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### **SOLEDAD O'BRIEN**

*TV Journalist and CNN Co-Anchor*

Soledad O'Brien anchors *American Morning* with Bill Hemmer. Based in New York, O'Brien began anchoring CNN's flagship morning program in July 2003 when she joined the network. Since that time, O'Brien has attracted new viewers to the show as well as securing exclusive interviews.

In December 2004, O'Brien was among a handful of CNN anchors sent to Phuket, Thailand, to cover the disaster and aftermath of the tsunami that took more than 155,000 lives in that region. In the fall of 2003, O'Brien was the only broadcast journalist permitted to travel with first lady Laura Bush on her trip to Moscow.

O'Brien came to CNN from NBC News where she had anchored the network's *Weekend Today* since July 1999. During that time, she contributed reports for the weekday *Today Show* and weekend editions of *NBC Nightly News* and covered such notable stories as John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane crash and the school shootings in Colorado and Oregon. In 2003, she covered the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and later anchored NBC's weekend coverage of the war in Iraq. Additionally, in 1998, she traveled to Cuba to cover Pope John Paul II's historic visit.

Before *Weekend Today*, O'Brien anchored MSNBC's award-winning technology program *The Site* and the cable network's weekend morning show. O'Brien joined *NBC News* in 1991 and was based in New York as a field producer for the *Nightly News* and *Today*.

Before her time at NBC, she served three years as a local reporter and bureau chief for the NBC affiliate KRON in San Francisco. She began her career as an associate producer and news writer at the then-NBC affiliate, WBZ-TV in Boston.

O'Brien's work has been honored several times, including a local Emmy for her work as a co-host on Discovery Channel's *The Know Zone*. She has been named to *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful" in 2001 and *People en Espanol's* 50 most beautiful in 2004. O'Brien was also included in *Crain's Business Reports' "40 under 40"* and *Essence* magazine's "40 under 40," both in 2004. O'Brien has been named to *Irish American Magazine's* "Top 100 Irish Americans" on two occasions.

She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. She also writes a bi-monthly column for USA Weekend magazine on parenting. O'Brien is a graduate of Harvard University.