

## The **FISCHER ROSS GROUP**, Inc.

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### LECTURE MANAGEMENT

### **Jim Axelrod**

Jim Axelrod is a Senior National Correspondent for CBS News, reporting for the "CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley" and "CBS Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley" among other CBS News broadcasts. Previously he served as CBS News' Chief White House Correspondent and anchored the "CBS Saturday Evening News."

In his 21 years at CBS News, Axelrod has covered a broad range of domestic and international stories. In 2003, Axelrod was the first television journalist to report live from Baghdad's Saddam International Airport, immediately after it fell to U.S. troops. His live coverage of the U.S. Army firing artillery rounds into Iraqi positions was the first to be broadcast by a reporter embedded with ground troops engaged in combat in Iraq. Among the first reporters into Iraq, Axelrod was also the last to leave, traveling in the last Humvee of the final convoy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav – the last combat troops to leave Iraq in December, 2011.

Axelrod has also reported from Afghanistan directly after 9/11, Nor  
Vatican, and many other places around the world. The winner of  
Columbia Silver Batons, and a Polk Award, Axelrod has been on the scene of many of the biggest stories of the last two decades including Newtown, The White House, Columbine, the Boston Marathon Bombings, and Ground Zero.

In fact, Axelrod has been credited with being the first journalist to use the term "Ground Zero" in relation to 9/11, something he didn't know until he visited the Memorial a dozen years later. (Viz., <http://911memorialmuseum.tumblr.com/post/101346567934/cbs-jim-axelrods-visits-to-museum-bring> )

Axelrod has degrees from Cornell University and Brown University. He is the author of "In The Long Run: A Father, A Son and Unintentional Lessons in Happiness" published in 2011 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and called "a candid story that will resonate for many midlife readers" in a Kirkus starred-review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/jim-axelrod/long-run-father-son-happiness>. He and his wife, Christina, live in Montclair, N.J. with their three children

Jim brings his nearly three decades of reporting experience to the lecture circuit. He also has extensive experience moderating panels, conducting interviews and emceeing events.

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His **speech topics** include:

**MY HERO:** After 28 years of extensive interviews – including subjects like Paul McCartney, George Bush, Jack Nicklaus, and Sophia Loren – it turns out it's a five-year old who's the most memorable of them all. Jim Axelrod went to cover the story of a dying child. What he encountered instead was a compellingly vital spirit who changed his life. His recounting of what happened could change yours.

**LEADERSHIP:** From the White House to the battlefield to the corner office – Jim Axelrod has spent nearly three decades reporting on the values and vision of effective leaders. Yet, one stands out more than any other – and it's not a CEO, or a Hollywood director, or even the President of the United States. In this highly-personal speech that covers his own near-death experience covering the Iraq War, Jim shares the values, vision, and defining traits of the most effective leader he's ever known.

**MINDING THE GAP:** It's a precarious balance to build the kind of career you want – and the kind of life you want. Too often our days feel like an endless, blurry cycle of frenzied attempts to check off more items from your to-do list than you add. After nearly three decades in the news business – filing from Iraq, Afghanistan, the White House – Jim Axelrod learned the key to a fuller, richer life wasn't chasing the dream as much as redefining it.

**READING IN AND TUNING OUT:** These days, the news feels like its going to consume us. It's no longer a question of turning off the TV – our phones and social media see to that. Now a reporter whose beat covers everything from Donald Trump to Don McLean, American Pie to the American Dream, the NBA to the NRA, and Rare Diseases to Opioid-Addiction, shares his keys to maintaining balance, equilibrium, and sanity – while still staying informed.

## **TESTIMONIALS:**

"Having Jim as a guest speaker, moderator, or emcee not only increases guest participation, but also puts and audience at ease. His ability to read the room, promote thought-provoking conversation and extract information about both professional and personal topics is unmatched."

Joe Pospisil, VP of Client Development, Centro

"Jim Axelrod gave an engaging and lively presentation that was fed by a wonderful authenticity. His intelligence and thoughtfulness are obvious. We loved his willingness to be vulnerable and his ability to convey the deeply-held values that are intrinsic to the way he lives his life in the world – both with family and community. He inspired us."

The Rev Diana Doyle Clark, Associate Rector, Calvary Episcopal Church. Summit, New Jersey

"Leadership was the focus and Jim sure delivered. My clients were enthralled with Jim's stories and thoughts about how leaders distinguish themselves. We laughed, we cried a bit, and to a person, we all loved talking with Jim. He brings a professionalism, and personal touch that made having Jim headline our program even more special. Jim made each and every client feel special during our time with him."

Ric Kay, Managing Director, Bank of Tokyo

"We were most fortunate to have such an insightful speaker for our September event. The topic could not have been more timely and it was fascinating to hear Mr. Axelrod's views on the media's impact on today's political climate." –

Jane Alexander, VP/National Council of Jewish Women/Bergen County, NJ Section

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