



## Carmage Walls Commentary Prize

### 2019 Entry Form

**Name of Author(s):** Eric Fleischauer

**Author's Title (editor, columnist, etc.):** Metro Editor

**Newspaper:** The Decatur Daily

**Address:** 201 First Ave. S.E.

**City:** Decatur

**State:** AL

**ZIP:** 35603

**Phone:** 256-340-2431

**Fax:**

**E-Mail:**

news@decaturdaily.com

**Submitted by:** Bruce McLellan

**Title of Person Submitting:** Executive Editor

**Phone Number:** 256-340-2431

**E-mail Address:** brucem@decaturdaily.com

**What is the subject/title of the entry?** Actions by Ana Franklin as Morgan County sheriff didn't serve the public

**Date(s) of publication?** Aug. 22, 2018; Feb. 6, 2019.

**Is your newspaper under 50,000 circulation or above 50,000 circulation?** Under

**Please give a brief explanation of issues discussed and the results achieved. (This space will expand as you type in your comments.)**

These editorials dealt with actions by Ana Franklin, who was Morgan County sheriff until January when her term ended. She used money intended to feed prisoners for other expenses, and her department obtained a search warrant to get information on a blog critical of her. A Circuit Court judge later criticized the manner in which the warrant was obtained. As a result of the newspaper's editorials and coverage, the sheriff did not seek re-election and Morgan County voters approved a local amendment in November that took away future Morgan sheriffs' authority to handle inmate food money. Additionally, Alabama's governor, partially in response to Franklin's actions, took steps to limit the practice of sheriffs statewide keeping leftover inmate food money for personal use.



