys, CableACE Awards, and the Thurgood Marshall Award for his *Investigative Reports* installment on the death penalty. He is a published author and a member of the board of directors of several distinguished organizations including The Nature Conservancy, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and The Field Museum of Natural History.

Walter Jacobson

Chicago newsman Walter Jacobson is known to millions of Chicago-area viewers from his roles as an investigative reporter and news anchor for both WBBM (CBS) and WFLD (Fox). After an early stint for the *Chicago American* newspaper, he began as a newswriter at WBBM in 1963. Subsequent promotions resulted in terms as a reporter and then political editor before moving to WMAQ Channel 5 (NBC) for two years. Upon his return to WBBM in 1973, he teamed with Bill Kurtis to co-anchor the 10 p.m. news, a partnership that lasted for the next 16 years.

During that period, the team enjoyed unprecedented ratings dominance before Kurtis left in 1982 to go to CBS News in New York, for three years. His partner left for WFLD in 1993 to co-anchor the 9 p.m. newscast with Robin Robinson </wiki/Robin_Robinson>.

Throughout his long career, Jacobson broadcast an editorial segment, “Walter Jacobson in Perspective.” This social commentary became famous in the city for its fearless pursuit of the powerful and its championing of the “little guy.” “Perspective” was honored for 10 straight years, 1974-1983, with regional Emmy Awards for Commentary.

The *Washington Journalism Review* named him “Best Local Anchor” in the United States in 1985. Other awards included five Peter Lisagor Awards (three were for Commentary), and the Peabody Award for “Walter Jacobson’s Journal--China and Studebaker: Less Than They Promised.”

Among the journalistic coups of his long career was his 1992 exclusive interview with serial killer John Wayne Gacy, whose execution Jacobson witnessed and covered.

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