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CROSSCUT MANAGING EDITOR TAKES FIRST PLACE IN NATIONAL JOURNALISM COMPETITION

Drew Atkins' story "Hacking the Feds" exposes a nation-wide, multimillion dollar scam operation

SEATTLE—The Society for Features Journalism has awarded first place for Best General Feature article to Drew Atkins, Managing Editor of Seattle-based nonprofit news site Crosscut. The first-place award (tied in the under 90K circulation division category with a story from *The National Review*) is for [Hacking the Feds](#) – an exposé of a little-known, multimillion dollar scam operation, and how one of its perpetrators tried to make amends by committing federal crimes.

"If you Google a locksmith in Seattle, most of the results aren't even real businesses," Atkins said. "That goes for a lot of other industries as well. With the Internet taking a bigger and bigger place in our daily lives, it's interesting how the lines between real and fake can blur. This feature explores that issue through the eyes of a former scammer."

"I hope this award will bring new attention to an issue with some serious real-world implications," Atkins said. "Looking at the work of my fellow winners, it's really humbling to be in such great company."

The judges commented, "*Drew Atkins wrote about a 21st century criminal/hero who walked the fine line that separates passion from compulsion. Engaging.*"

More than 700 entries were judged in the contest, which promotes the craft of writing and innovation in news organizations and wire services in the United States and Canada. Winners will be recognized at SFJ's national conference in August in Austin, Texas.

Earlier versions of the Crosscut article originally appeared in Seattle Business magazine and Seattle Magazine.

"Huge props to Drew," said Crosscut Editor-In-Chief Greg Hanscom. "By landing this award, he has put himself in rare company: His fellow honorees include three Pulitzer Prize winners. Crosscut is lucky to have him on the team. We're looking forward to seeing what he cooks up next."



Drew Atkins, Managing Editor, Crosscut

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About Crosscut

Crosscut is the Pacific Northwest's independent, reader-supported, nonprofit news site. We strive to provide readers with the facts and analysis they need to intelligently participate in civic discourse, and to create a more just, equitable and sustainable society. In December, 2015, Crosscut merged with KCTS 9 under the umbrella of Cascade Public Media. To learn more, visit Crosscut.com.

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