

Brendan L. Smith

www.brendanlsmith.com
news@brendanlsmith.com
(202) 797-0727

EXPERIENCE

Award-winning investigative reporter who examines legal and social justice issues and a seasoned editor who helps writers improve their copy. More than 18 years of experience working for newspapers, magazines, websites and nonprofits across the country.

- 2008-Present **Freelance Journalist**, including investigative reporting, narrative features and arts writing for magazines, newspapers and websites
- 2006-2008 **News Editor**, *Legal Times*, Washington, D.C., covered investigative beat branching across local and federal agencies; edited articles and blog posts; participated in editorial meetings and developed staff training programs
- 2005-2006 **Night Shift Supervisor**, Community Vision, Silver Spring, Md., supervised emergency winter homeless shelter for up to 100 homeless men and women
- 2003-2004 **Staff Writer**, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Santa Fe, N.M., wrote investigative cover stories, news articles and features for alternative weekly
- Summer 2003 **Wildland Firefighter**, Carson National Forest, N.M., completed firefighter training with U.S. Forest Service; served on mission to recover fragments of the Columbia space shuttle after it exploded over Texas and Louisiana
- 1999-2003 **Freelance Correspondent**, *Court TV*, identified and tracked newsworthy court cases in New Mexico for nationwide cable channel
- 1998-2003 **Staff Reporter**, *Albuquerque Journal*, Santa Fe bureau, covered large geographic beat stretching across northern New Mexico, including crime, courts, schools and local government
- 1993-1998 **Staff Reporter and Columnist**, *The News-Journal*, Daytona Beach, Fla., covered crime, courts and city government; devised investigative projects and wrote a popular weekly column called “The Hitching Post”
- 1992-1993 **Freelance Correspondent and Copy Editor**, *The Herald-Sun*, Durham, N.C., wrote news articles and features and worked part time as a copy editor

EDUCATION

- 1989-1993 **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, N.C., B.A. in journalism with honors; Phi Beta Kappa member with 3.75 GPA; merit scholarship recipient and a student member of the journalism school’s Board of Visitors
- 1990-1991 **Manchester University**, Manchester, England, studied art history, English literature and other subjects; lived with British students and traveled through Europe by train, bus and thumb

HONORS

- 2009 **Second Place**, Investigative Reporting, Dateline Award for D.C. jail suicide investigation, Society of Professional Journalists, D.C. chapter
- 2008 **First Place**, Investigative Reporting, Dateline Award for series on D.C. government corruption, Society of Professional Journalists, D.C. chapter
- 2008 **First Place**, General News, Dateline Award for investigation of deaths in group homes, Society of Professional Journalists, D.C. chapter
- 2007 **First Place**, General News, Dateline Award for article about deceptive tactics by D.C. police, Society of Professional Journalists, D.C. chapter
- 2007 **Second Place**, Investigative Reporting, Dateline Award for slumlord investigation, Society of Professional Journalists, D.C. chapter
- 2007 **First Place**, Cushing Niles Dolbeare Award for investigation of slumlords avoiding prosecution; nationwide contest recognizing exemplary reporting on housing issues by the National Low Income Housing Coalition
- 2006 **Second Place**, Public Service, Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association
- 2004 **Honorable Mention**, In-depth Reporting, E.H. Shaffer Award, New Mexico Press Association
- 2000 **Third Place**, Spot News for coverage of the Cerro Grande wildfire, New Mexico AP Managing Editors
- 1997 **First Place**, Best Investigative Report, Central Florida Press Club
- 1997 **First Place**, Best News Article, Central Florida Press Club
- 1996 **First Place**, General Excellence in Crime News Writing, Florida Press Club, competition among Florida's largest daily newspapers
- 1990 **Second Place**, Feature Article, North Carolina Press Club

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2007 "The Politics Hour" on WAMU public radio at American University to discuss *Legal Times* investigation of D.C. jail suicides
- 2007 "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren" on Fox News to discuss *Legal Times* article about \$54 million lawsuit by infamous "pants judge"
- 2007 "Washington Journal" on C-SPAN to discuss the federal appeal of alleged al-Qaida sleeper cell agent Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri