

# BRENDAN L. SMITH

MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS AN AWARD-WINNING  
REPORTER, EDITOR, AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Long track record of award-winning reporting across multiple beats for newspapers, magazines, websites, and nonprofit organizations
- Investigative reporter whose articles have triggered needed reforms
- Communications consultant and analyst of complex academic journals who writes press releases that have received widespread media coverage
- Ability to work independently on multiple assignments under tight deadlines
- Skilled editor who works collaboratively with writers to improve their copy
- Familiar with social media trends, including Facebook, Twitter, etc.

## EXPERIENCE

### **FREELANCE JOURNALIST** - *2008-Present*

Operate independent business that provides investigative reporting, features, arts criticism, and editing for publications across the country, including the Washington Post, ABA Journal, Washington Diplomat, Washington City Paper, etc.

Work independently under own initiative to develop story ideas, sources, etc.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT** – *2010-Present*

Analyze research in academic journals for the American Psychological Association and other clients to coordinate communications strategy

Interview researchers and write press releases that translate research for general audience with a proven track record of coverage by multiple media outlets, including NPR, CBS, NBC, Washington Post, etc.

### **JOURNALISM INSTRUCTOR** – United Press International – 2010

Mentored college students from universities around the world through live chat and guest lectures; edited students' articles and included best content on UPI website

### **NEWS EDITOR** – Legal Times - *2006-2008*

Created investigative beat on social justice issues that stretched across local and federal agencies; researched and wrote award-winning articles that led to needed reforms

Edited articles from other reporters to improve their copy

Participated in editorial meetings and coordinated employee development programs

### **STAFF WRITER** – Santa Fe Reporter – *2003-2004*

Covered general assignment beat including crime, courts, government, and the arts for alternative weekly in Santa Fe, NM

### **STAFF REPORTER** – Albuquerque Journal - *1998-2003*

Covered large geographic beat stretching across northern New Mexico, including crime, courts, schools, government, and the environment

Wrote an investigative series on heroin overdose deaths that led to a U.S. Senate subcommittee field hearing and increased funding for drug treatment

**STAFF REPORTER and COLUMNIST** –The News-Journal - 1993-1998  
Covered crime, courts, and government for daily newspaper in Daytona Beach, FL  
Wrote award-winning articles and popular weekly column called *The Hitching Post*

---

**OTHER  
EXPERIENCE**

**ARTIST and ART INSTRUCTOR - 2002-Present**

Mixed-media artist who has shown artwork in juried exhibitions, galleries, and alternative venues in the D.C. area and Santa Fe, NM

Videoconference presenter at the Smithsonian American Art Museum who leads live videoconferences in art appreciation with classrooms and senior groups across the country

Former member of the Sparkplug artist collective organized by the D.C. Arts Center

Part-time art teacher in a D.C. public charter school and with Project Create, a nonprofit organization that provides free art programs for children from low-income areas of D.C.

**NIGHT SHIFT SUPERVISOR** – Community Vision - 2005-2006

Supervised emergency winter shelter for up to 100 homeless people in Silver Spring, MD

Resolved interpersonal conflicts stemming from poverty, drug abuse, and mental illness

**WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER** – U.S. Forest Service

Completed firefighter training and assigned to crew from Carson National Forest, NM

Served on a mission to recover fragments of the Columbia space shuttle after it exploded over Texas and Louisiana in 2003

**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA** – Chapel Hill, N.C. - 1989-1993

B.A. in journalism awarded with honors; Phi Beta Kappa member

Merit scholarship recipient and student member of journalism school's Board of Visitors

**MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY** – Manchester, England - 1990-1991

Studied art history, English literature, and other subjects during study-abroad program

Lived with British students and traveled through Europe by train, bus, and right thumb

**AWARDS**

**Society of Professional Journalists – D.C. Chapter**

Finalist, Commentary and Criticism, three art reviews for *Bmoreart*, 2017

Second Place, Investigative Reporting, D.C. jail inmate suicide series, 2009

First Place, Investigative Reporting, D.C. government corruption, 2008

First Place, General News, deadly negligence in group homes, 2008

First Place, General News, deceptive D.C. police tactics, 2007

Second Place, Investigative Reporting, slumlord series, 2007

**Cushing Niles Dolbeare Award - 2007**

Nationwide award for exemplary reporting on housing issues from the

National Low Income Housing Coalition for investigation of D.C. slumlords

**MEDIA  
APPEARANCES**

“The Politics Hour” on WAMU public radio for *Legal Times* slumlord series

“On the Record” on Fox News for lawsuit by infamous “pants judge”

“Washington Journal” on CSPAN for federal appeal of suspected terrorist