

Khalida Zohal Sarwari

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Multimedia journalist with more than 10 years of professional reporting experience in the competitive news markets of San Francisco and Silicon Valley, consistently delivering in-depth, accurate and high-quality news pieces on a wide range of topics with proven meticulous research skills.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bilingual (Fluent in Farsi; conversational in French)
- Social media management
- Skilled storyteller
- Video production and editing
- Basic HTML, CSS, Javascript
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Online News Association local leader
- WordPress
- MS Office Suite
- News photography
- Excellent interviewer
- Deadline-driven
- Team player, strong collaborator
- Quick and eager learner

EDUCATION

Saint Mary's College of California (Moraga, CA)
Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Minor in History

2003-2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bay Area News Group

San Jose, CA

Feb. 2012 to Present

Staff Writer at The Mercury News

- Lead coverage of the Silicon Valley communities of Cupertino and Sunnyvale and County of Santa Clara for Northern California's largest metropolitan daily newspapers, where I report on housing, development, technology, transportation, business and social issues
- Manage multiple assignments on deadline that generate an average of 10,000 views and a reader engagement time of 2 minutes
- Conduct in-person and phone interviews with sources in a variety of fields to gather multiple perspectives on issues
- Collaborate with editors, photographers and other reporters to find and research a diverse selection of stories
- Build a broad list of sources comprised of government officials, business owners, law enforcement officials, students, nonprofit leaders, activists, experts and opinion leaders
- Leverage social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to find sources and boost audience engagement

Previously, I produced long-form pieces for The Mercury News' community division, for which I also covered the arts and entertainment scene in the South Bay. Prior to that, I reported extensively and expertly on local government, education, local elections, crime, economic development, human interest and business news.

KSAR15

Saratoga, CA

Nov. 2014 to Sept. 2016

Camera Technician and Video Editor

I learned how to edit audio, video and lighting with Final Cut and Adobe softwares and applied that knowledge to produce clips from public service announcements and events for Saratoga's Community Access TV. My responsibilities included developing programming ideas and recording live meetings.

Bay City News Service

San Francisco and San Jose, CA

Sept. 2007 to Feb. 2012

South Bay Bureau Reporter

I started my career at a news wire that's utilized by more than 100 news agencies as an editor of the arts and entertainment calendar then worked my way up to editor of the company's news calendar and breaking news reporter in San Francisco and later worked as a bureau reporter in the company's San Jose office for three years. In that position, I produced four to six news pieces daily about local government, crime, criminal court cases, elections, breaking news in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; provided ongoing coverage of high-profile issues, such as the 49ers stadium project, Lehigh Cement Plant shooting, legalization of medical marijuana, and immigration pension reforms; interviewed high-profile officials, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police and fire investigators, community activists, PR officials, business owners and residents from diverse backgrounds, cultures and those with English as a second language; covered local reaction to international events; and built relationships with key figures in city, county and state government.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Online News Association Silicon Valley, Founder

Online News Association San Francisco, Member

Asian American Journalists Association, Member

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2018 John Swett Award for Media Excellence from the California Teachers Association
- 2018 Business News Coverage Award from the California News Publishers Association
- Commendation from CA Assemblyman Evan Low (as sitting Mayor of Campbell) in 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Citizens, Cities, and Legalized Marijuana (Joaquin Jay Gonzalez and Mickey McGee, McFarland Academic, 2018)