

Bill Morlin has been a journalist since 1967 when he was hired by The Associated Press while still in college. From 1972 to 2009, he was a reporter for Spokane's daily newspapers, specializing in investigative reporting, criminal justice issues and extremism.

For three decades as a newspaper reporter, Morlin covered the Aryan Nations and various off-shoot extremist groups engaging in violent criminal activities and domestic terrorism. That work took him from the Aryan Nations compound in North Idaho to various courtrooms and extremist enclaves throughout the United States.

He has interviewed dozens of racists, covered demonstrations, cross-burnings, rallies and federal and state trials of white supremacists accused of assorted violent crimes.

He has written hundreds of articles about white supremacists, The Order in the 1980s, Ruby Ridge in 1992, the birth of the militia movement, the Montana Freeman in 1996, so-called sovereign citizens, Phineas Priest bombers and assorted anti-tax and anti-government groups. He has testified as an expert witness on these groups in state and federal court trials.

More recently, he wrote about the 2016 Malheur standoff in Oregon, the deadly white supremacy rally in Charlottesville and the Bundy trial in Las Vegas in 2017, and Patriot Prayer-Proud Boys rallies in Seattle and Portland the following year.

His writings have been used by federal and local law enforcement officers receiving training about white supremacist and extremist groups.

After retiring from The Spokesman-Review in 2009, he taught journalism for two years at Gonzaga University, then began an eight-year stint, continuing to write about hate crimes and domestic terrorism as a correspondent for Hatewatch and Intelligence Report, both publications of the Southern Poverty Law Center. His work as an SPLC correspondent ended in 2018.

He is a nationally recognized expert on domestic extremism and is frequently called upon by academics, human rights groups and documentary film and podcast producers.

He and the Spokane newspaper have received numerous awards for extremism coverage. The prestigious Anti-Defamation League's "Newhouse Human Relations Communications Award" acknowledged the newspaper's comprehensive coverage of extremist groups and cited Morlin for being "a consistent and astute observer of right-wing extremist groups for many years." The Spokesman-Review was a first-place finalist for the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for the newspaper's spot news coverage of the 1992 standoff at Ruby Ridge.

Now semi-retired, he does occasional work as a correspondent for The New York Times. Daily, he continues to closely follow issues associated with domestic terrorism and hate crimes, and is frequently consulted on these topics.

And, he loves dogs and cats.