Brienna Brandau

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley — Berkeley, CA
B.S. in Civil Engineering & B.A. in Philosophy — *Expected May 2028*

Relevant Coursework: Solid Mechanics, Geotechnical & Geoenvironmental Engineering, Fluid Mechanics, Computer Programming, Foundations of Data Science, Linear Algebra & Differential Equations, Multivariable Calculus

EXPERIENCE

Valley Consulting Group — Berkeley, CA
Contract Strategy Consultant — *Sep 2026 – Present*

- Evaluate competitive dynamics, industry trends, and expansion opportunities, identifying critical market gaps to accelerate long-term growth for Silicon Valley tech executives, organizing research into a slide deck.
- Engage in an intensive 10-week professional development program covering quantitative frameworks, market entry strategies, financial modeling, and executive presentation design to prepare for client deliverables.
- Selected from 1,000+ annual applicants (~**1%** acceptance rate) to join a student-run, non-profit consulting group that delivers solutions to Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading Silicon Valley tech clients.

Cal-Cryo & Nogales Lab (**UC Berkeley**) — Berkeley, CA
Lab Operations Assistant — *Aug 2026 – Present*

- Maintained **100% operational uptime** across cryo-EM instruments by managing liquid nitrogen inventory, staging 6 high-capacity 240L tanks weekly, and ensuring continuous cooling of technical equipment.
- Maintained a zero-incident safety record while executing -196°C cryogenic fluid transfers under UC Berkeley EH&S/CA seismic protocols, including dual-chain restraints and constant pressure monitoring.
- Supported operations for $10M+ in high-precision cryo-EM research infrastructure by overseeing restricted Electron Microscopy spaces, managing facility security, and mitigating operational and safety hazards.

Paradise Cove Beach Cafe — Malibu, CA
Lead Hostess — *May 2026 – Aug 2026*

- Directed front-of-house operations for 1,800–2,000 daily guests across 35+ hours/week by managing a 7-person host team and coordinating real-time table allocation for 18–22 floor servers during peak shifts.
- Consistently reduced peak guest wait times by ~**25%** (from 2 hours to ~1.5 hours) by coordinating seating across 110 tables and 40+ front/back-of-house staff using OpenTable software during high-volume hours.
- De-escalated high-stress guest issues at the host stand, including wait-time frustrations, reservation mix-ups, and seating requests, keeping table flow and overall service on track during the restaurant's busiest hours.

ASUC Office of Senator Lucia Stankovic — Berkeley, CA
Policy, Advocacy, & Engagement Associate — *Feb 2026 – May 2026*

- Secured 3 official caucus endorsements and policy alignment from key campus international student organizations by spearheading targeted outreach to 15+ student committees for the Senator's office.
- Reached an estimated **500+ marginalized students** by designing and distributing digital advocacy resources on navigating campus support systems, advancing the Senator's international student advocacy platform.
- Developed the administrative requirements, policy timeline, and operational framework for a proposed caucus to represent international students in UC Berkeley's student government, as part of a 5-person policy team.

Malibu Mock Trial — Malibu, CA
Co-Captain & Attorney — *Sep 2022 – Jun 2025*

- Co-led a 25-person team to the furthest finish in school history, earning the Quarterfinalist award among 90+ teams in the Los Angeles County Mock Trial Competition by coordinating prosecution and defense teams.
- Earned consistent **9–10/10 attorney scores** from competition judges by synthesizing complex 90-page case files into structured arguments, evidentiary objections, and trial frameworks for both prosecution and defense.
- Prepared 25 teammates for Los Angeles County competition rounds by authoring argument outlines and analytical scripts and coaching peers in trial strategy, public speaking, and courtroom decorum as Co-Captain.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Skills: Python, MATLAB, PowerPoint, Data Analysis, Canva, thinkorswim, Figma, Market Research, Decking
Languages: English (Fluent); Spanish (Biliterate)
Interests: Water Polo, Golf, Acoustic guitar, 2000-Piece Puzzles, Photography, Competitive Word Games