

Stephen Oduntan

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Profile

Investigative and enterprise journalist with more than a decade of experience reporting on housing policy, homelessness, environmental justice, and public safety. Known for public-records-driven reporting, court coverage, and narrative features that connect policy decisions to real community impact. Contributor to *Invisible People*, *The Wave Newspaper*, and *LA Focus*. Reporting on homelessness policy has been featured by the USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute. Trained in legal research through a UCLA Extension paralegal certificate, bringing depth to reporting on courts, government accountability, and public policy.

Experience

Freelance Investigative Journalist

Los Angeles | May 2023 – Present

- Report investigative and feature stories on homelessness, housing policy, public health, and government accountability.
 - Produce deeply reported narrative features examining systemic failures affecting vulnerable communities.
 - Conduct on-the-ground reporting, interviews with policymakers and advocates, and analysis of public records and court filings.
 - Published by outlets including *Invisible People*, *The Wave Newspaper*, and *LA Focus*.
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Freelance Writer

Invisible People | May 2023 – Present

- Report investigative stories examining homelessness policy, healthcare systems, and structural causes of housing instability.
 - Translate complex research and policy findings into compelling, accessible narratives for a national audience.
 - Reporting has examined issues including patient dumping, safe parking programs, and the criminalization of homelessness.
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Contributing Writer

The Wave Newspaper | November 2023 – Present

- Cover breaking news, politics, and social justice issues across Los Angeles.
 - Report on police accountability, community activism, and local government decisions affecting Black communities.
 - Attend press conferences, protests, and hearings to produce timely on-the-ground reporting.
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Senior Staff Writer

LA Focus Newspaper | June 2012 – Present

- Led coverage of politics, business, and cultural affairs for a weekly newspaper serving Los Angeles' Black community.
 - Produced investigative features exposing gaps in city policy and government accountability.
 - Reported on protests, legislative hearings, and major civic events across Los Angeles.
 - Expanded digital readership through SEO-optimized long-form features and online publishing strategies.
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Selected Reporting

- “Safe Parking Lots Offer Stability to Working Angelenos Living in Cars” — *Invisible People*
- “Documents Reveal Fatal Pattern of Patient Dumping at Los Angeles General Hospital” — *Invisible People*
- “From the Streets to the Cell: How the War on Drugs Targets Homeless People” — *Invisible People*
(Featured by the USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute)

- “Free at Last: Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.” — *The Wave Newspaper*
 - “Churches Confront Sex Trafficking Crisis Along South L.A.’s ‘Blade’ Corridor” — *LA Focus*
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Skills

Reporting & Investigations

Investigative reporting • Public records requests • FOIA/PRA • Court reporting • Source development

Policy & Legal Coverage

Housing policy • Homelessness • Environmental justice • Public corruption • Legal filings

Digital Journalism

SEO • WordPress • CMS publishing • Social media strategy • Audience engagement

Multimedia

Video reporting • Audio editing • Photography • Data visualization

Education

Paralegal Certificate

UCLA Extension

MA, Creative Writing (Fiction)

Royal Holloway, University of London

BA, Journalism

California State University, Long Beach

Professional Membership

Los Angeles Press Club

