SCOTT SCHWEBKE

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Summary

Nationally recognized investigative reporter specializing in accountability journalism and source-driven enterprise reporting. Proven track record in uncovering impactful stories and analyzing complex data to create compelling content for digital and multimedia platforms. Experienced in managing fast-paced breaking news and in-depth investigative projects under tight deadlines.

Skills

- Investigative reporting
- Accountability journalism
- Source development
- Public records research
- Data analysis and reporting
- Breaking news coverage
- Multimedia storytelling
- Interviewing skills
- Legal research
- Investigative project planning
- Editorial collaboration
- Online content distribution

Experience

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER | 06/2013 - 08/2025

Orange County Register

- Led high-impact investigative and enterprise reporting published across Southern California News Group's network of 11 daily newspapers, reaching regional and national audiences.
- Contributed reporting to Southern California News Group's Pulitzer Prize finalist coverage (Breaking News, 2025) of the Eaton and Palisades wildfires, including survivor-focused stories and recovery coverage.
- Conceived, developed, and executed investigative and accountability stories, delivering timely enterprise pieces and in-depth multi-year investigations.
- Produced reporting that led to government investigations, policy reforms, leadership resignations, and legislative change.
- Built trusted relationships with whistleblowers, institutional insiders, attorneys, and law enforcement officials to generate exclusive reporting.
- Identified accountability angles on breaking news developments and translated complex events into clear, audience-focused reporting under deadline.
- Analyzed court records, public documents, internal records, and datasets to uncover systemic failures and institutional misconduct.
- Collaborated with editors, visual teams, and digital staff to maximize story impact across platforms.
- Balanced multiple short- and long-term reporting projects simultaneously in a fast-paced, deadline-driven newsroom.
- Southern California News Group's network of 11 daily newspapers.

REPORTER (BREAKING NEWS, COURTS, GOVERNMENT) | 12/2004 - 06/2013

Standard-Examiner

- Reported on crime, courts, government, and breaking news emphasizing accountability, accuracy, and speed.
- Covered state government and legislation, building expertise in public policy, records requests, and governmental processes.
- Developed enterprise angles from breaking news events to deliver deeper, context-driven reporting.
- Reconstructed complex events through records analysis, interviews, and multi-source verification.
- Crafted timely, engaging stories for print and digital audiences while meeting daily deadlines.

Education

Brigham Young University - Provo, Utah | B.A.
Communications

Volunteerism

- Report for America Mentor.
- Investigative reporting guest lecturer; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Fullerton; and Chapman University.

Selected High Impact Investigations

- Bad Apples, Led a multi-year investigation into decades of sexual abuse and institutional cover-up within a major school district. A federal investigation later validated findings.
- Rehab Riviera, Exposed widespread fraud, corruption, and patient exploitation in Southern California's addiction treatment industry; reporting prompted multiple state legislative reforms.
- UCLA Physician Misconduct, Conducted a two-year investigation uncovering misconduct and improper payments involving a prominent surgeon; reporting led to the resignation of a top medical official.
- Los Angeles DA #MeToo, Revealed systemic sexual harassment and retaliation within the nation's largest prosecutor's office, prompting widespread public scrutiny and institutional response.

Awards

- 50+ State, Regional, and National Journalism Awards
- 20+ First-Place Honors for Investigative and Public-Service Reporting
- 6x Recipient of the Los Angeles Press Club's Top Investigative Reporting Award
- Multiple First-Place Honors from the California News Publishers Association

Portfolio

- authory.com/ScottSchwebke