David Guttenfelder grew up in rural Iowa, but has spent his entire career as a photojournalist living and working outside of his native United States. He began as a freelance photographer in Rwanda in 1994 after studying Swahili at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. As an Associated Press photographer for the past 16 years, he has been based in Kenya, Ivory Coast, India, and Japan. He currently is living in Tokyo as AP's Chief Asia Photographer. Guttenfelder's work has been recognized with the Overseas Press Club of America- John Faber award. He was named 2006 NPPA Photojournalist of the Year and has twice been runner-up for POY Newspaper Photographer of the Year. He is a six-time World Press Photo award winner. He is a six-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his work on past re-unification efforts by North and South Korea, the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, the Israeli/Hezbollah war, Vietnamese children afflicted by the toxic legacy of Agent Orange, the earthquake in China's Sichuan province, and the 2009 U.S. military surge in Afghanistan.

Guttenfelder has exhibited his work at Visa pour L'Image, the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, and at the Encuento International de Foto Periodismo in Gijon, Spain where he won the "Cuidad de Gijon" International Journalism Prize. He has taught and lectured at the Eddie Adams Workshop, the NPPA flying short course, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of photography.

Guttenfelder graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology, African Studies, and Journalism. He is married with two young daughters.