



MEDIA

MAVENS

There's never been a TV-news environment quite like the current one, especially for females in the biz. Meet six women at the top of today's crazy media game — who all happen to call Westchester home.

By Kate Stone Lombardi

Photographs by Stefan Radtke

Hair and Makeup by Ashley Lauren Beauty Lounge



ERICA HILL

Anchor/Correspondent, CNN

At 4:45 a.m., Erica Hill is in the CNN studio. A 5:15 a.m. show meeting follows, then makeup at 6 a.m. After conferring with producers, Hill goes on-air as anchor. Energized and focused, she deftly juggles reporters and commentary from guests during her broadcast.

This is a fairly typical schedule, but as lead fill-in anchor and national correspondent, every day can bring something new for Hill. She might be in Kenya, reporting from a refugee camp. Or covering a terrorist attack in Paris. Or waking in her Westchester home, working out on her bike and heading into her Manhattan studio, predawn. Hill has interviewed many high-profile subjects, but says she's "drawn to people you haven't heard of but who inspire us all in their daily lives."

She moved to Westchester from New York City in 2012, dragging her feet, along with her 85-pound dog. Now Hill, her husband, and two school-age boys live in lower Westchester and are converts. "We love our community and we love the friends we've made," Hill says.

She takes pride in her work at CNN, a network that has frequently drawn the ire of President Trump, who has labeled it "fake news" and "garbage journalism." Hill's response: "The hostility inspires me to continue to do my job the way I've always done it, focused on fact and accuracy and getting it right."

Still, the attacks on the press concern her. "American people need to know what is happening. We can't lose sight of how important it is to hold people accountable," she says. The loss of decorum — on all sides — is sad, Hill says, and she tries to set a better example "so I can look my kids in the eye."

—Kate Stone Lombardi

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Erica Hill at one of her favorite local restaurants, Lusardi's in Larchmont

KATE SNOW

Correspondent/Anchor, NBC News

Sitting at her desk at NBC, Kate Snow looks camera-ready, as polished as the four gold Emmys displayed behind her. The story she's telling, about reporting on burning cow dung early in her career, only adds to her charm.

Snow, senior national correspondent and anchor for NBC News, entered journalism the traditional way — paying dues on a radio station near her college, in production jobs, and, after sending out 100 résumé reels, working as a one-person bureau in Carlsbad, NM. (Cue the burning cow dung story.)

By now, the 20-year journalism vet has interviewed presidents and rock stars, covered five elections, Congress, and the White House. Recently, Snow landed the first interview with Bill Cosby accuser Andrea Constand, who broke her silence about the alleged sexual abuse after almost 15 years.

Donning Mylar fireproof suits and bulletproof vests as part of her reporting, Snow has covered breaking news from war zones to the massacre of school children in Newtown. She's also known for groundbreaking features on topics ranging from transgender children to the opioid epidemic. Mental illness is a particular interest for Snow, who discussed her father-in-law's suicide on-air. "I do everything I can to shine light on things that aren't getting enough attention and to tell stories that I think people should know about," she says.

She's lived in Southern Westchester for 14 years with her husband and two kids. Two years ago, a conversation at a dinner party led to a surprising gig: Snow is the lead singer in a local band, with three working dads and another mom from her neighborhood. "In this job, I deal with a lot of very heavy stuff," she says. Singing with the band "is such a stress reliever." —KSL

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Kate Snow in her backyard



LIS WIEHL

Former Legal Analyst, Fox News

Lis Wiehl is no pushover. The journalist, attorney, and bestselling author received a landmark, headline-generating \$32 million settlement arising from sexual harassment allegations against longtime Fox News colleague Bill O'Reilly in 2017.


Wiehl won't comment on the settlement, but the Larchmont resident, with ice-blue eyes that reveal her Scandinavian heritage, is friendly and voluble on other subjects. She admits getting weepy while watching Lifetime movies and is wistful about her empty nest and her days as a passionate baseball and soccer mom. But as a professional, she's resolute.

"It's a dark day for journalism," Wiehl says. Though her 15-year tenure at Fox did not overlap with the Trump presidency, she emphasizes that "freedom of the press is an absolute" and "a check on government." Consequently, she advises consuming as broad a media diet as possible.

