

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; Investigative Specialization, Data Concentration

expected August 2026

Honors: Paul Sagan ProPublica Medill Investigative Lab Scholar

- Expected to write a long-form investigation with ProPublica under the tutelage of reporter Debbie Cenziper

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

- Recorded local government meetings around Chicago for City Bureau's news wire service by live tweeting on X, quickly turning sharp and succinct copy that summarized agenda items and spotlighted key quotes

Bangor Daily News, Housing Reporter, Bangor, Maine

October 2023 – June 2025

- Wrote clean, compelling copy daily covering Maine housing, homelessness and real estate
- Balanced breaking news items (including a mass shooting) with features, policy analysis and data-driven enterprise reporting
- Led the newsroom each quarter in engaged pageviews after breaking news
- Impact:** Spurred the arrest, indictment of and \$2.5 million judgment against a [fraudulent home contractor](#)

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 including local government, business, crime, courts, education
- Impact:** Spurred an external investigation into councilors' conduct with a story about secret town meetings

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

May 2021 – January 2022

- Managed the Globe Rhode Island's Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn presence as a marketing intern, growing its audience on those platforms by over 200 percent in the summer of 2021
- Pitched and penned a 'Things to Do in RI' column, assisted on a breaking news and Rhode Island history story and was contracted as a freelancer to write a story about [local businesses](#)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

South Side Weekly, Fact-checker, Chicago

October 2025 – present

- Fact-checked staff and freelance local news articles by rigorously verifying information and copy editing

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

- Selected as a [New England First Amendment Institute fellow](#) in 2023. 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](#))

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Investigative Reporters & Editors