

11TH ANNUAL

NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT AWARDS



Featuring

Yamiche Alcindor

PBS NewsHour

Stephen Hamblett

First Amendment Award

Also Honoring

Bangor Daily News

Michael Donoghue

Freedom of Information Award

Jeanne Kempthorne

Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award

Professor Marianne Salcetti and

Keene State College Journalism Students

Special Recognition for Public Records Advocacy

Presented by the

New England First Amendment Coalition

April 21, 2021 | 7 p.m. | Online | nefac.org

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Hearst Connecticut Media Group

The Boston Globe

Paul and Ann Sagan

Boston University

WBUR

The Robertson Foundation

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Ceremony Begins 7:00

Welcoming Remarks 7:03

Justin Silverman
NEFAC Executive Director

**Special Recognition for
Public Records Advocacy** 7:04

Introduction Karen Bordeleau | NEFAC President

Acceptance Remarks Professor Marianne Salcetti
and Former Keene State College Journalism Students

**Presentation of the
Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award** 7:11

Introduction Walter V. Robinson | NEFAC, The Boston Globe

Acceptance Remarks Jeanne Kempthorne

**Presentation of the
Michael Donoghue Freedom of Information Award** 7:17

Introduction Judith Meyer | NEFAC, Sun Media Group

Acceptance Remarks Bangor Daily News Staff

**Presentation of the
Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award** 7:23

Acceptance Remarks Yamiche Alcindor | PBS NewsHour

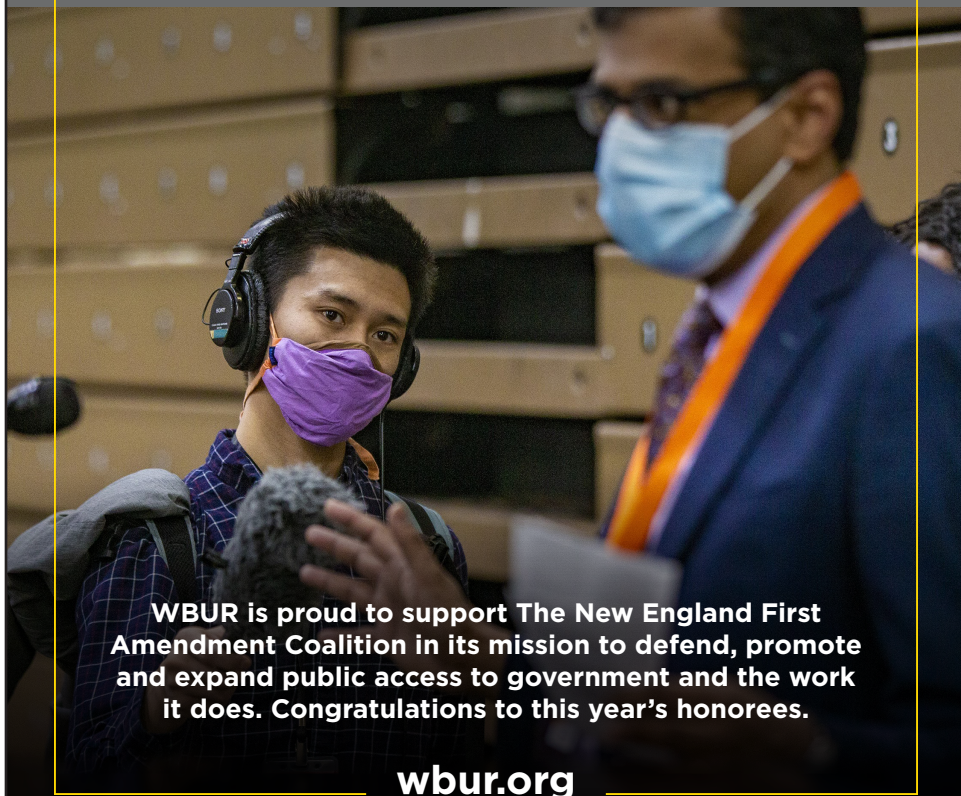
Audience Q/A with Yamiche Alcindor 7:32

NEFAC would like to recognize
Paul and Ann Sagan
for their support of our coalition and the
New England First Amendment Awards.

