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# Important Information

**NEFAI 2021 Event Page**
nefac.org/nefai-2021

**NEFAI 2021 Schedule, Documents and Presentations**
nefac.org/nefai-2021-schedule-and-class-materials

*If you are experiencing any difficulty accessing the Institute or participating in any way, please contact NEFAC Executive Director Justin Silverman directly by text: 774.244.2365.*
Investigations that shine a light on problems and help bring solutions

Whether it's analyzing a decade's worth of gun-related deaths or exposing how police officers who have run afoul of the law have remained on the job, Hearst Connecticut Media Group seeks every day to not only expose problems but to help bring about solutions.

Public-service journalism that informs our readers and improves our communities is what we provide in our network of newspapers, websites, newsletters, and magazine. Every day.
Dear NEFAI 2021 Fellow,

Congratulations on being selected to attend this year’s New England First Amendment Institute. Since 2011, we have provided this exclusive annual investigative journalism training program to more than 250 of the best and brightest journalists in the region.

You are in very good company.

Previous fellows have taken what they’ve learned at NEFAI and helped their newsrooms. Consider these words from the editor of Olivia Belanger, a health reporter at The Keene Sentinel:

As The Sentinel’s health reporter during a pandemic, Olivia plays a critical role in getting essential health-related information to our readers. Through the New England First Amendment Institute, she sharpened her understanding of when she’s legally entitled to information, and — just as importantly — learned strategies for compelling sources to release that information when she isn’t. Her coverage, and our readers, have benefited as a result.

Belanger (NEFAI 2020) will speak on Nov. 6 about her experiences since attending the Institute last year. She’ll be on our Former Fellows panel with Madeline Hughes (NEFAI 2020) at The Eagle-Tribune and Terry Stackhouse (NEFAI 2020) at WMTW in Portland.

In all, 42 elite reporters, editors, media attorneys and FOI experts volunteered their time this year to help you write your own success stories.

Congrats again on being selected as a New England First Amendment Institute fellow. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help you accomplish your goals during the next week. I wish you a very productive NEFAI 2021.

Sincerely,

Justin Silverman
Executive Director
WHAT IS NEFAI?
Founded in 2011, the New England First Amendment Institute provides intensive training for 25 specially selected journalism fellows in the use of freedom of information laws and investigative techniques. In a rich and collegial environment, the fellows interact with acclaimed media lawyers and award-winning journalists to acquire knowledge designed to enhance their watchdog journalism skills. The 2021 Institute will be held online from Oct. 31 to Nov. 6.

WHO IS IT FOR?
NEFAI is designed for both up-and-coming and veteran print, digital and broadcast journalists working in New England. 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
- 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.
## Former Fellows Continued

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY’S COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

IS DELIGHTED TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE’S CLASS OF 2021 AND TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION.
October 31

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  Featured Speaker

Tracy Jan | Washington Post
Karen Bordeleau (Introduction) | NEFAC, Arizona State University

11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  Panel: Tales from the Trenches
Panelists will share their practical experience in investigative work through painstaking interviewing and use of freedom of information laws to unearth corruption and bring truth to light.

Evan Allen | The Boston Globe
Libor Jany | Star Tribune
Cheryl W. Thompson | NPR
Walter V. Robinson (Moderator) | The Boston Globe

Recommended: View (1) “Transparency and the Boston Police Department”.

9 p.m. - 10 p.m.  Zoom Social

Please join us for a casual gathering of all Institute participants. Learn more about the work of our fellows, faculty and speakers. This is a great opportunity to personally connect with others as the Institute begins. Halloween costumes optional.

November 1

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  Panel: Effective Sourcing

Helen Branswell | STAT
Cindy Galli | ABC News
Melissa Korn | The Wall Street Journal
Karen Bordeleau (Moderator) | NEFAC, Arizona State University

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Drop-In: Common Pitfalls With FOI Requests
Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for fellows to speak with the instructors of our recorded presentations and ask follow-up questions.

Jason Leopold | BuzzFeed News
Jenifer McKim | GBH Center for Investigative Reporting, Boston University
Matt Rocheleau | Hearst Connecticut Media Group
Tim White (Moderator) | WPRI-Providence

Required: (1) View “Common Pitfalls” and (2) “Federal Freedom of Information Act: An Introduction to Public Records” prior to drop-in session.
The Academy of New England Journalists

Proud sponsor of
The New England
First Amendment Institute

The Academy of New England Journalists is a proud sponsor of The New England First Amendment Institute. Congratulations to the 2021 First Amendment Institute fellows, who are among the very best and brightest journalists in our six-state region.

