

EMILIE KARRICK SURRUSCO

Writer, Editor and Communications Strategist

202.341.8787 | eksurrusco@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/emiliesurrusco www.ellsworthmediagroup.com

SUMMARY

Highly accomplished writer who lives, breathes and consumes the written word. Skilled wordsmith and meticulous editor lauded for crafting messages and strategies that get noticed. Capable leader, with experience in political, nonprofit and editorial realms, who thrives under pressure.

SKILLS

- Writing/editing
- Speechwriting
- Strategic communications
- Media Relations
- Message development
- Narrative journalism
- Media training
- Social media
- Crisis communications

EXPERIENCE

- President** | Ellsworth Media Group, Silver Spring, MD **2017-Present**
- Founded full-service communications firm that uses the latest storytelling techniques to create messages that matter.
- Provide exceptional writing, editing and strategic consulting services to nonprofit organizations and political leaders.
- Senior Speechwriter** | U.S. Small Business Administration, Washington, DC **2016-2017**
- Selected as Obama administration political appointee to serve as sole speechwriter for presidential Cabinet member.
- Wrote speeches, op-eds and testimony on key policy priorities such as economic development and international trade.
- Assistant Director/Speechwriter** | American Federation of Teachers, Washington, DC **2014-2016**
- Composed speeches, columns and op-eds for president and vice-president of leading teacher's union.
- Developed and executed communications strategy for AFT constituencies and issue priorities.
- Speechwriter** | American Bar Association, Washington, DC **2012-2014**
- Wrote speeches, op-eds and columns for president of nation's foremost legal association.
- Managed media outreach for seven ABA entities and led organization's crisis communications planning.
- Communications Director** | Alaska Wilderness League, Washington, DC **2008-2012**
- Orchestrated earned, paid and social media strategy for national campaigns.
- Drafted everything from book chapters and fundraising letters to blog posts and press releases.
- Communications Consultant** | Iraq Veterans Against the War, Washington, DC **2007-2008**
- Associate** | Abernathy Associates, Washington, DC **2003-2005**
- Press Secretary** | Ms. Magazine/Feminist Majority Foundation, Arlington, VA **2002-2003**
- Assistant Producer** | Abernathy Associates, Washington, DC **2002**
- Assistant City Editor/Investigative Reporter** | The Daily Times, Farmington, NM **2000-2001**
- Reporter** | Contra Costa Sun, Lafayette, CA **1997-2000**

EDUCATION

MFA in Creative Nonfiction | Goucher College, Baltimore, MD **2005-2007**
- Applied immersion journalism techniques to produce 200-page manuscript on domestic violence.

BA in Political Studies/Asian Studies | Pitzer College, Claremont, CA **1992-1996**
- Graduated cum honoribus.
- Studied advanced Chinese language at Nanjing University in China.

AWARDS

Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
- Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation creative nonfiction writing fellowship

Washington Post
- Essay Contest Grand Prize

New Mexico Associated Press
- First Place Feature Writing
- First Place Contributor Continuing Coverage - Second Place Spot News Coverage
- Second Place Continuing Coverage
- Second Place Investigative Reporting
- Third Place Science Writing

National Federation of Press Women
- Second Place Continuing Coverage

New Mexico Federation of Press Women
- First Place Continuing Coverage
- Third Place Reporting

VOLUNTEER

Board member | DC EcoWomen, Washington, DC
- Manage blog and help lead local nonprofit dedicated to inspiring women to create a healthy and equitable society.

Assistant Coach | Girls on the Run, Silver Spring, MD
- Assist with twice weekly practices and bi-annual 5k for local preteen girls with curriculum on female empowerment.

Member | Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County, Rockville, MD
- Active contributor on communications and political action committees.