

Chandra Thomas Whitfield

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Professional Summary/Highlights

- Award-winning multimedia journalist with 19 years of professional journalism credentials that include in-depth work experience at a diverse mix of national, regional and local media outlets, including newspapers, magazines, websites, television and radio.
- Penned an award-winning feature story that prompted national and international news coverage of a controversial court case and contributed to a change in a state law.
- Recipient of more than five prestigious and highly competitive national journalism fellowships that resulted in extensive media exposure and award-winning journalism projects.
- Accomplished freelance writer/reporter with demonstrated success working both within a team and independently.

Work Experience

- Feb. 2014 – Present **Web Content Writer: Counseling Wise** – Interview clients, write, copyedit, fact check, post and optimize web copy applying SEO and keyword techniques for Boulder, Co.-based website marketing company; also write Meta descriptions for websites.
- May 2013 – Present **Copy Writer: Colorado Dream House/Keller Williams Realty** – Write and copyedit home listings for the web and custom printed media for luxury homes division of Denver-based realty company; also research and write promotional video script copy.
- July 2013 – May 2014 **Reporter Fellow: Ted Scripps Environmental Journalism Fellowship** – Audited graduate level environmental journalism courses and researched environmental justice-themed topics as part of a nine-month training program at the University of Colorado Boulder.
- Sept. 2011 – Oct. 2012 **Reporter Fellow: Soros Justice Media Program** – Wrote and reported on a series of education-themed print articles and an award-winning NPR affiliate radio report for yearlong criminal justice/education-themed journalism fellowship project funded by New York City-based Open Society Institute. Also coordinated, hosted and moderated an “equity in education” panel discussion.
- July 2010 – Sept. 2011 **Reporter Fellow: Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (www.JJIE.org)** – Wrote and posted news, feature stories and blogs via WordPress for juvenile justice-themed website based at Kennesaw (Ga.) State University. Also shot and posted video clips/photos, produced radio news reports and covered the Georgia legislature.
- Jan. 2010 – July 2010 **Multimedia Fellow: Kiplinger Public Affairs Journalism Training Program** – Studied social media strategies, trained graduate students/professionals in digital media storytelling, completed multimedia classes and co-mentored colleagues at the Ohio State University, all while completing an award-winning multimedia journalism series
- July 2007 – Present **Freelance Writer:** *People, Essence, Ebony, Jet, The American Prospect, Odyssey Couleur, Heart & Soul, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Diverse Issues In Higher Education, The Crisis, The (Denver) Urban Spectrum* and Time.com – Write news and feature stories and assist with deadline reporting for print and web editions of regional and national publications. Also served as stringer for *Essence* Sept. 2002 – Jan. 2004.
- Feb. 2004 – Aug. 2008 **Staff Writer: Atlanta** – Wrote award-winning features, news, profiles, commentary and entertainment stories for Atlanta-based monthly magazine. Also contributed to dining, travel and nightlife coverage, along with co-authoring a weekly society blog.
- Aug. 2002 – Feb. 2006 **Freelance Reporter: From House To Home** – Wrote and assisted with feature stories for regionally distributed home improvement magazine.
- Sept. 2001 – Jan. 2004 **Freelance Reporter: BlackVoices.com/Black Voices Quarterly** – Wrote feature stories and campus profiles for Chicago-based national website and magazine.

- Nov. 2000 – May 2004 **Stringer:** *Newsweek*: Wrote and assisted with news and feature stories for Southeast bureau of weekly national magazine. Also worked as a stringer March – May 1995.
- April 2000 – Jan. 2004 **Associate Producer:** WAGA (FOX 5 Atlanta) – Wrote news scripts and gathered sound bites for live “Good Day Atlanta” morning newscast. Also field produced live remotes, coordinated in-studio interview segments and posted website updates.
- Feb. 1998 – April 2000 **Morning/Noon Show Producer:** WBMA (ABC 33/40 Birmingham) – Line produced “Good Morning Alabama” and noon newscasts: including developing rundowns, pulling sound bites and packages, writing scripts, recording satellite feeds and coordinating breaking news, live shots and in-studio interviews.
- Dec. 1997 – April 2000 **Co-Host/Producer:** WBHK (98.7 KISS-FM Birmingham) – Coordinated interviews, prepared questions and managed phone lines for live public affairs show.
- Dec. 1995 – Feb. 1998 **Metro/Features Reporter:** *The Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald* – Wrote spot news, news features, profiles and feature stories for daily newspaper in Birmingham. Also served as a contract fashion columnist Feb. 1998 – April 2000.

Honors, Awards and Memberships

- Dec. 2014 **Atlanta Press Club “Favorite Stories Over The Last 50 Years”** – Top 5 Winner
- Oct. 2014 **LifeLines: “Stories From The Human Safety Net” Series** – Selected Contributor
- July 2013 **Colorado Association of Black Journalists Media Award** – Winner, News Feature
- April 2013 **Atlanta Press Club Award of Excellence** – Winner, Radio
- February 2013 **New Leaders Council 40 Under 40 Media Leadership Award** – Winner
- April 2011 **Atlanta Press Club Award of Excellence** – Winner, Multimedia
- Oct. 2009 **University of Michigan Census 2010 Data Boot Camp** – Participant
- June 2009 **Mental Health America Media Award** – Winner, Best Regional Magazine Feature
- June 2008 **N.C. A&T Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies** – Fellow, Cuba Delegation
- July 2007 – Sept. 2008 **Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellowship Program** – Fellow
- April 2007 – May 2008 **National Public Radio** – Media Roundtable Commentator, “News & Notes” program
- April 2007 **Atlanta Press Club Print Journalist of the Year** – Winner
- March 2007 **National Association of Black Journalists Region III Journalist of the Year** – Winner
- Jan. 2006 **National Association of Black Journalists Gulf Coast Fellowship** – Recipient
- May 2005 **University of California at Berkeley Multimedia Convergence Seminar** – Fellow
- March 2005 **Atlanta Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award** – Winner
- April 2001 **Vanderbilt University/CASE Media Fellowship** – Fellow

Education

Television Techniques I and II, University of Alabama at Birmingham

B.A., Journalism, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.