

ABBY CHURCH

757-816-8097



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@abbschurch



SUMMARY

Abby has a demonstrated history of covering politics and government and how they come together to affect residents in Texas, and currently covers City Hall in Houston. She's told stories across Virginia as an intern for two summers the Daily Press and a fall at the Richmond Times-Dispatch before starting her professional career.

EDUCATION

James Madison University

Bachelor's Degree in Media Arts & Design, 2020

- Concentration in Journalism
- Minor in Creative Writing

AWARDS

2019 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence National Finalist

- Nonfiction Magazine Story

2019 Society of Professional Journalists Award

- Best Nonfiction Magazine Story, Region 2

2019 Virginia Press Association Award

- First Place in Feature Profile Writing, Non-Daily Newspaper

2017 Virginia Press Association Award

- Third Place in Feature Writing, Non-Daily Newspaper

REFERENCES

John Ramsey

Criminal Justice and Legal Affairs Editor,
Washington Post
Cell: 919-357-4025

Katy Burnell Evans

Local criminal justice editor, Washington Post
Cell: 804-300-0258
Email: katyburnell@gmail.com

Tom Johanningmeier

Managing Editor, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Cell: 682-241-7807
Email: tjohanningmeier@star-telegram.com

EXPERIENCE

Houston City Hall Reporter

Houston Chronicle | October 2023 - present

- Covers the politics, policies and personalities coming out of Houston City Hall

Tarrant County Reporter

Fort Worth Star-Telegram | October 2021 - October 2023

- Covers county government and politics with primary focus on the county's commissioners court
- Built the Tarrant County beat from the ground up to become Fort Worth's primary source for county government news

Government Watchdog Reporter

Fayetteville Observer | February 2021 - September 2021

- Reported on the city of Fayetteville, towns of Hope Mills and Spring Lake, and Cumberland County with a focus on daily and enterprise reporting
- Maintained enterprise in housing with the goal of uncovering issues and solutions related to homelessness, the housing shortage and affordable housing

General Assignment Intern

Richmond Times-Dispatch | August 2020 - December 2020

- Reported on Hanover County and various other topics with an emphasis on human interest and enterprise reporting
- Co-wrote the newsroom's second most read story in the latter half of the year on JMU's failed return to campus during the pandemic

Editor-in-Chief

The Breeze | March 2019 - March 2020

- Oversaw the operations of JMU's independent student newspaper
- Led the paper to its third-straight Virginia Press Association Grand Sweepstakes award, as well as the News Sweepstakes and Best in Show for print design