

Michael J. McDonald

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I'm an award-winning financial journalist and versatile feature writer with a wide range of experience in content creation. My background is in business journalism, working as a reporter, editor, and manager in newsrooms in New York and Boston. More recently, I've also worked in a marketing capacity, producing a variety of content, including ghostwriting long form articles for financial executives.

Skills

- Writer and editor with extensive knowledge of financial markets, investing strategies and emerging technologies.
- Ghostwriter skilled at working with executives to produce thought leadership and explanatory content marketing.
- Reporter with investigative skills and background developing databases for news coverage.
- Manager of people and content creation with experience in developing search engine optimization strategies.
- Public speaker: hosted radio programs; lectured at universities; moderated conference panels; and appeared on television.

Experience

CONTRACT WRITER-EDITOR | 01/2021 - TODAY

- I have worked with universities and foundations, as well as tech companies, private equity firms, hedge funds and financial advisors, producing a wide assortment of content, writing short and long form feature articles; editing academic papers to submit for publication; and generating content such as investor letters and other marketing materials.

SENIOR WRITER | TOPTAL | 02/2021 - 2/2023

- I helped manage this staffing/consulting company's finance blog, producing a steady stream of long form feature articles from idea generation to SEO strategy.
- My primary responsibility was generating ideas and working with the company's financial consultants to write and ghostwrite in-depth articles that explored a variety of finance and technology topics and skills.

REPORTER | BLOOMBERG NEWS | 2005 - 2021

- I was a reporter and feature writer with beats including mutual funds and the asset management industry; university endowments and elite institutional investors; higher education; state politics; and daily market coverage.
- Wrote daily news for newswire and website as well as features for BusinessWeek and Markets magazines; frequent guest on radio and television; filled in as co-host for daily Boston business radio show.
- Periodically assisted to help lead coverage of general news events, from the Boston marathon bombing to the Sandy Hook massacre; spearheaded Boston bureau's coverage of the Covid-19 outbreak in the US in 2020.

REPORTER AND BUREAU CHIEF | THOMSON MEDIA | 1999 – 2000; 2001-2005

- Covered the municipal bond market for Thomson’s Bond Buyer daily newspaper; from 2001 to 2005 served as New York bureau chief, writing, editing, and overseeing a team of four reporters covering state and local politics and finance in Manhattan.

REPORTER | CRAIN’S NEW YORK BUSINESS | 2000 – 2001

- Feature writer at weekly business magazine in New York covering technology, health care and finance.

REPORTER | BANGOR DAILY NEWS | 1997 – 1999

- Business reporter for Maine’s second-largest daily newspaper; beat spanned geographic area reaching the border with Canada; wrote about local businesses as well as industries including pulp and paper; also wrote features that stretched into political coverage; traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland to profile role of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell in historic Easter peace talks.

Education

MASTER OF ARTS - ECONOMICS | 1994 | UNIVERSITY OF MAINE - ORONO

- Graduated with honors; published a master’s thesis on the history of banking in the United States after the American Revolution; attended on a two-year assistantship that included teaching intro to micro and macroeconomics.

BACHELOR OF ARTS - ECONOMICS | 1992 | UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK – SAINT JOHN

- Graduated with honors second class; received full scholarship to attend University of Maine junior year.

Awards

- 2012 Society of Silurians’ award for business and financial journalism for “The Apocalypse That Never Happened,” a series on the municipal bond market.
- 2010 New York Press Club prize for investigative reporting for “Harvard’s Toxic Swaps,” a feature on financial losses at the university after it speculated in the derivatives market.