

Ron Fournier

Nationally-Acclaimed Political Columnist and Author of New York Times Best-Seller Applebee's America
Ron Fournier is the award-winning and nationally-acclaimed political columnist for National Journal and The Atlantic. Prior to joining Atlantic Media, he was the Washington bureau chief and a 20-year veteran of the Associated Press. There, POLITICO described him as "a consistent news-breaker while maintaining the classic low-profile style of a wire reporter." As a columnist today, The Week calls him "the most well-read political writer in America" and said, "This veteran writer has become Washington's most trenchant, most compulsively readable political critic. Liberal or conservative, libertarian or other, you'd be wise to start reading him."

A familiar voice around the Beltway and widely respected by his peers, he is known for his hard-hitting reporting on Congress, the White House, and both major Parties. Justin B. Smith, the then-president of Atlantic Media Company, called Fournier, "one of the savviest political journalists of his generation," and Atlantic Media's owner David Bradley said, "Ron's name has been whispered to me as in that handful of the finest political reporters and editors who have worked in Washington – maybe ever." Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speakers bureau, Fournier fuses humorous anecdotes (including stories about the Clintons) with serious insights from his time as one of Washington's most trusted political writers. He brings unique perspectives to the current political environment, how to lead during this period of immense change, and how to prepare for a future ruled by restless populism and what Fournier calls the rising "Generation Disruption."

New York Times Best-Selling Author. Fournier is the co-author of the New York Times best-selling Applebee's America: What Political, Business, and Religious Leaders Can Learn from Each Other, which examined the shared attributes of successful chief executives. His acclaimed parenting memoir, Love That Boy: What Two Presidents, Eight Road Trip, and My Son Taught Me About a Parent's Expectations, debuted at number 10 on Amazon.com and spent multiple weeks on the New York Times best seller list.

Journalism Career. Fournier began his career in Arkansas at the Sentinel Record in 1985. He transferred to the Arkansas Democrat in 1987 and began covering then-Gov. Bill Clinton. In 1989, Fournier was hired by the Associated Press, which transferred him to Washington, DC, to cover the Clinton White House. Covering the Bush presidency on 9/11, Fournier was the last civilian evacuated from the White House, filing award-winning dispatches while a Secret Service agent urged him to leave. In 2006, he left the AP briefly to run a social networking startup but returned a year later in the roles of columnist and Washington bureau chief, where he was credited with sharpening the AP's writing and analysis to hold public officials more accountable. In 2010, Fournier moved to National Journal as editor-in-chief; he stepped down in 2012, wanting to return to column writing.

Awards. Fournier has won numerous awards, including the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award and the prestigious White House Correspondents' Association Merriman Smith Memorial Award (a record four times). Also succeeding at the heights of academia, Fournier served in 2005 as a Harvard fellow at the Kennedy School's Institute of Politics, where he currently serves on the Senior Advisory Board.

Ron Fournier is an award-winning and nationally-acclaimed political contributor to *National Journal* and *The Atlantic*. He formerly served as editor and publisher of Crain's Detroit Business and as senior political columnist and editorial director of *National Journal*. Prior to joining Atlantic Media, he was the Washington bureau chief and a 20-year veteran of the *Associated Press*. There, *POLITICO* described him as "a consistent news-breaker while maintaining the classic low-profile style of a wire reporter." Similarly, *The Week* called him "the most well-read political writer in America," saying: "This veteran writer has become Washington's most trenchant, most compulsively readable political critic. Liberal or conservative ... you'd be wise to start reading him." He is currently the President of the public relations and lobbying firm Truscott Rossman.

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