

Zara Norman

zaranorman2026@u.northwestern.edu | 401-410-3590 | [linkedin.com/in/zara-lei-norman/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zara-lei-norman/)

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Medill, Chicago

Master of Science in Journalism, Specialization in D.C. Investigative Lab

expected August 2026

Honors: Paul Sagan ProPublica Medill Investigative Lab Scholar

Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Bachelor of Arts in Classics (Ancient Greek) and History (American Legal) | GPA: 3.85/4.00

May 2022

REPORTING EXPERIENCE

City Bureau, Documenter, Chicago

September 2025 – present

- Contracted to record public meetings around Chicago for City Bureau's news wire service, live tweeting on X and Bluesky and taking meticulous notes that form the basis of wire stories

Bangor Daily News, Housing Reporter, Bangor, Maine

October 2023 – June 2025

- Wrote clean, compelling copy daily covering Maine's housing and homelessness crisis and the real estate market, balancing daily stories with features, breaking news items (including a mass shooting) and data-driven enterprise reporting that delivered impact including an [arrest, indictment](#), and \$2.2 million civil judgment against a fraudulent home contractor
- Built and maintained a diverse, reliable source base

Maine Trust for Local News, Reporter, Waterville, Maine

September 2022 – September 2023

- Provided daily general assignment coverage for fourteen rural communities in Somerset County, Maine, for the Morning Sentinel newspaper, writing on issues spanning local government, business, crime, courts, education and more
- Published regularly in the Portland Press Herald, for whom I also wrote a profile on artist [Lihua Lei](#)
- Conducted live interviews with NYTimes Investigations Editor [Rebecca Corbett](#) and crime author [Gerry Boyle](#)

The Boston Globe, Rhode Island Intern and Freelancer, Providence, R.I.

May 2021 – January 2022

- Hired as a marketing intern to manage the Globe Rhode Island's Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn presence, growing its audience on those platforms by over 200 percent in a summer
- Secured a freelance contract to write stories about local businesses, Rhode Island history and assist in breaking news after pitching and penning a 'Things to Do in RI' column

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

South Side Weekly, Fact-Checker, Chicago

September 2025 – present

- Contracted to fact-check staff and freelance local news articles, editing for content, clarity and form weekly

The Rib of Brown, Editor-in-chief, Providence, R.I.

September 2021 – May 2022

- Managed the finances, social media and staff of Brown University's only comedy magazine penned by women and non-binary students, editing online posts daily for content, clarity and form

AWARDS

2023, Selected to be a [New England First Amendment Institute](#) fellow. Completed an intensive 3-day training program on freedom of information laws and investigative reporting techniques

2023, Two **1st place Maine Press Association** awards in [Arts-Lifestyle Feature](#) and [Analysis](#)

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Multimedia experience using HTML, R, Adobe Suite, Audacity, iMovie, Final Cut Pro
- Basic proficiency in American Sign Language, French and Mandarin. Learning Portuguese.
- Voracious reader, read 100 books last year and run a 'Bookstagram' ([@normanknowsbooks](#))