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## BGR Media Release

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### **BGR to Present *A Conversation with Michael Lewis* at its 2019 Annual Luncheon**

Today the Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) announces that its 2019 Annual Luncheon will feature bestselling author Michael Lewis. The luncheon will take place Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at the New Orleans Marriott hotel, 555 Canal Street. Gordon Russell, Managing Editor of Investigations for *The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate*, will guide a conversation with Lewis through a series of interview questions on topics including his work, local insights and influences, and recent observations about current events. Tickets for *A Conversation with Michael Lewis* are now available for purchase through BGR, [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org) or (504) 525-4152 ext. 108.

Author, columnist, commentator, and editor **Michael Lewis** has published many *New York Times* bestselling books, including *The Fifth Risk*, *The Big Short*, *The Blind Side*, *Liar's Poker*, *The Undoing Project* and *Moneyball*. Both of his books about sports became movies, nominated for Academy Awards, as did his book about the 2008 financial crisis, *The Big Short*. His articles have appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker* and more. He has served as editor and columnist for the British weekly, *The Spectator*, and senior editor and campaign correspondent for *The New Republic*. He has filmed and narrated short pieces for ABC-TV's *Nightline*; created and presented a four-part documentary on the social consequences of the Internet for the *British Broadcasting Corporation*; and recorded stories for the American public radio show, *This American Life*. Mr. Lewis grew up in New Orleans and remains interested in the city. He holds a bachelor's degree in art history from Princeton University and a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics.



“BGR is excited to have Michael Lewis continue our tradition of presenting some of the country’s most respected thought leaders to headline our Annual Luncheon,” said BGR President and CEO Amy L. Glovinsky. “We look forward giving Mr. Lewis a hometown stage from which he can share his remarkable insights and experiences, and we are most fortunate that Gordon Russell is going to spark this conversation.”

**Gordon Russell** is managing editor of investigations at *The Times-Picayune/New Orleans Advocate*. He has covered many stories involving politics and policy in southeastern Louisiana: the fall of former U.S. Rep. Bill Jefferson’s machine; the investigation and trial of former Mayor Ray Nagin; self-dealing in Louisiana’s prison system; and the commenting scandal within the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Last year, he was part of a team at *The Advocate* that produced “Tilting the Scales,” which examined Louisiana’s allowance for non-unanimous jury verdicts. The series received a Polk Award and a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting. Before joining *The Advocate* in 2013, Mr. Russell worked at *The Times-Picayune* for 14 years. He was part of a group of reporters who stayed in the city after Hurricane Katrina to report on the storm’s aftermath, a team effort that helped the newspaper win two Pulitzer Prizes in 2006. Mr. Russell has a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Columbia University and a master’s degree in journalism from New York University.



BGR’s presentation of Michael Lewis is part of the Janet Howard Speaker Series in Governmental Research. BGR’s Annual Luncheon has a history of featuring high-profile speakers, such as Maureen Dowd, Kathleen Parker, Steve Roberts and Jonathan Capehart. This year’s Annual Luncheon event sponsors are Canal Barge Company, Inc. and Hancock Whitney Bank.

**To purchase a table or tickets, visit [www.bgr.org/luncheon](http://www.bgr.org/luncheon) or contact Marci Schramm at 504-525-4152, ext. 108, or email [mschramm@bgr.org](mailto:mschramm@bgr.org). Event seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-purchased basis.** Proceeds from the event will support BGR’s core activities, which include local government monitoring, policy analysis, publication of reports and post-publication implementation work.

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*BGR is a private, nonprofit, independent research organization. Since its founding in 1932, it has been dedicated to informed public policymaking and the effective use of public resources in the Greater New Orleans area. For more information, call 525-4152 or visit [www.bgr.org](http://www.bgr.org).*

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