From all of us at the
New England First Amendment Coalition, thank you.

wbur

HELPING YOU UNDERSTAND THE CHANGING WORLD.



WBUR is proud to support The New England First Amendment Coalition in its mission to defend, promote and expand public access to government and the work it does. Congratulations to this year's honorees.

wbur.org

ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION

Mission

The goal of the New England First Amendment Coalition is to defend, promote and expand public access to government and the work it does. The coalition is a broad-based organization of people who believe in the power of transparency in a democratic society. Its members include lawyers, journalists, historians, librarians and academics, as well as private citizens and organizations whose core beliefs include the principles of the First Amendment. The coalition aspires to advance and protect the five freedoms of the First Amendment, and the principle of the public's right to know, in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. In collaboration with other like-minded advocacy organizations, NEFAC also seeks to advance understanding of the First Amendment across the nation and freedom of speech and press issues around the world.

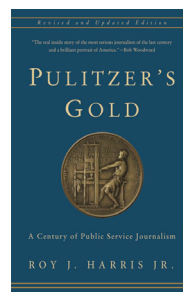
History

NEFAC was formed in 2006 by a group of journalists concerned that

citizens, to say nothing of reporters, are routinely denied access to the work of government: public documents, meetings, hearings. Efforts in each of the six New England states to combat this growing trend had up until this point been marginally effective. The founders saw a need for a unified, region-wide organization that would speak in one robust voice across the six New England states. We've been making strides ever since.

What We Do

In addition to our three-day annual investigative journalism institute and awards luncheon, NEFAC advocates for improved access laws and provides expert testimony on important legislative reform. NEFAC mentors law school students, helping them learn how to defend journalists and counsel them during their legal battles. We publish the NEFAC Report, a free monthly newsletter with original reporting from journalists and publishers within New England. We draft and join advocacy letters and amicus briefs and write white papers on FOI and First Amendment policies.



Congratulations to

Yamiche Alcindor

On her NEFAC First Amendment Award

--From Roy Harris & Columbia University Press, publisher of
Pulitzer's Gold: A Century of Public Service Journalism
www.pulitzersgold.com

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

CONGRATULATES

the 2021 New England First Amendment Coalition's honorees for their work affirming the importance of building a society based upon the principles of open and transparent government.



Boston University College of Communication

The College of Communication has been educating professional communicators since 1914. Its students represent the next generation of leaders in journalism, emerging media, cinema, advertising, public relations, and media studies.

ABOUT STEPHEN HAMBLETT AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

Stephen Hamblett's first newspaper job was as a summer reporter at his hometown paper, the Nashua Telegraph. It must have been a rewarding experience because soon after he graduated from Harvard, he signed on at The Providence Journal. That was in 1957, and Hamblett never looked back.

Hamblett rose from advertising department clerk to publisher in a career fueled by qualities for which he became famous — quick wit, dedication to excellence, warmth, good humor, passion for his community and a deep-seated belief in the wonder of newspapers.

During his leadership, The Providence Journal prospered financially and journalistically, the two most fundamental measures of a newspaper's success. The Journal's strong financial health drew the attention of the Belo Corporation, which acquired The Providence Journal Co. in 1997.

The publisher's job is a tightrope act, at once community booster and — via the newsroom — community watchdog. Hamblett walked that rope with skill and integrity for 12 years, from 1987 to 1999, never flinching at either responsibility.

Howard G. Sutton, who succeeded Hamblett in 1999, said, "Steve Hamblett ran The Providence Journal during an era of hectic change in the media business. He did so with vision, compassion, decisiveness, ingenuity, and calm, leading the firm around numerous economic shoals as it became

a truly national media company, all the while maintaining the Journal's long commitment to high-quality journalism and community improvement."

