Mike Maciag

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, D.C.

Research officer, October 2019 – Present

- Conduct data compilation and analysis, research, interviews and quality control checking for projects.
- Play lead role in developing methodologies, conceptualizing graphics and data visualizations.
- Write and contribute to reports for initiative exploring state fiscal and economic issues.
- Assist in directing junior research staff.

Governing magazine, Washington, D.C.

Data editor, August 2011 – August 2019

- Conceived and carried out numerous high-impact investigative reporting projects cited by the New York Times, Washington Post, many other major media outlets and academic journals.
- Regularly reported on the economy and criminal justice issues, my two primary areas of coverage.
- Compiled and analyzed data for reports in collaboration with other editorial staff. Projects included reports examining criminal justice fines and fees, segregation, pedestrian safety, underrepresentation of minorities in police departments, and the new Camden, N.J., police department.
- Generated story ideas from scrutinizing government datasets and filing public records requests.
- Wrote monthly "Behind the Numbers" print magazine column and email newsletter.
- Gained knowledge of a wide range of policy issues from regularly interviewing public officials and leading experts.
- Initiated magazine's data visualization efforts, producing maps and graphics for Governing.com.

Erie Times-News, Erie, Pa.

Online reporter, July 2009 – August 2011

- Covered breaking news and crime on morning shift.
- Conducted data analysis for long-term reporting projects and daily stories.
- Introduced data journalism to the newsroom; served as in-house data analyst.
- Built interactive databases, maps and other data visualizations to accompany stories.
- Wrote frequent breaking news updates on deadline for website.
- Wrote scripts to retrieve and process data from websites, PDF documents.
- Assisted in managing and updating website.

Sun Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Data journalism intern, November 2008 – February 2009

- Conducted data analysis and worked on projects with newspaper's investigations team.
- Mined government data and public records for story ideas.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

Data journalism intern, June 2008 – August 2008

- Worked on data-driven enterprise stories, both individually and in collaboration with other reporters.
- Produced searchable databases and other data visualizations.

Peoria Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

Reporter intern, January 2008 – May 2008

- Covered breaking news, crime and local issues as a general assignment reporter.

EDUCATION

George Mason University, Fairfax, Va.

Master of Public Administration, 2011-2014
Concentration: Policy analysis

University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio

Bachelor of Arts – Communication: Journalism, 2003 - 2008
Bachelor of Arts – Computer Science, 2003 - 2008

SKILLS

- Extensive experience analyzing a wide range of federal datasets, including Census, BJS, DOT, FBI, BLS, NHTSA
- Building databases from government records and other sources
- Investigative reporting experience in different settings
- Substantial experience conceptualizing data visualizations and graphics
- Computing and interpreting statistics
- Communicating complex information to general audiences
- Analyzing and interpreting economic data
- Years of writing, copyediting experience on deadline
- Significant experience obtaining records via FOIA or state open records laws
- Interpreting budgets, audits and other financial documents
- Conducting oral or written interviews
- Developing methodologies for projects
- Experience working on projects both independently and in collaboration with colleagues
- Writing about demographic trends and analyzing related data
- Running regressions and other types of analyses in SPSS or PSPP
- Data visualization tools: Tableau, Excel, Mapbox, Google Maps API
- GIS software: ArcGIS, QGIS
- Coding languages: SQL, JavaScript, HTML
- Processing and cleaning data from websites, PDFs and other sources