Carol Marin began her journalism career as a reporter at WSM-TV in Nashville in 1978. In 1980 she transferred to NBC-affiliate WMAQ as an anchor and reporter.

In 1996, Marin received the Chicago Headline Club's Ethics in Journalism Award for her opposition to reading what she considered blatant plugs for sponsors while presenting the news. Marin's 1997 resignation, the result of an ongoing dispute with management over news values and the hiring "trash talk" host Jerry Springer as on the evening newscast she co-anchored with Ron Magers, earned her a second Ethics in Journalism Award.

From 1997 to 2002 she worked as a correspondent for CBS News. Her reports were seen on "60 Minutes," "60 Minutes II," "The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" and "48 Hours."

Marin wrote a column for the Chicago Tribune from 2003–04. She returned to NBC5 in 2004 as an investigative reporter and became political editor for the station in 2006. She also writes a political column for the Chicago Sun-Times.

In addition, Marin is co-director for the DePaul Documentary Project and is President and CEO of her production company, Marin Corp Productions.

Marin's work has been recognized with two Peabody Awards, 17 national and regional Emmy Awards, two Alfred I duPont Columbia University award, a Gracie Award from American Women in Radio & Television, a National UPI Reporter of the Year award and seven Peter Lisagor Awards for Exemplary Journalism. Marin was inducted in the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame and the Silver Circle of the Chicago Television Academy.

She is a graduate of The University of Illinois, is married and the mother of two children and resides in Chicago.