The Marshall Project aims to produce journalism with impact. Here are some of the biggest and clearest examples of our impact in 2017 so far:

_1 JUVENILES_ For decades, Philadelphia billed parents for their kids’ incarceration. Even if a child was later proven innocent, they still had to pay a nightly rate for detention—sometimes as much as $1,000 a month from some of the city’s poorest families. In March, The Marshall Project’s Eli Hager wrote a front-page story in the Washington Post highlighting the practice across the country, with the Philadelphia example leading the piece. Hours later, Philadelphia announced it was abandoning the policy, effective immediately.

_2 TRANSPORT_ Last year, The Marshall Project uncovered systematic abuse in the world of private prison transport services, and co-published with the New York Times. We also provided a “reporter’s guide” for local media who wanted to follow up on the issue in their state. Christopher Williams of the Sun Journal in Lewiston, Maine, took this story and ran with it — and now at least three district attorneys in Maine have stopped using the private prisoner transport vans that have proved so rife with abuse.

Meanwhile, in April Florida Congressman Ted Deutch cited the story in calling for a DOJ investigation. It’s badly needed. On March 23, staff writers Eli Hager and Alysia Santo documented another person who died in a for-profit extradition vehicle. We’ll continue to monitor this industry closely.

_3 QADAN_ In March, we wrote about the strange case of Abdraahman Qadan, a young man suffering from paranoid delusions triggered by unprescribed Adderall who made terrorist threats and was facing a very lengthy jail sentence. The story now has a (relatively) happy conclusion. The DA recently made a far less punitive plea offer, and Qadan’s family believe that it was because he was moved by our article.

_4 RIKERS_ When New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced a plan to close the infamous jail at Rikers Island, the news marked a big victory for advocates, but also for the journalists who exposed the jail’s troubling conditions. The Marshall Project played its part, from our remarkable oral history published on the cover of New York magazine; to our founder Neil Barsky’s New York Times commentary; to the devastating short film we made about Venida Browder, whose son committed suicide after enduring three years of solitary confinement at Rikers.

**Awards**

After becoming the youngest media organization to win a Pulitzer Prize in 2016, The Marshall Project has continued to be recognized in the first half of 2017.

・ In February, we won a prestigious **National Magazine Award** for general excellence in the Literature, Science and Politics category. We were the first online publication ever to be honored in that category.

・ Christie Thompson of The Marshall Project and Joseph Shapiro of National Public Radio received **George Polk Award** for their joint investigation of “double solitary confinement.”

・ We were thrilled win our first **Peabody** for Anatomy of Doubt, the same story for which we won the Pulitzer with ProPublica.

The Peabodys recognize broadcast journalism, so it was awarded to us together with The American Life, whose audio version of our story has been heard by millions of people.

**OUR FAVORITE READER COMMENT SO FAR THIS YEAR:**

“I am really grateful for your work. It makes me feel not like a news consumer, or a partisan of one party or another, but like a citizen among others who care about criminal justice.”
A bigger audience helps The Marshall Project have more impact, and our audience is growing.

_1 BEYOND THE “BLUE BUBBLE.”_ In March, we partnered with America’s highest-circulation newspaper, USA Today, to investigate the “vet-to-cop” pipeline and the complex issues that arise when these warriors return home to patrol American streets. While veterans offer skills and discipline that are prized within law enforcement, some also bring PTSD, addiction and other afflictions that can pose a threat to the public. A version of our story also ran in the Sunday pages of more than twenty local newspapers in the nationwide Gannett network, reaching upwards of 1.6 million. More than 100,000 people read the story through the USA Today website and app. Between the two posts on Facebook, there were more than 16,300 reactions.

_2 FIRST COLLABORATION WITH CALIFORNIA’S #1 NEWSPAPER._ In our first partnership with the LA Times, we exposed Southern California’s wealth-based system of criminal justice--known as “pay-to-stay”--which allows some defendants to buy a safer and more comfortable jail experience. While a typical “pay-to-stay” participant is generally convicted of a low-level driving violation, we also found more than 160 people convicted of assault, battery, domestic violence, robbery, or sex crimes. Our story caught the imagination of other news outlets including All Things Considered, KNBC, CBS, and CNN. It was also read by more than 150,000 people on our website and the LA Times’ — and even more in print.

_3 MOST WIDELY READ FEATURE OF 2017._ Staff writer Maurice Chammah explored what it’s like to grow up in the shadow of a false conviction in this wrenching account that has attracted more readers to our site than any other this year, so far. He profiled the family of Ray Spencer, a former police officer who served nearly two decades in prison for molesting his children. Except he was innocent--as both his son and daughter eventually came to realize. Nearly 70,000 read the story on our site, and another 170,000 on the website of Esquire, our publishing partner. It was also featured in newsletters from Longform, Next-Draft, and the Columbia Journalism Review, which called it simply “great journalism.”

_4 KEEPING WATCH._ Since 2015, we have organized and led a consortium of eight local media organizations in states where the death penalty is still carried out. “The Next to Die: Watching Death Row” is one of the best-read sections of our site with more than 500,000 views--and nearly 1.8 million on sites across the internet through our embeddable widget. It provides high-quality content about upcoming executions to all eight news outlets simultaneously. In April, we saw increased readership when capital punishment became mainstream news because Arkansas scheduled 8 executions in 11 days, ultimately carrying out four of them.

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**Social Media**

We’ve sustained consistent growth across several platforms.

*Our Facebook audience has increased by 22% since November 2016 to more than 53,000 likes.*

*Our Twitter account also saw a 23% bump in followers, averaging over two million impressions each month for the first five months of 2017.*

*Our social media-driven traffic to themarshallproject.org has risen more than 30% on Facebook and Twitter (respectively), showing that our Marshall Project social media posts are resonating with our followers.*

*We recently launched our Instagram profile and have been introducing our other social media channel followers to our page. So far, we’ve seen great support for our Instagram content, which curates the eclectic multimedia components of our work.*

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FOLLOW US on Facebook, Twitter (@MarshallProj) and Instagram (@marshallproj)!