One of the many proofs of the newspaper's commitment to journalistic excellence came on Hamblett's watch in 1994 with the award of a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting on "pervasive corruption within the Rhode Island court system."

"The Journal newsroom held Steve in high regard," said Thomas E. Heslin, former executive editor of The Providence Journal. "He was widely respected as a great businessman, but he knew that good journalism is good business. The newsroom always knew it had his support."

A national figure as well as a local one, he served on the boards of the Associated Press, Inter-American Press Association and the Smithsonian Institution.

He was a single-minded and hard-working executive but left plenty of room for his family, friends, an occasional drink, a good cigar and a joke. His passing in December 2005 at age 71 generated obituaries from coast (the Los Angeles Times) to coast (The New York Times) and all points in between.

Hamblett's memory lives on in dozens of ways. Add to them The Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award, which is given each year to an individual who has promoted, defended or advocated for the First Amendment throughout his or her career.



Hamblett

Journalism that makes a difference.



A small memorial at the scene where Jorge "Indio" Tirado's car collided with a tree after he was shot and killed while driving on Fox Street, in Bridgeport, Conn. on the morning of Sept. 24, 2020.
NED GERARD / HEARST CONNECTICUT MEDIA

At Hearst Connecticut Media Group, we strive to produce journalism that changes lives for the better, moves people in power to act and sheds light on problems that affect our communities.

'Death by Gun,' a multi-part series based on the analysis of a decade's worth of gun deaths in Connecticut, did just that. Soon after publication, state lawmakers introduced legislation to combat the issues raised and called for an increase in funding for programs aimed at reducing violence and improving mental-health services.

In big ways and small ways, Hearst Connecticut Media Group works each day to better our towns, cities and our state - by producing journalism that makes a difference.

Hearst Connecticut Media Group commends the 2021 New England First Amendment Coalition's honorees.



PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

2020 A. G. Sulzberger | A. G. Sulzberger is publisher of The New York Times and the principal steward of the editorial independence and ambition of journalism at the newspaper.

2019 Stephen Engelberg | Founding managing editor of ProPublica from 2008-2012, Engelberg became editor-in-chief in 2013. He is a frequent lecturer on journalism and the need for government accountability

2018 Jane Mayer | A writer for The New Yorker since 1995, Mayer is perhaps best known for her accountability journalism and her ability to expose the underpinnings of powerful institutions.

2017 Margaret Sullivan | The media columnist for The Washington Post and former public editor of The New York Times, Sullivan is a tireless advocate for the First Amendment and freedom of the press.

2016 Patrick Leahy | A U.S. senator from Vermont, Leahy is well-known for his work to strengthen the federal Freedom of Information Act and improve transparency within the court system.

2015 Nancy Gertner | Gertner is a retired federal judge and advocate for the First Amendment and increased transparency within the judicial system.

2014 James Risen | Risen is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist formerly of The New York Times who's done ground-breaking work on domestic spying and faced legal peril for refusing to disclose a source.

2013 Philip Balboni | Balboni co-founded GlobalPost, which provides original international reporting. Earlier in his career, Balboni conceived and launched New England Cable News.

2012 Martin Baron | Baron served as executive editor of The Washington Post from 2012 to 2021. He was previously editor of The Boston Globe. Baron's newsrooms have won 17 Pulitzer Prizes under his leadership.

2011 Anthony Lewis | Lewis, who died in 2013, was a journalist, teacher and a long-time New York Times columnist. He won the Pulitzer Prize twice and is credited with creating the field of legal journalism.

HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD RECIPIENT YAMICHE ALCINDOR

Yamiche Alcindor is the White House correspondent for PBS NewsHour. She began this role in January 2018. She often tells stories about the intersection of race and politics as well as fatal police encounters.

Previously, Alcindor worked as a national political reporter for The New York Times where she covered the presidential campaigns of Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders as well as

Congress. She also wrote about the impact of President Trump's policies on working-class people and people of color.

