About the New England First Amendment Institute

WHAT IS NEFAI?
The New England First Amendment Institute is an intensive training course for working journalists on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques now in its fifth year. By bringing together highly acclaimed media lawyers and award-winning journalists, we offer our 25 fellows a rich and collegial training program to help them improve their watchdog journalism.

WHO IS IT FOR?
Applicants must be working journalists in print, digital or broadcast media in New England. NEFAI is designed for both new and veteran journalists, however, applicants should have at least two years of professional news reporting experience and long-term plans to stay within the profession.

WHAT DO YOU LEARN?
Though our curriculum is often changed to reflect the evolving needs of journalists, each institute typically includes lectures and workshops that focus on the following:

- State public records and open meetings laws
- The federal Freedom of Information Act
- Database reporting skills
- Security and Exchange Commission document review
- How to respond to FOI request denials and rejections
- Inspiring stories from award-winning journalists

WHAT DOES IT COST?
The 25 fellows selected for this year’s institute will attend at no cost. Light refreshments and meals are provided during the times the institute is in session. Fellows, however, are responsible for their own travel and hotel accommodations, if needed. Local hotel rooms and shuttles will be available.

SPONSORS
Our institute is supported each year by the generosity of many individuals and organizations. Major supporters of this year’s institute include:

- PROVIDENCE JOURNAL Charitable Foundation
- The Boston Globe
- THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS
Applicants are welcome to apply for a scholarship to cover all or part of their travel and hotel accommodations. Please note that scholarships are given based on individual need and, with the exception of the James W. Foley Scholarship (see below), are not guaranteed to be available each year.

JAMES W. FOLEY SCHOLARSHIP
A seasoned war correspondent for Boston-based GlobalPost, New Hampshire native James Foley committed himself to the truth and, in his words, “exposing untold stories.” While working in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, Foley reported on the lives of those disadvantaged and suffering. His barbaric death in 2014 reminded the nation of the dangers of his craft and the threats against freedom of information.

In honor of James, NEFAC established the James W. Foley Scholarship to provide funding for one fellow to attend the institute without travel or lodging expenses.

STAY CONNECTED
Please stay updated on NEFAI news — including speaker announcements and faculty additions — by referencing the following hashtag: #NEFAI2015. You can also connect with NEFAC in the following ways:

- @Five Freedoms
- www.tinyurl.com/nefaclinkedin
- www.facebook.com/groups/nefirstamendment

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive news alerts and the monthly NEFAC Report, featuring original reporting and a comprehensive round-up of First Amendment and FOI news from across the region: www.tinyurl.com/nefacsubscribe.
Former NEFA Fellows

2011

CONNECTICUT
Richard Campbell
The Register Citizen

Jenne Cho
The Day

JC Reindl
The Day

Alexandra Sanders
New Haven Register

Julie Stagis
The Hartford Courant

MAINE
Susan Cover
Maine Today

Emily Guerin
The Forecaster

Jesse Nankin
Watchdog
New England

Eric Russell
Bangor Daily News

MASSACHUSETTS
Keith Eddings
Eagle-Tribune

Jim Haddadin
Arlington Advocate

Laura Hutchinson
WWLP 22News

Lyle Moran
The Sun

David Riley
MetroWest Daily News

Rory Schuler
Taunton Daily

Matthew Stout
The Enterprise
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Joseph Cote
Nashua Telegraph

Mark Davis
Valley News

Maddie Hanna
Concord Monitor

Amanda Milkovits
Providence Journal

2012

CONNECTICUT
Shawn Beals
Hartford Courant

Beau Berman
WTIC-TV

Alexander Goldstein
The Day

Kevin Litten
Republican-American

Erin Logan
WTNH

Francine Silverman
Hearst Newspapers MAINE

Will Graff
The Forecaster

Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal

MASSACHUSETTS
Alex Bloom
The Enterprise

George Brennan
Cape Cod Times

Fernandes Deirdre
The Boston Globe

David Eisenstadter
The Transcript
Sarah Favot
Lowell Sun

Martine Powers
The Boston Globe

Patrick Ronan
Patriot Ledger

Shaun Sutner
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

2013

CONNECTICUT
Lisa Backus
The Bristol Press

Jenna Carlesso
The Courant

Tina Detelj
WTNH

Jessica Glenza
The Register Citizen

Maggie Gordon
Hearst Newspapers

David Iversen
WTNH

Alec Johnson
Republican-American

Viktoria Sundqvist
The Middletown Press

MAINE
Matthew Curren
WGME

2014

CONNECTICUT
Jason Bagley
TruthInAdvertising.org

Kelly Catalfamo
The Day

Massachusetts
Doug Fraser
Cape Cod Times

Wes Lowery
The Boston Globe

Joshua Miller
The Boston Globe

Shawn Musgrave
MuckRock

Neena Pathak
Schuster Institute

Neal Simpson
The Patriot Ledger

Schuyler Velasco
Christian Science Monitor

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Todd Bookman
NH Public Radio

