

LAURA HANCOCK
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SUMMARY

An accomplished writer, editor and communicator. Recognized for producing powerful stories using precision reporting, fact-finding, investigation and the ability to confront tough situations while interviewing. Strengths include: communicating, ethical decision-making, social media and research and analysis. Technically and interpersonally savvy. Thrives in a deadline-driven environment.

Professional Experience

Casper Star-Tribune

Casper, WY

August 2012-present

State politics reporter: Named by The Washington Post one of the country's best state capitol reporters in 2014. Travel around Wyoming, interviewing to obtain information and writing news stories on state and national politics, energy and general assignment. Covered the 2013, 2014 and 2015 legislative sessions in Cheyenne. Notable stories include the fight for same-sex marriage in Wyoming; ongoing LGBT civil rights struggles and their opposition by religious people; the marijuana legalization debate; the 2014 primary and general elections; the gun debate.

Gillette News Record

Gillette, WY

June 2011-August 2012

Energy and business reporter: Coordinated the Sunday business section, usually writing the main business story, a business column and designing the section using InDesign. Covered the coal industry of a region that produces 40 percent of the nation's coal. Also covered uranium, oil and natural gas and coal-bed methane. Wrote general assignment stories and filled in on police, city and county news when necessary.

Freelance

Bountiful, UT

September 2010-June 2011

Freelance reporter for a handful of weeklies in the Salt Lake valley called the Valley Journals.

Deseret News Salt Lake City, UT

December 1999-August 2010

- Transportation and growth reporter (2010): Designed a beat covering growth in Utah, writing about population, demographics and infrastructure needs in one of the country's fastest growing states. Maintained a transportation blog, the Green Light, writing about roads, airports and public transit.
- Business desk reporter (2007-2010): Covered business and transportation, and followed transportation topics at the Utah Legislature. Stories included the merger between Delta and United airlines and a \$2 billion redevelopment project in downtown Salt Lake City.
- Education reporter, Utah County bureau (2005-2007): Wrote about K-12 and higher education. Translated into plain English Adequate Yearly Progress assessment reports.

- Night police reporter (2000-2005): Travelled a three-county area to cover crime and court proceedings, reported in-depth sociological trends. Part of newspaper's award-winning Elizabeth Smart kidnapping coverage. Last reporter to secure an in-depth interview with convicted murderer Mark Hacking, an interview described in the true-crime paperback, "Every Woman's Nightmare: The True Story of the Fairy-Tale Marriage and Brutal Murder of Lori Hacking."
- City Desk intern (1999-2000): Reported and wrote general assignment stories.

Education, Professional Development and Training

- University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 2006; B.S. Political Science, B.S. Mass Communication; double major with news and editorial concentration
- National Institute of Money in State Politics, Robert R. McCormick Foundation Specialized Reporting Institute: 2014 Elections and Issues, Missoula, MT, August, 2014
- Investigative Reporters and Editors training in Laramie, WY, April 2014 and Salt Lake City, May 2009
- Semester-long multimedia/convergence journalism course, University of Utah, 2009
- Scripps Leadership Institute, Society of Professional Journalists, Indianapolis, May 2009

Memberships

- Investigative Reporters and Editors, 2009-present
- Society of Professional Journalists, 2000-2012
- Utah Headliners (local SPJ chapter), at-large board member, 2008-2010