

BRENDAN L. SMITH

MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS AN
AWARD-WINNING REPORTER AND EDITOR

QUALIFICATIONS

- Long track record of award-winning reporting across multiple beats for daily, alternative, and weekly newspapers, magazines and websites
- Investigative reporter whose articles have triggered needed reforms
- Ability to work quickly on multiple assignments under tight deadlines
- Skilled editor who works collaboratively with writers to improve their copy
- Consultant on public relations and communications projects
- 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 assignments for publications across the country, including the Washingtonian, ABA Journal, Washington Diplomat, etc.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT - 2010-Present

Coordinate communications strategy for clients, including the American Psychological Association and Society for Personality and Social Psychology

Review complex academic journals, interview researchers and write press releases that resulted in media coverage by NPR, CBS, NBC, Washington Post, and other publications

NEWS EDITOR – Legal Times - 2006-2008

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

Edited articles from other reporters to improve their copy and provide guidance

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**

MIXED-MEDIA ARTIST - 2002-Present

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

Recipient of two artist fellowships from the D.C. Commission on Arts and the Humanities

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

ART INSTRUCTOR – 2015-2018

Art instructor with Project Create, a nonprofit organization that works in D.C. schools and public housing to help children from low-income families experience the arts

Mixed-media art club instructor at Lee Montessori public charter school

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 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 with 3.75 GPA

Merit scholarship recipient and 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 thumb

AWARDS

Society of Professional Journalists – D.C. Chapter

2019 - First Place, Commentary and Criticism, art reviews

2018 - Finalist, Commentary and Criticism, art reviews

2017 - Finalist, Commentary and Criticism, art reviews

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

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

2008 - First Place, General News, fatal negligence in group homes

2007 - First Place, General News, deceptive police tactics investigation

2007 - Second Place, Investigative Reporting, D.C. slumlord series

Cushing Niles Dolbeare Award

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