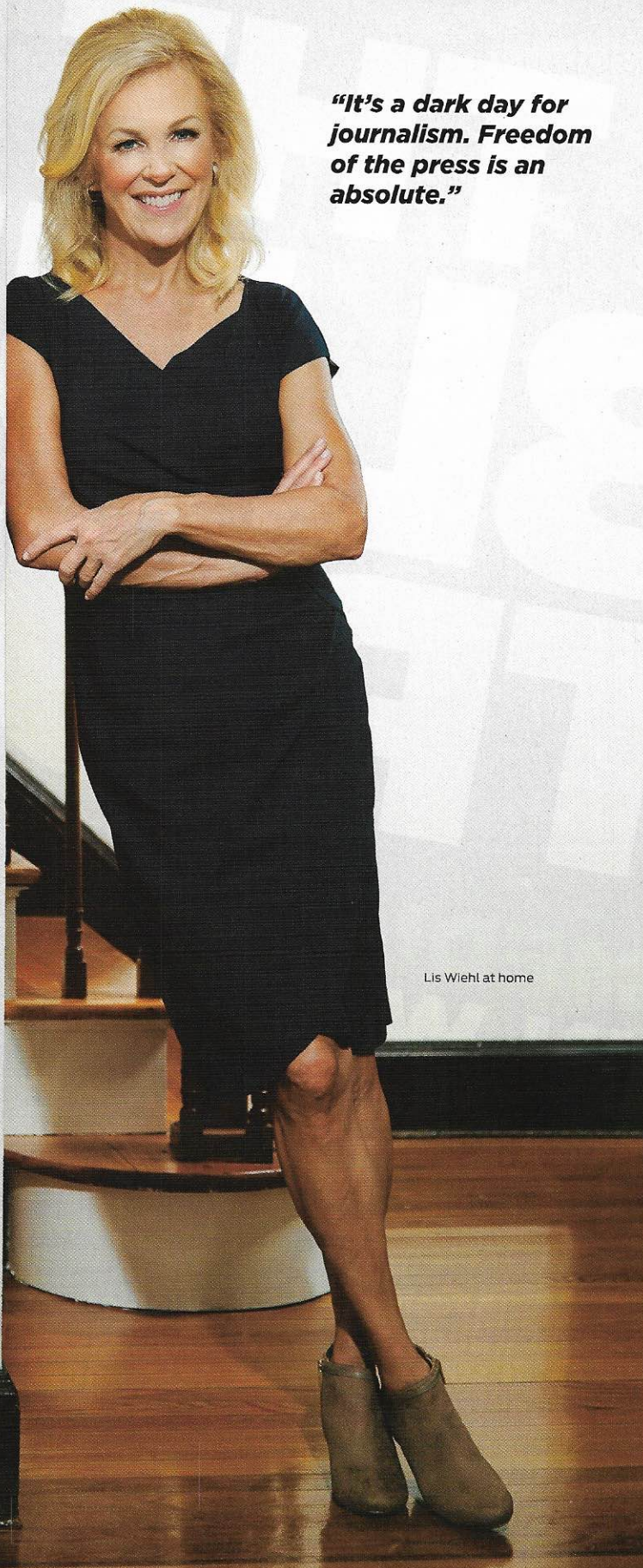
Early in her career, Wiehl worked as a prosecutor in the US Attorney's office. She also served as counsel for the Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee during Bill Clinton's impeachment trial. Along the way, Wiehl provided legal commentary for NPR and MSNBC, in addition to O'Reilly's radio show.

As an author, Wiehl's books range from nonfiction career advice to legal thrillers. After publishing her 18th book, *Hunting Charles Manson* this year, Wiehl says she wishes more attention were paid to her appearances on the *New York Times* best-seller list than on her departure from Fox.

But Wiehl is not finished with journalism. Currently an anchor and analyst for Law & Crime, a live-streaming network, Wiehl says she enjoys the start-up atmosphere, as well as the freedom to innovate. Recently she launched her *Pursuit of Justice with Lis Wiehl* podcast with the network.

Publishing, anchoring, podcasting — with a hefty settlement, why doesn't Wiehl just relax at this point? "It's fun and interesting," she says of her job. "I love the reporting." —KSL 

"It's a dark day for journalism. Freedom of the press is an absolute."



Lis Wiehl at home