

Sari Lesk Multimedia journalist

Journalist experienced in media including print, radio and digital. Proven abilities in reporting, editing, photography, videography, social media and search engine optimization.

Milwaukee Business Journal | Managing editor | September 2023-Present

- Coach reporters through story development.
- Support staff's reporting with assistance on data analysis and visualization.
- Edit reporters' work, including for substance, accuracy, clarity, fairness and Associated Press style.
- Manage production of weekly print publication and special sections.

O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism | Fellow | August 2021-May 2022

- Reported in-depth project examining access to capital in an increasingly digital financial ecosystem.
- Managed contractor and student interns, who assisted with reporting.

Milwaukee Business Journal | Reporter | August 2018-September 2023

- Broke business news on restaurant, retail, banking and education beats.
- Tracked health of companies using public records and analysts' reports.
- Contributed to national coverage of Covid-19 relief programs.
- Hosted weekly business podcast on rotating basis.

Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle | Freelance reporter | December 2017-Present

- Report articles relevant to state's Jewish community, typically assigned monthly.

The Journal Times | Reporter | November 2017-July 2018

- Developed sources and used public records to cover Racine City Council and higher education.
- Regularly served in editing roles to prepare colleagues' articles for publication.
- Served on team of reporters that examined the impact of evictions in Racine County.

Stevens Point Journal | Reporter | June 2014-October 2017

- Reported on high-impact issues in local government, education, business and nonprofits.
- Served on team of reporters that demonstrated how a jumble of local, state and federal regulations allows a railroad company to block people into their homes with its trains.
- Broke story of a drainage board's aggressive efforts to prevent a farmer from building a trout habitat in a drainage ditch, a dispute that was appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Professional awards

Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing

Banking/finance, small division winner, 2022

Milwaukee Press Club

Best public service story or series, gold, 2022

Best business story or series, silver, 2020

Best online business story or series, bronze, 2018

Wisconsin Newspaper Association

Enterprise/interpretive reporting, 2nd place, 2018

Local government reporting, 3rd place, 2018

General news story, 1st place, 2016

Feature (non-profile), 1st place, 2016

Local government reporting, 1st place, 2016

Local education reporting, honorable mention, 2016

Digital project, honorable mention, 2016

Breaking news coverage, 2nd place, 2014

Social media journalism, 2nd place, 2014

State Bar of Wisconsin

Golden Gavel certificate of commendation, 2015 and 2016

Education

Bachelor's degree in
news-editorial journalism

University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Class of 2014

Academic awards

Graduated with
highest honors

James Scholar

Kappa Tau Alpha