Before joining The Times, she was a national breaking news reporter for USA Today and traveled across the country to cover stories including the school shooting in Newtown, Conn., the death of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla. and the police-related protests in Ferguson, Mo. and Baltimore, Md.



Alcindor

*"The liberty of the press
is essential to the
security of freedom."
John Adams.*

The Boston Globe

ABOUT MICHAEL DONOGHUE AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD

Michael Donoghue is an award-winning news and sports writer. He worked for more than 40 years at the Burlington Free Press and now is a freelancer.

He was selected as the 2013 New England Journalist of the Year by the New England Society of News Editors and in 2015 received the Matthew Lyon First Amendment Award. Donoghue has been an adjunct professor of journalism and mass communications at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont since 1985.

Donoghue has served as an officer, including executive director, with the Vermont Press Association since 1979. He is a former board member of the New England Press Association and has served continuously as state chairman of Project Sunshine in Vermont since it was started by the Society of Professional Journalists in 1990.

Donoghue is often credited as being a driving force behind the improvement to Vermont's open government

(public records and meetings) legislation. He has made his own successful legal arguments to judges about keeping courtrooms open and not sealing court documents.

Donoghue and the Free Press have been honored for his work on a local, state, regional and national level. Donoghue was selected in 2007 as the winner of the Yankee Quill Award, the top lifetime honor for print and electronic journalism in New England.

He has been inducted into five Halls of Fame, including as a charter member for the New England Press Association's Hall of Fame and as a charter member for the Society of Professional Journalists/National Freedom of Information Coalition Hall of Fame. Donoghue is the first vice president of the New England First Amendment Coalition.

The FOI Award is given each year to New England journalists who protect or advance the public's right to know under federal or state law.



