

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Arthur O. Sulzberger, Jr. retires as NYT publisher

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A stack of copies of the International New York Times. Image credit: The New York Times

By STAFF REPORTS

New York Times' Arthur O. Sulzberger, Jr. has announced that he will retire from the news organization at year's end after serving as publisher for 25 years.

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Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. will retire on Dec. 31, but will continue as chairman of The New York Times' board of directors, a position he has held since 1997. During the course of his time as publisher, Mr. Sulzberger has been instrumental in transforming The New York Times into an international media company and structuring the news organization's successful digital pay model.

All in the family

Joining The New York Times in 1978 as a Washington correspondent, Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. moved to New York as a metro reporter in 1981. That same year he was appointed assistant metro editor.

From 1983 on, Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. worked in various business departments of the news outlet, before he was named assistant publisher in 1987. A year later, he was appointed deputy editor.

As publisher for a quarter-century, Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. transformed The New York Times into the digital-first news organization that it is today. The newspaper boasts a global audience of more than 130 million readers and 3.5 million paid subscriptions.

Early on as publisher, Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. pushed The New York Times to take its coverage national and in 1996, launched nytimes.com.

During his tenure, The New York Times has won 60 Pulitzer Prizes, doubling its total count.

"It has been an extraordinary honor to serve as publisher of The New York Times and I will step down at the end of the year prouder than I have ever been of the strength, independence and integrity of this institution," said Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. in a statement.

"My colleagues the women and men who have devoted themselves to producing and distributing the world's best

journalism have made my job so fulfilling and I am forever in their debt," he said.



The New York Times took a digital-first approach to news coverage under Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. Image credit: The New York Times

Mr. Sulzberger, Jr.'s successor will be his 37-year-old son, A.G. Sulzberger, who currently is the publication's deputy publisher. The younger Mr. Sulzberger will take over the role of publisher on Jan. 1, 2018.

"A.G. embodies the values and mission of The Times," Mr. Sulzberger, Jr. said in his statement. "He has proven himself to be a powerful force for change, deeply dedicated to moving the company forward as the pace of transformation in our business continues to speed up.

"I am completely confident that he - and his cousins who are working alongside him - will dedicate themselves to preserving the excellence at The Times that my family has been committed to for over 120 years," he said.

Speaking of his father, Mr. Sulzberger said, "Arthur is the only publisher of his generation who took over a great news organization and left it better than he found it. The fortunate position The Times enjoys today was not a foregone conclusion; it is a direct result of the bold bets Arthur made, from taking the paper national and then international, to embracing the Internet, to insisting that great journalism is worth paying for.

"Original, independent, deeply-reported journalism is the fuel that powers a healthy and engaged society," he said. "My focus as publisher will be on ensuring the continued journalistic excellence and commercial success of The Times through a period of transformation for the news industry."

Mr. Sulzberger's appointment to publisher was approved by The New York Times' board of directors Dec. 14. Mr. Sulzberger has also been elected to the board, to fill the vacant seat left by Michael Golden, who will step down Dec. 31.