16 WAPT Names Mike Machi News Director

JACKSON, Miss. — 16 WAPT, Hearst Television's ABC affiliate serving Central Mississippi, today announced **Mike Machi** has been named **News Director**, effective **June 1**.

Machi brings extensive newsroom leadership experience across major and mid-sized markets, with a focus on developing talent and strengthening editorial operations. Most recently, he served as weekend executive producer at WPLG in Miami, where he helped lead a significant expansion of weekend news coverage.

Prior to that, he was assistant news director at WINK-TV in Fort Myers, helping shape editorial strategy and newsroom performance.

Machi's career includes leadership roles at WPTV in West Palm Beach, WKMG in Orlando, WGCL in Atlanta, and KDKA and Hearst-owned WTAE in Pittsburgh, where he contributed to newsroom growth, audience gains and operational improvements.

"Mike understands that delivering for our community starts with investing in our people," said **Peter Keith, President and General Manager of 16 WAPT**. "He has a strong track record of developing journalists through coaching and mentorship and building teams that produce meaningful, impactful coverage. We're excited to welcome him to Jackson."

"I'm excited to join 16 WAPT and work alongside a talented team committed to serving the community," Machi said. "I look forward to building on the station's strong foundation and continuing to grow the newsroom."

Machi earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Penn State University.