

# Alecia Richards

• Chicago, IL • 954-881-6938 • [aleciarichards@gmail.com](mailto:aleciarichards@gmail.com) • <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alecia-richards-3a3032a8/>

---

## **Education**    **Northwestern University Class of 2018**, Evanston, IL

*B.S. in Journalism*, second major in Political Science

Journalism concentration: Gender Studies and Sexuality

## **Professional Experience**

---

### **Injustice Watch**, Chicago, IL

*Investigative Reporting Fellow* | July 2018 – current

- Produce quick turnaround and long-term investigations for IW and the organization's publishing partners
- Conceptualizing pitches and executing fundamental steps in investigative process by sourcing relevant documents and/or data from public records requests, case files, courts, prior news coverage, and scholarly research
- Schedule and publish social media posts and newsletters on behalf of the organization as needed

### **Medill Justice Project**, Evanston, IL

*Investigative Intern* | Jan. 2018 – June 2018

- Vetted case files for prospective clients, passing along most compelling cases to Medill staff for review and use in future classes
- Prepared potential cases by contacting key sources, reviewing court documents, and highlighting key questions about convictions for incoming classes
- Compiled anecdotal backgrounds for cases using news coverage and other types of relevant media

*Investigative Student Reporter* | Sept. 2017 – Jan. 2018

- Probed wrongful convictions and systemic injustice through extensive research and reporting
- Interviewed lawyers, eye witnesses, policemen, alibi witnesses, and other sources for original reporting
- Logged video footage and collaborated with peers on script writing and video production
- Co-produced 20-minute award-winning documentary on the wrongful conviction of Ahmad Adisa following three months of investigating the case
- Reported on admission of junk science in a domestic abuse case and ongoing questions concerning the defendant's conviction

### **Northwestern University Political Science Department**, Evanston, IL

*Farrell Fellow / Research Assistant for Professor Julie Lee Merseeth* | Sept. 2017 – June 2018

- Explored trends in rhetoric used by politicians and the framing of immigration policy issues in news
- Examined the response of Asian communities to the Black liberation movement in the United States by completing content analysis of news sources and identifying trends in coverage
- Extracted census data on foreign-born populations and examined the methodology used by surveys to gauge the political attitudes of foreign-born populations
- Completed a minimum of five hours of research weekly and attended team meetings to ensure the use of systematic research methods

### **The Miami Herald**, Miami, FL

*Videography Intern* | July 2017 – Aug. 2017

- Independently shot, edited, and conducted interviews for features and daily news pieces
- Conducted interviews on Facebook Live and hosted live event coverage from the company's social media account to increase audience engagement

#### **CNN International, Johannesburg, South Africa**

*Production / Digital Intern* | June 2017 - July 2017

- Assisted broadcast production team with shoots, interviews, logging video footage, and editing packages
- Expedited strategic story planning by researching potential content ideas, writing interview questions for correspondents, and identifying story angles
- Performed other administrative tasks such as scheduling interviews for correspondents and coordinating with African embassies on visa applications for film crew

#### **eNCA's CheckPoint, Johannesburg, South Africa**

*Production Intern* | April 2017 – June 2017

- Worked for eNCA's investigative broadcast show and 24-hour news channel for Medill's Journalism Residency program
- Participated in weekly pitch and planning meetings with associate and executive producers
- Sourced archived footage, secured interviews with government officials and community members, compiled background research, and identified potential story angles
- Assisted producers with filming, conducting interviews, editing, logging video, and script writing
- Co-produced "Homeless on Campus," a full-length 30-minute investigative show on the national department of education's failure to disperse financial aid on time and provide affordable housing for hundreds of thousands of students
- "Homeless on campus" coverage prompted government to renew its commitment to resolving accommodation issues and led universities to provide housing for some students featured in show

#### **In These Times, Chicago, IL**

*Editorial Intern* | Sept. 2016 – Dec. 2016

- Daily tasks included fact-checking, proofreading, and prepping edited articles for publication by identifying potential decks, captions, headlines, and pull-quotes
- Participated in publication meetings with editorial staff to assist in deciding headlines and editorial layout of print magazines
- Wrote feature pieces on sanctuary campuses and Chicago Community Bond Fund activists working to abolish money bonds in Cook County

#### **Relevant Collegiate Leadership**

---

- Vice President of Student Activities and Resources for Northwestern's Associated Student Government | 2017 – 2018
- Sole student representative for Northwestern's policy review committee, worked with admin to revise the university's free speech and protest policies | 2017 – 2018
- Organizer for Black Lives Matter at Northwestern University | 2016 – 2018
- Videographer and staff writer for BlackBoard, Northwestern's black-interest magazine | 2014 – 2018
- President of Refresh Dance Crew | 2017 – 2018
- Senate representative and executive board member for Immigrant Justice Project | 2015 – 2017
- Segment Producer for Northwestern News Network's weekly political broadcast | 2017

## Volunteer Experience

---

### Bluhm Legal Clinic at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law | 2019 – current

- Legal and administrative assistance for Professor Juliet Sorenson and Professor Sam Tenenbaum on their representation of victims of [Mark Diamond](#)

### Advocacy Corps at Northwestern University | 2018

- Partnered with staff attorneys at Chicago Appleseed on their projects to lobby and advocate for improvements to the criminal justice system in Cook County concerning the imposition of court costs, fees, and fines

## Selected Publications

---

- [Cook County's secret election: Balloting is under way for judges, and you can't vote](#), 2019 Chicago Sun-Times
- [Despite reversals, controversies, associate judges try to keep seats](#), 2019 Chicago Sun-Times
- [Advocates fear Cook County sheriff kept alive discussions of gang database; sheriff says fears baseless](#), 2019 Injustice Watch
- [Nearly eight years in prison, even though someone else said they did it](#), 2019 Injustice Watch
- [Illinois appeals court ponders: Can Cook County bar detention of pre-teens?](#), 2019 Injustice Watch
- [U.S. Supreme Court is asked: Can prosecutors withhold evidence of innocence before guilty plea?](#), 2018 Injustice Watch
- [Prisoners frustrated by slow movement of law offering early release opportunity](#), 2018 Injustice Watch
- [Cook County judge acquitted of gun charge got break others have not](#), 2018 Injustice Watch
- [Cook County judges' committee funding Democratic effort to oust Coghlan](#), 2018 Injustice Watch
- [2018 judicial voting guide](#), 2018 Injustice Watch
- [In Somali drought, women fighting sexual predators as well as hunger](#), 2017 CNN International

## Awards

---

- **2018 Regional Edward R. Murrow Award** winner in the Investigative Reporting category for “Alibi and Faith”, MJP
- **2018 Peter Lisagor Award** winner in the Best Short Film Documentary category for “Alibi and Faith”, MJP
- Winner of **3 2018 Best of Medill awards** for excellence in journalism among Medill students

## Professional Memberships

---

- Investigative Reporters and Editors
- National Association of Black Journalists

## Skills

---

*Certified in:* Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Dreamweaver

*Proficient in:* Adobe Premiere Pro, Microsoft Office programs, Google Programs, WordPress, Pacer, Lexis, and Proquest

*Experience with:* Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Tumblr, Pinterest, and R Studio