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Martin Kaplan is associate dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, where he is also the director of The Norman Lear Center, a research and public policy center exploring implications of the convergence of entertainment, commerce and society.

Since 1998 he has conducted research on the quality and quantity of political coverage provided by local broadcast news throughout the U.S. His most recent findings, along with a searchable online video database, can be found at www.localnewsarchive.org.

He received his A.B. *summa cum laude* in molecular biology from Harvard College, where he was also president of The Harvard Lampoon. As a Marshall Scholar, he received an M.A. in English, First Class Honours, from Cambridge University. As a Danforth and Woodrow Wilson Fellow, he received a Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Cambridge University.

He was a program officer at the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, and he served as executive assistant to the U.S. Commissioner of Education, Ernest L. Boyer. In the Carter Administration he was also chief speechwriter to Vice President Walter F. Mondale, and he was Mr. Mondale's deputy campaign manager during the 1984 presidential campaign. He was also deputy op-ed editor and columnist at *The Washington Star*. At the Walt Disney Company for 12 years, he was vice president of motion picture production, as well as a screenwriter and feature film producer for the studio. His movie credits include *The Distinguished Gentleman* (writer and executive producer), starring Eddie Murphy, and *Noises Off* (film adaptation of the stage play).