

## **BERGSTEIN NOMINATION FOR STORY ON OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING PAULICK REPORT PROBES SLOW EMBRACE, 10 YEARS AFTER INTRODUCTION WRITER NATALIE VOSS GARNERS THIRD NOMINATION FOR \$25,000 AWARD**

Team Valor International has issued a Stan Bergstein Writing Award nomination for Natalie Voss's story on out-of-competition drug testing that was published on September 7 on the *Paulick Report* website.

Voss examines why out-of-competition testing is not more prevalent in North America, ten years after the first program went into place. She notes that one state (California) accounts for nearly half the tests performed on Thoroughbreds.

"Out-of-competition testing was once heralded as the future of horse racing regulation — and critical to making and keeping the sport cleaner," Voss writes. "Ten years in, it isn't catching on with much urgency."



The full story is [here](#). The morning after it appeared, Jockey Club President Jim Gagliano sent out a [statement](#) in which he described out-of-competition testing as "an integral part of racing integrity programs throughout the world and in human sport."

"As a sport and as a business, we need to take every measure we can to ensure the integrity of competition, and we encourage regulatory authorities to adopt the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium's out-of-competition protocols and associated prohibited substance list as quickly as possible," Gagliano said.

This is Voss's third nomination in 2016 for the \$25,000 Stan Bergstein Writing Award. Her previous nominations were for a story on the vagaries of veterinarian's lists from state to state in American racing and another on shadowy websites that sell dubious horse supplements.

Team Valor nominates stories throughout the year and assigns a panel of judges to select an award winner. This year's judges are racetrack announcer Trevor Denman, Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron and veteran turf writers Neil Milbert, Maryjean Wall and Michael Veitch.

Barry Irwin and Team Valor will present the fifth annual Stan Bergstein Writing Award on November 14 in Lexington.