

Kamara Jones

(b)(6)

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Organization: U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee **Dates:** February 2020 – Present

- Develop communications and outreach strategies for the Vice Chair and other Democratic committee members, which includes recommending reports ([We Need to Save Child Care Before It's Too Late](#)) and legislation ([The Cost of Police Misconduct](#)).
- Drafted [The Cost of Police Misconduct Act](#). Pitched and placed a story in [Vox](#) about the bill. Manage digital director.

DIRECTOR

Organization: Spitfire Strategies **Dates:** April 2019 – February 2020

- Developed communications strategies for Piper Kerman, author of *Orange is the New Black*, and other clients (i.e. Montpelier, PBS, Demos, Dove, and Aspen). Pitched and placed a [NowThis op-ed](#) featuring Piper and the OITNB cast that received millions of views.
- Led in-person and webinar trainings to increase client capacity in the following areas: Capitol Hill/advocacy, social media, media relations, tailored messaging, and storytelling.
- Managed junior staff by delegating tasks, setting deadlines, and providing constructive feedback.
- Managed budgets by tracking staff hours, staying within the scope of work, and approving invoices. Drafted new business proposals.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Organization: Congressional Black Caucus **Dates:** February 2017 – January 2019

- Developed communications strategies for the 48-member bicameral, bipartisan CBC, including strategies for the CBC's meetings with President Trump, Facebook, and the FBI. Hosted biweekly meeting with communicators in CBC offices.
- Advised member-offices on communications strategy, including crisis communications for [Conyers/#MeToo](#).
- Worked with HBO's *Vice* on a CBC mini doc, and with Revolution Messaging on a [Trump mini doc](#).
- Organized Twitter town halls on policing, health care, and President Trump that reached 400K, 600K, and 800K people respectively. Wrote the most popular CBC [tweet](#) since the Caucus launched its Twitter account in 2011.
- Quadrupled Twitter (84K) and Instagram (41K) followers, and increased Facebook followers by 10% (231K).
- Led the most comprehensive rebranding in the history of the CBC, which included redesigning the [CBC's website](#).

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

Organization: Steven Horsford for Congress **Dates:** October 2018 – November 2018

- Planned African-American get-out-the-vote events for celebrity democratic surrogate Kendrick Sampson (HBO's *Insecure*).
- Pitched and placed stories in [The Nevada Independent](#) and [The Las Vegas Review Journal](#) and on [NBC Channel 3](#).
- Shot a get-out-the-vote [video](#) with the candidate and Eric Holder. Staffed the candidate and campaign surrogates at events.
- Wrote an op-ed for the monthly African-American magazine [The Urban Voice](#) and other press materials.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH (Political Appointee)

Organization: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **Dates:** January 2016 - January 2017

- Developed communications strategies for the federal effort in Flint, Mich. These strategies helped the Department transition from response to recovery. Prepped the lead Flint federal official and her staff for interviews and hearings.
- Advised public health agencies (i.e. FDA, CDC, NIH, ASPR) on communications strategy.

PRESS SECRETARY (Political Appointee)

Organization: U.S. General Services Administration **Dates:** May 2015 – December 2015

- Served as the chief on-the-record spokesperson for the \$24 billion agency.
- Managed messaging for two viral media stories, which included one [I pitched](#) and the Trump Hotel dispute.
- Developed a communications strategy for the Administrator's vision, which involved planning out-of-state press events.
- Advised 11 GSA regional headquarters on communications strategy.

DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY (Political Appointee)

Organization: U.S. General Services Administration **Dates:** July 2014 – May 2015

- Served as the deputy on-the-record spokesperson for the \$24 billion agency.
- Developed a communications strategy for the \$4.5 billion U.S. Department of Homeland Security consolidation at St. Elizabeths, which helped secure additional federal funding for the project.
- Liaised with the White House, federal agencies, and GSA subject matter experts to respond to media inquiries. Managed the redesign of and all content on The GSA Blog.

PRESS SECRETARY

Organization: Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) **Dates:** June 2012 – July 2014

- Served as both interim national and interim state communications director. Managed press assistant.
- Twice managed the media response to Newtown families lobbying for gun safety on Capitol Hill.
- Wrote, edited, and formatted over 400 advisories, press releases, statements, and editorials

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) LEGISLATIVE FELLOW

Organization: Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight - Chairwoman U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D- Mo.) **Dates:** September 2011 – May 2012

- Assisted with wartime contracting, Iran sanctions, bid shopping, and food service contract issues.
- Interviewed whistleblowers. Wrote letters to Inspectors General on their behalf.
- Wrote the activities report for the 111th Congress. Revised the food service contract report.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION (CBCF) LEGISLATIVE FELLOW

Organization: Office of U.S. Congressman Bobby Scott (D-Va.) **Dates:** September 2010 – September 2011

- Organized juvenile justice policy briefings. Moderated the Congressman's first telephone town hall.
- Advised the Congressman on juvenile justice, education, and strategic sourcing issues.
- Managed social media engagement during the town hall at the CBCF's 2011 Annual Legislative Conference.

TIME INC. EDITORIAL INTERN

Organization: Essence **Dates:** June 2007 – August 2007

- Wrote the "What Men Think" column for the October 2007 issue of *Essence*.
- Wrote a fitness DVD review and a story about pink ribbon products for www.essence.com.
- Distributed final proofs, calculated deadlines, and filed pages for the deputy managing editor.

COPY EDITOR

Organization: Columbia Missourian **Dates:** January 2007 – May 2007

- Edited news stories for Associated Press style, grammar, and spelling. Wrote headlines for news stories.

PUBLIC LIFE REPORTER

Organization: Columbia Missourian **Dates:** May 2006 – August 2006

- Covered the city's controversial \$21 million plan to renovate and expand City Hall without a public vote.
- Wrote several front-page news stories on cell phone etiquette, global warming, HIV, and other topics.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER

Organization: The Kansas City Star **Dates:** May 2005 – August 2005

- Wrote a front-page feature story. Covered local news in three Kansas City suburbs.

FEATURES REPORTER, FREELANCE REPORTER

Organization: Columbia Daily Tribune **Dates:** June 2002 – August 2002 and November 2004 – December 2004

- Wrote in-depth features on smoking, school supplies, and Indian classical dance. Profiled local artists.

SKILLS

- Associated Press Style • Branding • Crisis Communications (e.g. Newtown, Flint, Trump Hotel, [Charlottesville](#), [Rep. John Conyers/#MeToo](#)) • Culturally Competent Communications (e.g. [Vote](#), [#StayWoke](#), ["Black Babe Ruth,"](#) [Cardi B Meme](#), [Kavan-Nah](#))
- Editorial Judgment (i.e. Writing, Graphic Design, Web Design, Videography, Photography) • Forcing Media Outlets to Issue Corrections
- Liaising with the White House, Federal Agencies, Non-Profits, and Celebrities • Media Relations • Planning Press Events • Prepping Leaders for Media Interviews (e.g. Murder Boards, Tough Questions and Answers) • Rapid Response • Scheduling and Staffing Interviews
- Speechwriting • Using Social Media Platforms • Writing Press Materials and Legislation

EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

School: The Ohio State University (OSU) **Honors:** Graduate Enrichment Fellowship **Graduation Date:** March 2010

Master's Thesis: The impact of the Obama-inspired, post-racial narrative on the African-American community and civil rights.

BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM IN NEWS-EDITORIAL

School: University of Missouri (MU) **Honors:** Magna cum laude, Honors College **Graduation Date:** May 2008

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program Research: The impact of the GOP's southern strategy on Democratic candidates.