Mark Guarino

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National news journalist who excels at both breaking news 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. Strong research and interviewing skills. Specialties include both street reporting during breaking news events and enterprising story ideas neglected by the competition that intersect political and cultural trends. Storyteller with a particular interest in human-driven stories that reflect greater trends in the culture.

Appeared as pundit on a range of media outlets including BBC, NPR, CBC, Sirius/XM POTUS, Al Jazeera TV, FOX Radio, WGN, WLS, WTTW, and more.

JOURNALISM

Producer and Digital Reporter: ABC News

December 2020 — Present

- Cover breaking news events for ABC News and *Good Morning America* websites.
- Report for broadcast teams on daily news events across Midwest and greater U.S. for *Good Morning America, World News Tonight*, and *Nightline*.
- Work on investigative team on long-form stories designed for broadcast.
- Covered topics including attempted assassination of President Trump in Pennsylvania, tornado aftermath, crime, federal trials, national election cycles, mass shootings, labor issues, Illinois and Chicago politics, the 2024 Democratic National Convention, and more.

Correspondent: Washington Post (Contract)

April 2014 — December 2020

- Covered Chicago and the Midwest. Responsible for frequent A1 stories, team reporting, *Style* section features, as well as live blogging from breaking news events. Coverage included full-length features, spot reporting, culture trend stories and profiles, and breaking news.
- Conducted one-on-one sit-down interviews with prominent lawmakers including Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Covered mass shootings, Covid-19, George Floyd protests, street killings in Kenosha, national election cycles, police reform, hate crimes, local, state, and national elections, federal trials, breaking news, agriculture, and much more.

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/ed in:

The New York Times, The Guardian, BBC, POLITICO, WBEZ Chicago, Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Crain's Chicago Business, Al Jazeera America, Variety, The Chicago Tribune, Chicago Magazine, New York Magazine, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Chicago Reader, more.

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.

Freelance Features Writer: The Chicago Sun-Times

July 2013 — Present

- Lead culture writer/analyst covering trend stories for digital 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.

BOOKS

"Country and Midwestern: Chicago in the History of Country Music and the Folk Revival," (University of Chicago Press), April 2023.

- Winner, 2024 Book of the Year, International Conference on Country Music, Nashville
- Winner, 2024 Book of the Year, State of Illinois
- Certificate of Merit, 2025 Best Historical Research in Recorded Country, Folk, World, or Roots Music, Association for Recorded Sound Collections
- Honoree for 2024 Book of the Year, Society of Midland Authors

Under contract with the University of Wisconsin Press for a non-fiction book due August 2027.

TEACHING

Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) where I taught 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