The first-class training provided at the Institute is an investment in New England’s newsrooms. There has never been a more critical time for journalists to dig deep in order to keep those in power honest and accountable to the voters and taxpayers. That’s what organizations like NEFAC and the Academy are all about.

George Geers, Chairman
Academy of New England Journalists

Founded in 1960, the Academy of New England Journalists honors -- with the Yankee Quill Award -- those journalists from the region who have made extraordinary contributions to a free press and the welfare of their communities. Each year the Academy’s Selection Committee, which is comprised of past Quill winners and representatives of New England journalism organizations, select recipients of the award.

The Yankee Quill is the highest honor bestowed on journalists in our region, recognizing the lifetime achievement of those who have had a broad influence for good, both inside and outside the newsroom.
November 1 (continued)

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**New Hampshire Break-Out Session**

Richard Gagliuso | NEFAC, Bernstein Shur  
Nancy West | InDepthNH.org

*Required: (1) View “New Hampshire: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – New Hampshire prior to this session.*

November 2

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
**Web Scraping**

Maggie Mulvihill | NEFAC, Boston University

*Required: View (1) Web Scraping 101 and (2) Web Scraping 102 prior to this class.*

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Break**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
**Drop-In: Confrontational Interviews**  
*Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for fellows to speak with the instructors of our recorded presentations and ask follow-up questions.*

Mike Beaudet | WCVB-Boston, Northeastern University

*Required: (1) View “Confrontational Interviews” prior to drop-in session.*

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
**Rhode Island Break-Out Session**

Edward Fitzpatrick | NEFAC, The Boston Globe  
Raymond Marcaccio | Oliverio & Marcaccio LLP

*Required: (1) View “Rhode Island: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – Rhode Island prior to this session.*

October 3

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
**Database Analysis**

Brooke Williams | Boston University

*Required: (1) View “Database Analysis – Getting Started” prior to this class (2) confirm that you have access to Google Sheets and (3) install Tableau Public (free).*

*Recommended: View (1) Data Cleaning 101 (2) Data Cleaning 102 and (3) Data Visualization 101.*

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Break**
November 3 (continued)

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Drop-In: Writing and Narrative Flow Workshop
Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for fellows to speak with the instructors of our recorded presentations and ask follow-up questions.

Fernanda Santos | Arizona State University

Required: (1) View “Writing Workshop” prior to drop-in session and (2) begin completing your own “Story Map”.

3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Maine Break-Out Session

Judy Meyer | NEFAC, Sun Media Group
Sigmund Schutz | NEFAC, Preti Flaherty

Required: (1) View “Maine: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – Maine prior to this session.

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  Vermont Break-Out Session

Lia Ernst | NEFAC, ACLU-Vermont
Courtney Lamdin | Seven Days

Required: (1) View “Vermont: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – Vermont prior to this session.

November 4

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  Introduction to R

Maggie Mulvihill | NEFAC, Boston University

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Drop-In: Staying Out of Legal Trouble: Defamation and Privacy
Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for fellows to speak with the instructors of our recorded presentations and ask follow-up questions.

Gregory V. Sullivan | NEFAC, Malloy & Sullivan

Required: (1) View “Defamation and Invasion of Privacy” prior to drop-in session.

Recommended: View (1) HIPAA and Public Records (2) FERPA and Public Records and (3) How to Respond to a Subpoena.

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  Massachusetts Break-Out Session

Peter Caruso, Sr. | NEFAC, Caruso & Caruso
Todd Wallack | WBUR-Boston

Required: (1) View “Massachusetts: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – Massachusetts prior to this session.
November 5

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  Climate Reporting

Agya Aning | Inside Climate News
Kendra Pierre-Louis | Gimlet
Annie Ropeik | Spectrum News Maine
Kendall Moore (Moderator) | University of Rhode Island

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Drop-In: Sports Journalism

Drop-in sessions are an opportunity for fellows to speak with the instructors of our recorded presentations and ask follow-up questions. Panelists will discuss the intersection of general news reporting and sports writing while providing investigative tips for journalists of all backgrounds.

Paola Boivin | Arizona State University
Travis Lazarczyk | Portland Press Herald
Justin Pelletier | McClatchy
Mike Stanton (Moderator) | NEFAC, University of Connecticut

Required: (1) View “Sports Journalism” prior to drop-in session.

