

Maria Lawson

marialawsonjour@gmail.com / 469-500-3138 / marialawson.journoportfolio.com

Award-winning multimedia journalist completing a one-year investigative fellowship with ESPN. Brings three years of newsroom experience, a master's in investigative journalism and a record of breaking enterprise stories through public records, sourcing and data.

Professional Experience

ESPN Investigative Unit

August 2024-Present

Reporting Fellow

Washington, D.C.

- Reports and writes in-depth investigations, including a profile on [Ole Miss basketball coach Chris Beard](#) using never-before-seen bodycam footage
- Breaks enterprise stories, like [Pam Shriver's stolen trophies](#) and congressional hearings on [performance-enhancing drugs](#)

People Newspapers (D Magazine Partners)

May 2022-July 2024

Deputy Editor

Dallas, Texas

- Sole reporter for Preston Hollow community beat, covering news, crime, business and education
 - Used sourcing to break news of Thomas Jefferson HS shooting suspect arrest
 - Investigated [permitting issues](#) of local fundraiser through records and interviews
- Edited daily stories, managed freelancers and created content for social media and newsletters for digital reach of 145,000 and print circulation of 45,000

North Texas Daily student newspaper

August 2019-May 2022

Editor-in-Chief, previously section editor and senior staff reporter

Denton, Texas

- Managed 90-person staff, overseeing print and digital products and 14 editorial board members
- Directed award-winning coverage of weeklong trans right protests

Central Track

February 2022-May 2022

News Reporting Intern

Dallas, Texas

- Reported four stories weekly about news, culture and politics

Denton Record-Chronicle

August 2021-December 2021

News Reporting Intern

Denton, Texas

- Published daily-turn news stories for online and print publication
- Reported crime blotter entries using public safety records and arrest reports

D Magazine

May 2021-August 2021

Business Reporting Intern

Dallas, Texas

- Authored online and print stories about real estate, transit, economy and history
- Broke weekly real estate developments using data and public records

Awards and Training

- Wendy Rieger Memorial Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism April 2025
- First Place, Localized National Story, National Newspaper Association July 2024
- First Place, Local Government Reporting, National Newspaper Association July 2023
- First Place, Feature Writing, National Newspaper Association July 2023
- Selected to attend Society of Professional Journalists Future Leaders Academy July 2023
- First Place, Feature Writing Live Contest, Texas Intercollegiate Press Association March 2022

Education

American University

GPA: 4.0

Master of Arts in Journalism and Public Affairs, Investigative Journalism Track

- University of Bergen (Norway) Bridging [Investigative Journalism Fellowship](#)
- Reported for [The Wash](#) and covered [Congress](#) and [SCOTUS](#) in person

University of North Texas, Honors College

GPA: 4.0

B.A. in Digital/Print Journalism & B.S. in Sociology

- President, Society of Professional Journalists campus chapter