Donoghue

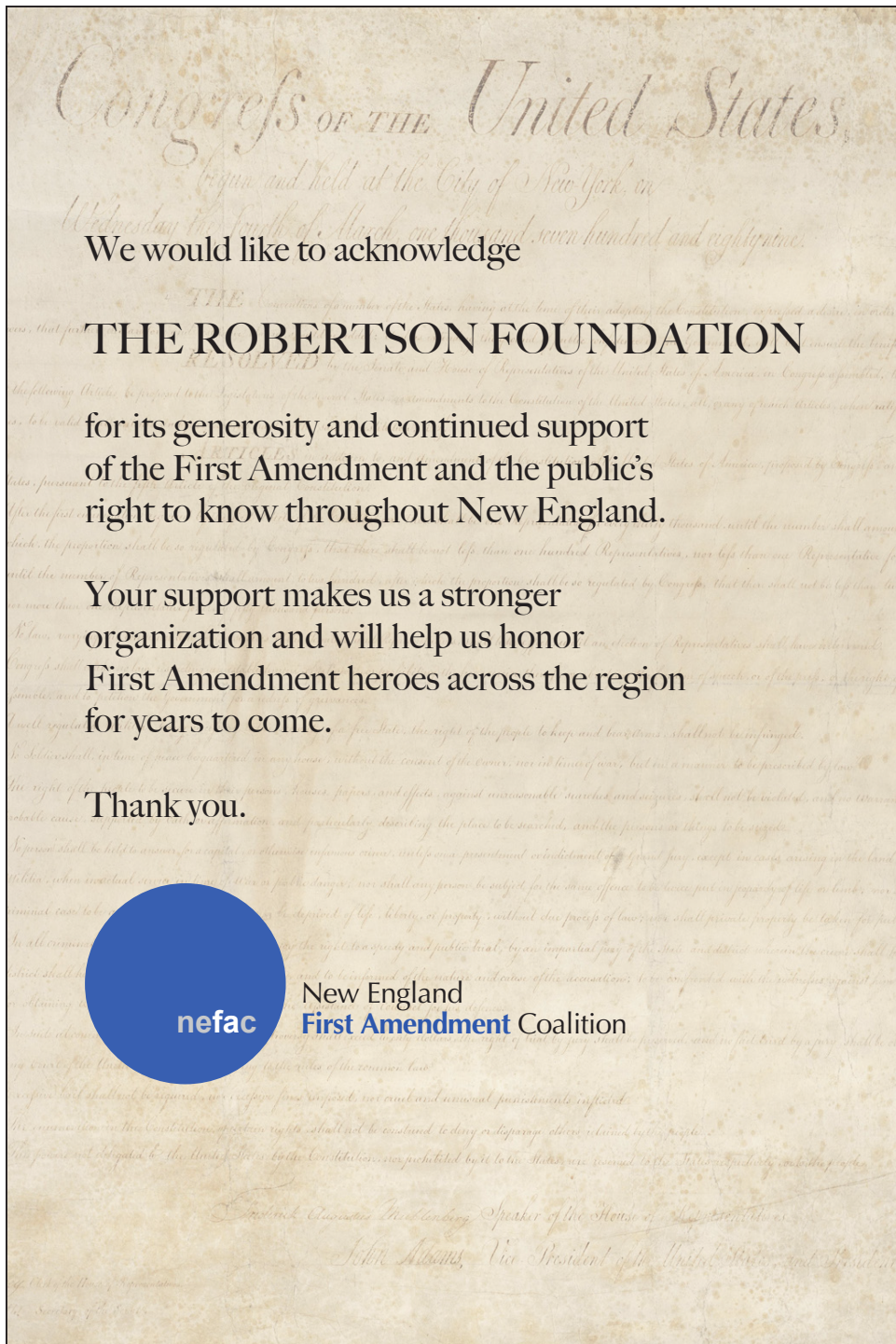


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We would like to acknowledge

THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION

for its generosity and continued support of the First Amendment and the public's right to know throughout New England.

Your support makes us a stronger organization and will help us honor First Amendment heroes across the region for years to come.

Thank you.

nefac

New England
First Amendment Coalition

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DONOGHUE FOI AWARD

2020 Hearst Connecticut Media Group | A team of seven journalists spent more than six months investigating allegations of sexual abuse connected to Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide, finding more than 100 cases of abuse.

2019 Hartford Courant | The Courant successfully fought a legal battle at the state Supreme Court for information related to the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

2018 Todd Wallack | An investigative reporter for The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, Wallack's work included stories about online accessibility to criminal records and the overuse of certain public record law exemptions to keep information secret.

2017 Sun Journal | The Sun Journal of Lewiston, Maine, uncovered and successfully fought a state court policy that required all dismissed criminal cases to be sealed after 30 days in violation of

the public records law.

2016 Jenifer McKim | A reporter for the New England Center for Investigative Reporting, McKim was recognized for her series "Out of the Shadows," an investigation into child abuse.

2015 James W. Foley (posthumously) | A seasoned war correspondent, New Hampshire native Foley worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, reporting on the lives of the disadvantaged and their suffering.

2014 Brent Curtis | A reporter for the Rutland (Vt.) Herald, Curtis fought for access to certain police records and helped make Vermont police departments more transparent.

2013 Don Stacom | Stacom, of the Hartford Courant, pursued stories about police misconduct through the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, prompting a shakeup of the New Britain, Conn., police department.

DONOGHUE FOI AWARD RECIPIENT BANGOR DAILY NEWS

The Bangor Daily News series "Lawmen Off Limits" — reported by Erin Rhoda, Callie Ferguson and Josh Keefe — focused on the misconduct of police and corrections officers in Maine. Its reporting led to at least three legislative proposals to institute more oversight over law enforcement in the state.

The series involved filing public records requests with Maine's 16 county sheriff's offices. The newspaper successfully pushed back against unwarranted redactions in two counties

and showed how a third county failed to keep discipline records at all.

Using thousands of pages of emails and other public records, the Bangor Daily News team also published an in-depth look at how one former sheriff sent explicit images of himself to employees and others, and propositioned them for sex. The investigation revealed

how local county commissioners have no power to place elected sheriffs on leave while they are being investigated either internally or criminally.



