

# Chelsea J. Washington

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## Communications Professional

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY WITH RESPONSIBILITY SUMMARIES

**July 2018 – July 2021: Anchor/Multi-Media Journalist Spectrum News Louisville, KY:**

- Anchored noon and evening news cast each week day
- Presented news reports, including live stories, in a professional, engaging manner
- Developed multiple story-pitches each week that covered news across the State of Kentucky
- Cultivated information sources and community contacts to generate original story ideas
- Anchored coverage of the 2019 Kentucky Derby
- Served as station representative at events within the local community and broader viewing area

**April 2017 - July 2018: Marketing Specialist GH2 Architects Oklahoma City, OK:**

- Worked closely with our team of architects to market services to potential clients
- Developed detailed project descriptions and other marketing information for the firm's website
- Employed various forms of social media to stay connected to clients and identify new opportunities
- Researched economic development and future needs of neighborhoods within the OKC area
- Supported business development by assisting with proposal preparation for the bidding process

**Jan 2014 - March 2017: Anchor/Reporter KOKH-TV Oklahoma City, OK:**

- Anchored Saturday and Sunday newscasts
- Filled in for main anchor on daily newscasts
- Covered national-attention grabbing stories (SAE fraternity, state execution, severe weather)
- Authored and posted articles for station website
- Provided live coverage of breaking news for station's three newscasts on daily basis

**Oct 2011 - Nov 2013: Reporter/Anchor/Host WIS-TV Columbia, SC:**

- Anchored week-end morning news programs and serve as fill-in anchor for other newscasts
- Launched the first and only Sunday morning newscast in the market
- Hosted and produced a weekly community affairs show
- Responded to breaking news and investigative stories in the local area
- Appeared at local organized events per request

**Sept 2008 - Sept 2011: General Assignment Reporter WRIC-TV Richmond, VA:**

- Present investigative stories regarding local and state government
- Provided coverage of unfair rental practices used by local housing agency in a report to HUD
- Report and provide coverage to stations nation-wide regarding sensational multiple murder case
- Host public events at the request of local organizations

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS**

### ➤ **Excellent interviewing skills demonstrated by**

- Providing compelling coverage of protests and news conferences in Louisville, KY, related to the Breonna Taylor case, a controversial national story concerning the police shooting of a young woman of color.
- Presenting a story with strong emotional appeal regarding the need for a refurbished basketball court for underprivileged youth, prompting a strong public response and an anonymous donation of \$25,000, which exceeded the goal for the cause by more than \$10,000.
- Using effective interpersonal skills to gain the confidence of interview subjects for inquiries into sensitive matters and by, at all times, maintaining the confidentiality of information sources.

### ➤ **Resourceful journalist**

- Obtained the only interview with attorney Benjamin Crump, legal representative of several victims in a civil lawsuit against former Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw, who abused his position to coerce sexual favors, in a case that generated widespread national interest.
- Gained admission to witness the botched execution of an Oklahoma death row inmate, and appeared on the CNN program Out Front, with Erin Burnett, to provide a graphic and meticulously detailed accounting and timeline of this disturbing event.
- Developed a historical long-form piece covering the desegregation of South Carolina schools during 1963, consisting of five separate segments and absorbing interviews with former Black pupils who participated in this struggle.
- Conveyed warmth and empathy to foster a comforting environment that persuaded the parents of a child struck and dragged by a car to grant exclusive interview.
- Developed a reputation for unbiased, ethical reporting, free of any allegations of inappropriate, inaccurate, or plagiarized content.

### ➤ **Skilled and well-rounded communications professional**

- Served as the spokesperson for numerous public health campaigns sponsored by, among others, the American Heart Association, the Oklahoma Blood Institute, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Produced, scripted and hosted a weekly public affairs program that covered a range of topics, including local, state and national politics; activities of local non-profit organizations; and a variety of human-interest stories.
- Hosted various charity, educational and social events, at the request of community organizations and academic institutions.

## **EDUCATION**

M.A. Journalism: American University, Washington, DC, 2006

B.A. Public Relations James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, 2005

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT**

- Youth Leadership Development Institute Speaker
- American Heart Association Ambassador
- Member, Links, Inc.
- Hostess, Walk Now for Autism Speaks
- University of Oklahoma Institute of Diversity guest lecturer
- Spokesperson, Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Member, The National Association of Black Journalists