



STEPHANIE LAI

Journalist and Writer

CONTACT

✉ stephanie.lai.us@gmail.com

☎ (951) 428 6474

🏠 31550 Sweetwater Cir,
Temecula, CA 92591

🐦 @stephaniealai

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS: HONORS POLITICAL SCIENCE, 4.09 GPA

2019-2022

Columbia University
New York, NY

SKILLS & AWARDS

Proficient in Microsoft, GSuite, Adobe Creative Suite, Wordpress, Graphene, Arc, HTML, CSS and Javascript
Cantonese (native, understands)
Spanish (intermediate)

SPJ Data Vis Region 1 winner/national finalist, In-Depth Reporting Region 1 finalist (2nd), National All-Around Student Paper 2020
LA Press Club two time finalist 2020 (3rd place)
SPJ LA Scholarship recipient 2019
Dean's List recognition for four semesters

REFERENCES

HECTOR BECERRA

Los Angeles Times, City Editor
hector.becerra@latimes.com
(626)232-9896

SHELBY GRAD

Los Angeles Times, Deputy Managing Editor
shelby.grad@latimes.com
(213)308-8880

PENNY AREVALO

San Gabriel Valley News Group, City Editor
parevalo@scng.com
(562)400-5818

EXPERIENCE -

WASHINGTON POST

Metro Intern | June 2021 - August 2020

- Metro intern on the local politics desk. Focus on Montgomery County, police accountability and covering Asian American communities. I cover cops and courts on the weekends. I produce several daily assignments per week and bi-weekly enterprise content.

NEW YORK TIMES STUDENT JOURNALISM INSTITUTE

Reporter | Jan 2021 - May 2021

- One of 46 participants in the Times' semester-long program. Conducted in-depth feature reporting on Eric Garner's family and an article on the Institute featured on A2. Attended weekly reporting workshops and editing meetings, and a week-long seminar.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Metro Intern | May 2020 - Dec 2020

- Covered breaking news and enterprise stories. Wrote over 75 articles, including 22 articles on Page One. I've covered three breaking night shifts. One of nine students selected in a national competition at the Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy Institute, an 11-week professional development program with weekly sessions on ethical journalism. Conducted in-depth features and enterprise stories on wildfire victims, COVID-19 patients and small towns amid the pandemic. I began covering Orange County politics in the fall during the 2020 election. Trump even tweeted out my story on GOP ballot collection.

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR AND DAILY BRUIN

News & Investigations Editor, and reporter | Oct 2018 - Aug 2019, Sept 2019 - Present

- Served as a reporter for one year and an editor for two years covering metro, business and investigations at UCLA and Columbia. Initiated reinstating a city beat at the Spectator and lead a team of eight reporters from 2019 to present through daily online and weekly print production. Led Spectator's News team when it was awarded the 2020 Best All-Around Student Newspaper by SPJ.
- Conducted award winning investigations on a land use battle, business obstruction and impacts of gentrification on businesses by utilizing records requests and city planning documents. Articles resulted in action taken by city council. I trained in data journalism, photography and editorial writing.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Metro intern | Sept 2019 - Dec 2019

- Reported twice a week as a metro reporter covering local government and business. Contributed and wrote 10 stories, including three articles on Page One, during my semester-long internship.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP | PASADENA STAR NEWS

News Intern | June 2019 - August 2019

- Selected as an Asian American Journalist Association intern covering city news in San Gabriel Valley. I wrote over 40 articles, contributing to seven SCNG newspapers and two Bay Area News Group newspapers. I analyzed real estate trends caused by visa restrictions and broke an award-winning investigative story on UCLA's Spirit Squad director that resulted in the director's dismissal for athlete abuse.