ABOUT ANTONIA ORFIELD AND THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award is given to an individual from one of the six New England states who has fought for information crucial to the public's understanding of its community or what its government is doing (or not doing) on its behalf. The candidate should have shown tenacity or bravery in the face of difficulty in obtaining information that the public has a right to know.

Orfield was an author, mother, optometrist, clinician professor and active citizen. She worked to improve the schools in the communities she lived in, serving on one of the first elected local school councils in Chicago. She



Orfield

also sought to advance her profession and improve the lives of her patients through the use and teaching of therapeutic non-surgical methods of vision therapy. As a researcher, she knew the importance of access to data to analyze, draw conclusions and challenge existing assumptions of screening and treatment protocols. Dr. Orfield operated a vision clinic in Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, Mass., which documented the improvement of children's grades and test scores with unconventional vision-related remedies to learning problems. The findings were published in several articles and in "Eyes for Learning," her 2007 book.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

2020 Cook v. Raimondo Student Activists | The Providence public school students filed a federal lawsuit against Rhode Island officials arguing that the state is failing to provide the civics education they need to be engaged citizens.

2019 David Saad | Saad and several other citizens formed Right to Know NH as a nonpartisan citizen coalition working to improve transparency of New Hampshire state, county, and local governments.

2018 Hyde Square Task Force | The community center used the Mass. public records law to uncover a state mandate that required the owners of the TD Garden to pay millions to Boston recreational facilities.

2017 Donna Green | Green successfully fought for the right to electronic records under the New Hampshire Right to Know Law, prevailing in the state's highest court.

2016 Michael A. Champa | By prevailing in a public records case heard by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, Champa uncovered systemic failures and inequities in the state's special education services.

2015 Harriet Cady | A long-time open government activist whose advocacy led to several Right to Know lawsuits, Cady helped create the watchdog group Right to Know New Hampshire and frequently speaks about FOI concerns.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

2014 Kit Savage | Savage's investigation uncovered violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which formed the basis of a complaint to the Connecticut Department of Education.

2013 David Lang | After a nine-year crusade, Lang exposed the mismanagement of health insurance premiums, resulting in a court order to refund \$53 million to New Hampshire public employees.

ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT JEANNE KEMPTHORNE

Jeanne Kempthorne resigned in protest from her position as general counsel to the Berkshire County district attorney after being ordered not to release public records that were clearly public.

Kempthorne's resignation came last year after the Berkshire Eagle filed a public records request for communications between the District Attorney's Office and officials at Bard College at



Kempthorne

Simon's Rock concerning a student's claim that she had been racially attacked on campus. Kempthorne said she could find no legal reason to justify holding back the emails and fought the district attorney's contention that they not be released.

She released the public documents and later resigned in protest saying the office placed political concerns above the public's right to know about government.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ADVOCACY KEENE STATE COLLEGE

Keene State College Professor Marianne Salcetti and her former journalism students successfully fought for public records before the New Hampshire Supreme Court last year.

The group's lawsuit began three years ago during Salcetti's public-affairs reporting class. Students in the class requested public records from government agencies, including those in the city of Keene, under

the state's Right to Know Law. The city partially or wholly denied several requests for information about restaurant inspections, certain types of criminal investigations and complaints about use of force by police officers.

Salcetti and her students fought the denials in court. A lower-court judge sided with the city, but the state Supreme Court ruled in their favor on several points last June.



Congress shall make no law
respecting an establishment
of **religion**, or prohibiting the
free exercise thereof; or
abridging the freedom of
speech, or of the **press**; or the
right of the people peaceably
to **assemble**, and to **petition**
the government for a redress
of grievances.

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment

 **@FiveFreedoms #NEFAC2021**

Join today at nefac.org/join

The New England First Amendment Coalition defends, promotes and expands freedom of information and public access to the government and the work it does. NEFAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Learn more about NEFAC at nefac.org.

**Tax-exempt contributions can be made at nefac.org
or sent to NEFAC, 111 Milk Street, Westborough, MA 01581.**