

# Erika Zaro

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## EDUCATION

**UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism** - Master of Journalism *Aug. 2023 - May 2025*

- Emphasis in Investigative Reporting
- Co-Chair of Women in Media

**Loyola Marymount University** - Bachelor of Arts in Journalism *Aug. 2020 - May 2023*

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude
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## EXPERIENCE

**UC Berkeley Investigative Reporting Program** - Student Reporter *May 2024 - Present*

- Pitched, conducted research, and interviewed sources for a year-long investigative story about a children's locked residential facility in Los Angeles with numerous abuse allegations
- Composed and filed dozens of public records requests, including Los Angeles Police Department incident reports, calls for service, and Department of Social Services investigation reports
- Produced highly detailed reporting memos for editors before weekly meetings

**The Press Democrat** - General Assignment Intern Reporter *May 2024 - Aug. 2024*

- Pitched and reported a variety of breaking news and general assignment stories within Napa County
- Assisted in the newsroom with an all-hands-on-deck mentality and collaborated closely with other reporters and editors during daily editorial meetings
- Properly maintained newsroom story budget and successfully worked on tight deadlines

**Richmond Confidential** - Public Safety Reporter *Sep. 2023 - Apr. 2024*

- Pitched, produced, and reported stories about public safety and the police department
  - Investigated the Richmond PD's sex trafficking sting operations by utilizing public records and interviews with subject experts
  - Obtained and analyzed public records, pursued elusive stories, and forged professional relationships with media-wary sources
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## SKILLS

- Investigative Reporting, Narrative Writing, AP Style, Public Records Request
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## AWARDS

- **Loyola Marymount University Journalism Department** - 1st Place in Journalism Capstone Awards (2023) - *The San Quentin News*
- **Los Angeles Press Club Southern California Journalism Awards** - 3rd Place for Best Feature Writing for Off-Campus Issues (2023) - *The Unhoused Women of Skid Row*
- **Society of Professional Journalists Region 11** - Mark of Excellence Awards Finalist (2022) - *The Unhoused Women of Skid Row*