



RENEE FERGUSON

Award-winning investigative reporter Renee Ferguson brings more than 30 years of reporting experience to the NBC5 News team. During her career, she has covered major stories locally, nationally and internationally with insight and expertise.

For her work, Renee has received some of the nation's most prestigious journalism awards including: the DuPont Award, given by Columbia University in New York; the Goldsmith Award, given by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard; the Gracie Award, given by American Women in Radio and TV in New York; and, most recently, the Associated Press Award for Best Investigative Reporting. She has received seven Chicago Emmys and reporting awards from The National Association of Black Journalists and its Chicago chapter.

Among her many community service awards, Renee has been given recognition by the National Organization for Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, the Chicago Black Women Lawyers Association, and numerous other religious and civic organizations.

Renee's work with the Unit-5 Investigative Team often leads to major change in the lives and working conditions of people. Renee's undercover investigation into allegations of sexual harassment at Ford Motor Company led to a class action lawsuit, a multimillion-dollar settlement and changes in corporate policy to better protect women. Her investigation into allegations that minority women were unfairly targeted as drug couriers and strip searched at O'Hare Airport led to congressional hearings and major changes in search policies nationwide. Renee's undercover look at working conditions inside the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's treatment plants led to the appointment of an outside investigator. After Renee began investigating the deaths of children involved in a clinical drug trial, the trial was suspended and a government probe was launched.

Renee began her career in broadcasting at WLWI-TV in Indianapolis. There she covered migrant labor issues, traveling between Mexico and rural Indiana farms. Her investigation of a loophole in state law governing the criminally insane led to public hearings and legal reform. Renee received her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Indiana University in Bloomington. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Ken Smikle, and their son, Jason.