

Mark Guarino

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Digital-forward journalist who excels at national news, cultural trend features, and enterprising stories that take a deeper cut into the headlines of the day. A data-driven writer trained to deliver spot news in real time and utilize social media for sourcing and reader engagement. Specialties are enterprising story ideas neglected by the competition and intersecting political and cultural trends to create analytic think pieces that speak to the current moment. Frequent pundit appearing on a range of media outlets including BBC, NPR, Sirius/XM POTUS, Al Jazeera TV, FOX Radio, Russia Today, WGN, WLS, and more.

JOURNALISM

Freelance Writer: The Washington Post

April 2014 — Present

- Write about Chicago and the Midwest as the Washington Post correspondent, a freelance position. Coverage includes full-length features, spot reporting, culture trend stories and profiles, and breaking news. Covered police reform, hate crimes, local, state and national elections, federal trials, breaking news, agriculture, and much more.

Freelance Field Producer: ABC News

September 2020 — Present

- Report on site and book guests for breaking news events across Midwest and greater U.S. for *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight*, and *Nightline*.

Freelance Journalist

Cover national news and culture out of Chicago and the greater Midwest for a variety of prominent international, national, and local media outlets. Coverage includes news features, political trend pieces, breaking news, Sunday arts features, business stories, cultural criticism and more. Areas of coverage include business, labor, crime, federal trials, state and city politics, hate crimes, the environment, culture, federal/state/city elections. Byline appears in:

The New York Times
The Guardian
POLITICO
Reuters
Agence France-Presse (AFP)
Crain's Chicago Business
Al Jazeera America
The Chicago Tribune
Chicago Magazine
New York Magazine
The Chicago Reader

Past freelance stories have run in:

Salon • Mojo • The New Orleans Advocate • People • The New York Times (reporting) • No Depression • SPIN • Midwest Living • Blurt • Harp • Paste • Jazz Times • Blender • Punk Planet • IIT Magazine • U.S. Catholic • Salt • Loyola Magazine • Chicago Life • Screen • The Wednesday Journal

Midwest Bureau Chief: The Christian Science Monitor

November 2008 — November 2014

- A full-time staff position that involved breaking news and news analysis for csmonitor.com throughout day. Based in Chicago but often reporting from road throughout Midwest and the Gulf South.
- Wrote in-depth news features and arts/culture stories for online and weekly print magazine. Also responsible for periodic 4,500-word magazine cover stories.
- Coverage areas included national and state politics, domestic terrorism, Chicago politics, corruption and crime, Blagojevich trials, Penn State scandal, environmental issues and disasters, agriculture, Detroit bankruptcy, same-sex marriage, automaker bankruptcies, pension crisis, urban renewal, poverty, religion, telecommunications legislation, post-Katrina New Orleans, and much more.
- At the forefront of the Monitor's Gulf Coast oil spill coverage, providing stories that touched upon all angles of the disaster, including engineering operations, the effect on Cajun culture and the seafood industry, the dispersants controversy, wildlife rescue, as well as daily updates on the ongoing recovery operations and subsequent claims process and federal trials.
- Besides covering the Midwest, also reported extensively from New Orleans, Mississippi, Tennessee, and other locations in the deep South.
- Media guest for many national radio and television talk programs including Sirius/XM POTUS Channel 124, NPR, FOX radio, Al-Jazeera, WGN, Russia Today, others.

Freelance Features Writer: The Chicago Sun-Times

July 2013 — February 2015

- Lead music writer/analyst covering national artists and culture trend stories for suntimes.com and print.

Senior Features Writer: Chicago Daily Herald

April 1997 — April 2008

- Senior writer for third largest Illinois daily newspaper responsible for news stories, reviews, cultural think pieces, profiles, and general features relating to the national and local music scenes.

Metro Reporter: Chicago Daily Herald

August 1996 — April 1997

BOOK

Currently under contract with the University of Chicago Press (press.uchicago.edu) for a non-fiction book. 2023 publication date.

TEACHING

Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) where I teach journalism and new media writing.

EDUCATION

Bennington College, Bennington, VT
Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Writing

Loyola University Chicago
Bachelor of English (BA); Concentration: Creative Writing; Minor: Theology