HEARST TELEVISION NAMES MICHAEL SOLAKIAN CHIEF OF ITS WASHINGTON, DC, NEWS BUREAU

NEW YORK, N.Y., December 19, 2024 – Michael Solakian, longtime Hearst Television newsroom leader who since 2021 has served as assistant news director at WTAE-TV, the company's market-leading Pittsburgh TV station, has been appointed bureau chief of the company's Washington, DC, news bureau.

In his new role, effective February 1, Solakian succeeds Wendy Wilk, who, after 20 years as bureau chief, was recently appointed by The Hearst Foundations to serve as program director of the long-running United States Senate Youth Program. He will report to David Hurlburt, Hearst Television director of special projects and group initiatives, based in Washington, DC.

"Hearst Television's continued support for and investment in a presence in our nation's capital underscores the importance of localism in every facet of our relationship with our communities; it helps distinguish us in our more than two dozen media markets around the country," said Barbara Maushard, Hearst Television senior vice president & chief content officer, news. "Mike's leadership and station experience will prove invaluable to guiding the bureau's core mission: examining and explaining the impact of actions in Washington to the communities we serve."

The Hearst Television Washington, DC, bureau, established in 1988, provides timely, breaking and enterprise news stories from the nation's capital to the Hearst stations and their viewers around the country. Bureau reporters have conducted ground-breaking investigative reports and news-making interviews with national figures including U.S. presidents, as well as regular interviews with key members of the U.S. Congress representing communities served by Hearst stations.

Prior to moving to WTAE, Solakian held news positions at two other market-leading Hearst stations -- WBAL-TV, Baltimore, where he was a producer and executive producer and, before that, WLKY-TV, Louisville, where he was a producer. He began his television career at KOMU-TV in Columbia, Missouri, while earning his journalism degree from the University of Missouri. Among other professional development programs, he participated in the Kneeland Project for Responsible Journalism.