

Ben Leonard

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Education:

Duke University, Durham, NC

BA May 2020

Major: Public Policy Studies **Certificate:** Journalism

GPA: 3.82, Graduated Cum Laude. Dean's List with Distinction Spring and Fall 2019, Dean's List Fall 2018.

Awards: Duke's Fischer-Zernin Award for Local Journalism, Duke Chronicle's Editor's Award for outstanding contributions to the newspaper, 2020 AAN BINJ Award.

Activities: Duke Chronicle, Project BUILD, Club Baseball.

Coursework: Advanced Reporting, Data Journalism, News Writing & Reporting, News Ethics, Watchdog Journalism, Policy Analysis, Political Analysis, Local/State Policy, Macroeconomics, Business Journalism.

Journalism Experience:



POLITICO, Breaking News Intern, Washington, D.C. area

January 11, 2021-present

Covering breaking news and enterprise; Covered [impeachment](#), [inauguration](#), [insurrection fallout](#), Senate confirmation hearings, Cabinet [decisions](#), Biden [orders](#) and press briefings; Articles frequently among most-read on website.



Baltimore Sun, Mary J. Corey Intern on Breaking News Desk, Baltimore, MD

September 2020 – end of December 2020

Covered breaking state and local news; Joined politics team for coverage of 2020 election; Covered Gov. Larry Hogan's coronavirus news conferences, [vaccination efforts and daily coronavirus numbers](#) nearly every [day](#); [Interviewed U.S. Senator one-on-one](#) for daily story; Wrote 160+ stories (12 1A); Work included 1A [story on red flag law](#) being used in Maryland second-most of all states; Wrote 1A story [explaining surge in gun purchases](#); Exposed food desert [deepening](#); [Led coverage of explosion](#) that made national news; Internship began in fall due to COVID-19.



Tampa Bay Times, Metro Reporting Intern, St. Petersburg, FL

Summer 2019

Reported on local, state and national breaking news and other local news; Wrote 39 stories, including Sunday 1A investigation that I had pitched; Investigation found ICE arrests of people without criminal records in Florida [increasing seven times](#) under Trump; Received Tampa Bay Times Fund scholarship; Reported on Walmart shooting threat in wake of El Paso shooting and [increasing momentum in Congress on "red flag" laws](#); Wrote [two](#) obituaries of local leaders and covered several homicides and instances of police use of excessive force.



NBC News, Investigations Intern, New York, NY

Summer 2018

Wrote [two](#) self-generated investigative [pieces](#) on ICE enforcement under Trump administration, including one at the top of the homepage; Reported on child separation policy, the Department of Justice and hate groups; Reported on ICE courthouse arrests

investigation [aired](#) on NBC Nightly News; Wrote [investigation](#) on Trump-endorsed company that promised riches but left many broke; Assisted in research and other production.



Reveal/The Center for Investigative Reporting, *Intern, Emeryville, CA*

Summer 2017

Published an [investigation on Trump transition team](#), along with two other articles; Wrote [report](#) showing healthcare for transgender people in military that Trump threatened to cut cost the same as one missile; Reported for two articles on campaign finance and on a dark money organization; Posted daily content on CIR social media (400k+ followers).



Duke Chronicle, *Managing Editor, Durham, NC*

August 2016 – May 2020

Wrote 450 articles and edited hundreds; Was Features and Investigations Editor; Managed staff of nearly 150 reporters, editors, and photographers as Managing Editor in 2018-19; Staff I oversaw won 2019 Pacemaker Award; Wrote [exposé](#) that [sparked](#) policy overhaul after lax security led to drunken mob; Wrote [investigation](#) finding Duke program suspended for nudity, potential hazing; Wrote report [breaking](#) news that Duke was investigating potentially illegal payments from Nike to Zion Williamson; [Broke news](#) that name of building on campus proposed to be changed due to namesake being white supremacist; Wrote dozens of breaking news articles.



The 9th Street Journal, *Local Government/Courthouse Reporter, Durham, NC*

Fall 2018 and 2019, Spring and Summer 2020

Award-winning beat reporter for 2019 [case](#) of Alexander Bishop, accused of killing wealthy father; Reporting in summer 2020 on Durham local government and crime; Exposed lack of [transparency](#) and [errors](#) in government loan program; Profiled Durham mayor and strong [approach](#) to COVID-19; Reporting in fall 2018 focused on city council and other local government issues; Published [report](#) showing many did not get flood warnings ahead of hurricane; Wrote [feature](#) on person who believes owl—not the man accused of doing so—killed the man's wife; Reporting published in News & Observer, Durham Herald-Sun and Indy Week.

Skills:

Languages: Proficient in Spanish (conducted interviews at *Times* in Spanish).

Computers: Microsoft Office Suite, video and audio editing, social media, Photoshop

References:

1. Jamal Thalji, Assistant Metro Editor, Tampa Bay Times ((727) 580-1542, jthalji@tampabay.com)
2. Nick DiMarco, Breaking News Content Editor, Baltimore Sun (443-635-4700, ndimarco@baltsun.com)
3. Bill Adair, Founder of PolitiFact and Knight Professor of the Practice of Journalism and Public Policy at Duke ((202) 236-5603, bill.adair@duke.edu)
4. Amy Hollyfield, Senior Deputy Editor, Tampa Bay Times (727-893-8491, ahollyfield@tampabay.com)