

CHRISTOPHER D. BUTLER

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Public Relations | Communications | Government & Political Affairs | Journalism

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Currently seeking a position in Communications/Public Affairs using 17 years of professional experience in journalism, government lobbying, media outreach, and grassroots organizing.

KEY STRENGTHS

- Communications/Journalism
- Media/Digital Marketing
- Photography
- Video Production and Editing
- Political and Legislative Affairs
- Public/Government Relations
- Radio and Television Appearances
- MS Office Software
- Strategy Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Tennessee Star, Nashville, TN | *Investigative Reporter* Aug. 2018 – Present

- Broke important news stories that attracted statewide attention and also national attention on FOX News and The Blaze after filing public records requests and developing relationships with story sources
- Wrote and published nearly 20 in-depth stories per week about, among other things, Tennessee politics, the COVID-19 outbreak, and the protests that erupted in Tennessee following George Floyd's death
- Interviewed nationally-known politicians, celebrities, and nationally-known opinion makers, including Donald Trump Jr., Nikki Haley, Brian Kilmeade, and Rand Paul, among others
- Shot, produced, and edited videos to accompany certain stories online

TennValues PAC, Nashville, TN | *Media Spokesman* May 2018 – August 2018

- Helped Bill Lee win enough votes in the state primary to enter and then win the general election
- Established media outreach and got coverage of the PAC in the state's largest media outlets
- Recruited volunteers to support Bill Lee's candidacy for governor, a race that he later won

U.S. Term Limits, Nashville, TN | *State Director* Sept. 2017 – May 2018

- Lobbied members of the Tennessee General Assembly to support an Article V term limits resolution
- Recruited grassroots volunteers across Tennessee and oversaw their work
- Provided media attention for the organization in Tennessee and Georgia by writing press releases and newspaper op-eds

Tennessee Watchdog, Nashville, TN | *Investigative Reporter* Sept. 2010 – Aug. 2017

- Recognized by The Washington Post for authoring what it called one of the nation's best state-based blogs
- Produced more than 1,000 in-depth investigative stories exposing government waste, fraud, and abuse in Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, and Louisiana
- Published or cited by national and international news agencies, including FOX News, The Drudge Report, Town Hall, Human Events, The British Daily Mail, and National Review, among many others
- Broke the Tennessee Logo-Gate story, which went viral statewide and nationwide
- Investigated abuse in the EBT card program in Tennessee, which resulted in former Gov. Bill Haslam signing a new state law designed to fix the problem
- Wrote and published a series of investigative articles that contributed to a police chief resigning from office

- Credited for investigative series that prompted the Peachtree City Council in Georgia to cancel an expensive municipal broadband project
- Promoted my work, and my organization, on live radio and television interviews in Nashville, Chattanooga, Memphis, New Orleans, and Shreveport
- Established a partnership with the Nashville-based FOX 17 News television affiliate
- Wrote Tennessee Watchdog articles for two and a half years under the direction of the Nashville-based Beacon Center of Tennessee; for three additional years under the direction of the Alexandria, Virginia-based Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity; and then for a year and a half as president of a separate nonprofit

**The Beacon Center of Tennessee's
2011 and 2012 Tennessee Pork Reports**

Nashville, TN | *Co-Author and Editor*

Published 2011 and 2012

Full-Time Newspaper Reporter

May 2003 – Aug. 2010

- Published many times in The Tampa Tribune, including above-the-fold, on the front page
- Staff Writer at The Ruston Daily Leader and Living Well Magazine (Ruston, LA)
- Staff Writer at Highlands Today (Sebring, FL)
- Staff Writer at Hometown News (Fort Pierce, FL)
- Provided On-the-Ground News Coverage Immediately Before and Immediately After Hurricanes Jeanne and Frances Battered Florida's Treasure Coast
- Full-time and paid internship for four months at The Farmerville Gazette (Farmerville, LA)
- Covered Business, Education, Government, and Law Enforcement
- Wrote Feature Stories

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

University of Louisiana at Monroe | *Master's Degree in Communication, Dec. 2003*

Louisiana Tech University | *Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, English Minor, May 2000*

AWARDS

- Mississippi/Louisiana Associated Press Award, Writing: Best Personal Column, Second Place 2009
- Louisiana Press Association, Best Breaking News Photo, Third Place 2009
- Louisiana Press Association, Best News Story, Honorable Mention 2009