Sarah Brubeck
Eagle Times

Christopher Garofolo

Kathryn Marchocki
NH Union Leader

Kaitlin Mulhere
Keene Sentinel

RHODE ISLAND
Bill Malinowski
Providence Journal

Mark Reynolds
Providence Journal

VERMONT
Nathan Burgess
Stowe Reporter

Olga Peters
The Commons

Jennifer Swift
New Haven Register

Tess Townsend
The Day

MAINE
Jon Chrisos
CBS13/Fox23

Michael Shepherd
Kennebec Journal

MASSACHUSETTS
Sean F. Driscoll
Cape Cod Times

Beryl Lipton
MuckRock

Priyanka McCluskey
The Boston Globe

Alexa Mills
The Boston Globe

Alex Ruppenthal
Medford Transcript

Eli Sherman
Waltham News Tribune

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Emily Corwin
NH Public Radio

Alyssa Dandrea
The Keene Sentinel

Nora Doyle-Burr
Valley News

Peter McGuire
Forecaster Newspapers

Kerry Miller
Eagle Times

RHODE ISLAND
Randall Edgar
Providence Journal

Paul Grimaldi
Providence Journal

Janine Weisman
Newport Mercury

VERMONT
Taylor Dobbs
Vermont Public Radio

Abby Ledoux
Milton Independent

Allison Teague
The Commons
The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — editors and reporters alike — to attend a three-day intensive training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques from Oct. 18-20 in Dedham, Massachusetts. To be eligible, an applicant must be a working journalist in print, digital or broadcast media in New England. The institute is designed for both relatively new and veteran journalists, however, applicants should have at least two years of professional news reporting experience and long-term plans to stay within the profession. Applicants working for a news organization must submit letters of recommendation from their current editors or supervisors, along with the application and required attachments. One additional recommendation from a former editor or supervisor is optional. Self-employed applicants may submit recommendations as described below. Broadcast journalists should submit their stories via links if possible, and on DVDs if not possible.

Please fully answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper, restating the question.

(1) Describe why you would like to attend the New England First Amendment Institute. What do you hope to take away from the program? What do you hope to add to the program?

(2) Describe a problem you have encountered while investigating a story and how you reacted to it. Do you think attending the institute might help you with similar difficulties in the future? If so, how?

(3) Describe what you believe is your best asset as a journalist. Please tell us what you feel has been your greatest success as a journalist.

(4) Tell us how you would spread the knowledge you gain at the institute to others in your news organization.

(5) The institute is designed for professional journalists, with different levels of experience, who are committed to continue working in journalism after the institute. What skills do you hope to acquire during NEFAI to help your journalism career over the next several years?

(6) If you are selected as a fellow for this year’s institute, will your attendance be contingent on the availability of a scholarship to cover all or part of your travel and hotel accommodations?

Required Attachments

(1) Resume

(2) Recommendation from a current editor/supervisor or, if self-employed, a former or current editor of your freelance work. Please use the Recommendation Form included in this application.

(3) Portfolio of your three best investigative stories. If you have not done investigative work, please attach three news-based stories that represent your best effort.

*Please submit your application, resume, portfolio and recommendation via email by September 4, 2015, to mail@nefirstamendment.org. If there is no acknowledgement from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.*
New England First Amendment Institute
Recommendation Form
Deadline September 4, 2015

Applicant Name ____________________________________________
Applicant Position __________________________________________
Your Name __________________________________________________
Your Position ________________________________________________
Phone/Email ________________________________________________

Please fully answer the questions below in your letter of recommendation and attach your letter to this form.

(1) How long have you worked with the applicant, and in what capacity?

(2) How long have you known the applicant?

(3) In detail, what is your assessment of the quality of the applicant's work, and is the applicant capable of investigative reporting?

(4) Do you believe the applicant is firmly committed to freedom of information and will spread the knowledge gained through this fellowship?

(5) Is your organization willing to sponsor the applicant for the costs of attending the program (i.e. transportation plus two nights hotel stay in Dedham, Massachusetts)?

☐ Yes
☐ No