

Stephanie J. Oppenheimer, APR, is the founder and principal of Skylite Communications, an independent communications firm based in Falls Church, Virginia. An accomplished business-to-consumer and business-to-business writer and editor, Oppenheimer has more than 20 years of experience working for corporations, associations, small businesses, and state and local agencies.



Prior to launching Skylite Communications, Oppenheimer served as assistant vice president of communications for the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International, a trade association for commercial real estate professionals. There, she headed up the association's public relations program, edited its national magazine, served as contributing editor to several industry trade publications and wrote speeches for BOMA's officers.

Earlier in her career, Oppenheimer developed the public relations program for the Virginia region of Shannon & Luchs Realtors' residential real estate division. She eventually oversaw communications for the entire national capital area as communications director for Weichert, Realtors, which bought out Shannon & Luchs in 1994.

Oppenheimer received her bachelor's of science in communications with honors from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She has earned her accreditation in public relations (APR) from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Fairfax. She served on the PRSA National Capital Chapter's Board of Directors for four years, as well as on the Executive Board of the chapter's Independent Public Relations Alliance (IPRA), a network of independent public relations professionals. She is also a member of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce.

While her earliest career aspirations originally were focused on being a veterinarian, Oppenheimer quickly realized science and math weren't her bailiwicks and turned instead to English, her favorite grade school subject. Awkward childhood diary entries expanded to a typewritten family newspaper (complete with a "Dear Steff" advice column), and, later, a wildly lopsided math/verbal SAT score convinced her to state upfront on college applications that she fully intended to study communications. Today, when she's not writing for clients, she often writes for a local paper and accepts pro bono work for several local organizations, including Christmas in April and for the American Horse Protection Association. She and her family live in Falls Church, Va., with two cats, two fish and two hermit crabs.