

Olivia Exstrum

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EDUCATION

**MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**
Bachelor of Science in Journalism
Minor in Political Science
Graduated June 16, 2017
GPA: 3.5

SKILLS

Adobe Photoshop, InDesign,
Premiere, WordPress, social media,
AP Style, LexisNexis, PACER,
copyediting, fact-checking, creative
writing, bookkeeping, banking

AWARDS

THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN
“Aftermath of NU-Q student’s mental
health crisis highlights differences
between Evanston, Qatar sites”
Honorable Mention, Associated Collegiate
Press Feature Story of the Year
Honorable Mention, College Media
Association Pinnacle Award for Best
Investigative Story
“Taking Time: For students dealing with
mental health issues, medical leave
process presents obstacles”
Fifth place, Associated Collegiate Press
Multimedia Feature Story of the Year
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
“At Graterford, lifers get degrees even
if they’ll never use them”
Winner, Medill Student Showcase
THE MEDILL JUSTICE PROJECT
“A Mother’s Care: Oregon stay-at-home
mom faces trial in rare medical child
abuse case”
Peter Lisagor Awards: Best Feature Series
Best Non-Deadline Reporting Online
Associated Collegiate Press:
Fourth place, News Story of the Year

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Sales Clerk, Ouray Bookshop
Server, Wood Ear Noodle Bar
Hostess, Buen Tiempo Cantina
Housekeeper, Hotel Ouray
Clerk, Northwestern Mail Services
Front Desk, Ouray Hot Springs Pool

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CODEWORD, New York City May 2022 – present
Boutique content and PR agency focused on tech brands
EDITOR Write social copy for top tech brands. Pitch creative ideas for
current and potential clients. Contribute to company magazine.
CITIZENS STATE BANK, Telluride, Colo. Jan. 2020 – Oct. 2021
Locally owned community bank on Colorado’s Western Slope
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE/MARKETING MANAGER
Managed social media and marketing strategy. Edited all bank
materials. Helped originate 300-plus Paycheck Protection Program
loans and created a 14-month email campaign about the program.
MOTHER JONES, San Francisco Dec. 2017 – May 2019
National news magazine focused on politics and investigations
WRITING FELLOW, DEC. 2018 – MAY 2019 Pitched and wrote stories for
the site. Copyedited all online content from December to March.
EDITORIAL FELLOW, DEC. 2017 – NOV. 2018 Fact-checked the magazine,
including three cover stories. Copyedited some online content.
INJUSTICE WATCH, Chicago Sept. 2016 – June 2017
Investigative nonprofit organization focused on criminal justice
INTERN Analyzed data on court records and other public documents.
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Philadelphia June 2016 – Aug. 2016
Third-oldest surviving daily newspaper in U.S.
CITY INTERN Reported on the biggest city in Pennsylvania, including
several front-page stories. Wrote three features on criminal justice.
THE STAR, Johannesburg April 2016 – June 2016
One of the biggest newspapers in South Africa, based in its largest city
REPORTER Covered protests, courts, crime, and general news.
Produced nearly 50 stories and features. Wrote six front-page leads.
THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN, Evanston, Ill. Oct. 2013 – Feb. 2017
Only daily newspaper for Northwestern University and Evanston
WEB AND MULTIMEDIA EDITOR, SEPT. 2016 – DEC. 2016
IN FOCUS EDITOR, SEPT. 2015 – MARCH 2016
MANAGING EDITOR, MARCH 2015 – JUNE 2015
THE MEDILL JUSTICE PROJECT, Evanston, Ill. Sept. 2015 – Dec. 2015
Investigative journalism center that examines potentially wrongful convictions
JOURNALIST Investigated possibly wrongful criminal charges with a
team of students. Contributed to an award-winning investigative story
that resulted in the elimination of a potential 30-plus-year sentence.
FREELANCE WORK
TODAY, EXPLAINED, Remote Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020
Daily explainer podcast on today’s top stories
FACT-CHECKER Fact-checked daily news and politics podcast with
same-day turnaround.
MISCELLANEOUS FACT-CHECKING WORK March 2019 – Sept. 2022
Eater, Earthjustice, Bay Nature, Pacific Standard