3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  Connecticut Break-Out Session

Mike Savino | WFSB-Hartford
Mary Schwind | Connecticut FOI Commission

Required: (1) View “Connecticut: An Introduction to Public Records” and (2) review FOI Guide – Connecticut prior to this session.

November 6

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.  Panel: Former NEFAI Fellows

Olivia Belanger | The Keene Sentinel
Maddie Hughes | Eagle-Tribune
Terry Stackhouse | WMTW-Portland
Karen Bordeleau (Moderator) | NEFAC, Arizona State University

11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  Break

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  Featured Speaker

Astead W. Herndon | The New York Times, CNN
Karen Bordeleau (Concluding Remarks) | NEFAC, Arizona State University
The value of journalism isn’t measured in dollars; it’s measured in change.

Globe.com/Subscribe
NEFAI 2021 Featured Speakers

**Tracy Jan**
The Washington Post
tracy.jan@washpost.com
TracyJan

Tracy Jan covers the intersection of race and the economy for The Washington Post, a beat she launched in December 2016 that encompasses racial economic disparities, immigration, housing policy, and other stories that hold businesses and politicians accountable for their decisions and promises. Her work has delved deeply into reparations for slavery, systemic racism in America, and the economic and health impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Black, Asian, Latino, and immigrant communities. She previously was a Washington-based national political reporter for The Boston Globe.

**Astead W. Herndon**
The New York Times
astead.herndon@nytimes.com
AsteadWesley

Astead W. Herndon is a national politics reporter for The New York Times and a political analyst for CNN. He was an integral part of the Times political coverage in the 2018 midterm elections and the 2020 presidential elections. In 2020, he was named to the Forbes Magazine’s 30 Under 30 media list. Before joining The New York Times in 2018, Herndon held several reporter positions at The Boston Globe, including as a national politics reporter in the Globe’s Washington office, covering the Trump White House. Herndon is from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Marquette University.

NEFAI 2021 Faculty

**Evan Allen**
The Boston Globe
evan.allen@globe.com
EvanMAllen

Evan Allen joined The Boston Globe in 2011 as a freelance reporter covering the suburbs. She joined the staff in 2013, and has covered police, breaking news, and major events including the Boston Marathon bombings. She has also done investigative and narrative projects. Allen is now a member of the newsroom’s narrative and investigative teams, where she focuses on crime.

**Agya K. Aning**
Inside Climate News
agya.aning@insideclimatenews.org

Agya K. Aning is a Roy W. Howard fellow at Inside Climate News focusing on environmental justice. He earned a master’s degree in investigative journalism from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University in 2020. Before switching careers to journalism, Aning taught English as a second language in China and Taiwan, where he also studied Mandarin. His work has appeared in the Arizona Republic, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, USA Today, Poynter, and The Trace.

**Mike Beaudet**
WCVB-Boston
Northeastern University
m.beaudet@northeastern.edu
Channel_Mike

Mike Beaudet is a journalism professor at Northeastern University in Boston and an investigative reporter at WCVB-TV, Boston’s ABC affiliate. He’s worked in local television news for more than 25 years. Beaudet started his career in radio covering politics at the Massachusetts State House and also made stops at television stations in Bangor, Maine and Manchester, N.H. Before joining WCVB-TV he was an investigative reporter and anchor at WFXT-TV FOX25 in Boston. Beaudet has won numerous awards, including 20 New England Emmys. His most recent Emmy came in 2021 when he was named Outstanding Investigative Reporter. One of the reports in his award-winning composite was produced with Northeastern students in his investigative reporting seminar. Beaudet’s reporting has also been recognized repeatedly by the Associated Press and the Radio Television Digital News Association. Beaudet’s research at Northeastern focuses on the future of video news storytelling and finding new ways to grow the local TV news audience and engage younger viewers both on-air and online using tools like animation.

**Olivia Belanger**
The Keene Sentinel
obelanger@keenesentinel.com
OBelangerKS

Olivia Belanger is the health reporter for The Keene Sentinel, a daily newspaper in southwestern New Hampshire. Before joining the Sentinel’s staff, Belanger was the health, nonprofit and education reporter for The Watertown Daily Times in Watertown, N.Y., where she won first place for healthcare coverage from the New York Press Association.

**Paola Boivin**
Arizona State University
paola.boivin@asu.edu
PaolaBoivin

Paola Boivin is an expert in the history of women in sports journalism and can address the misconceptions of some of the high-profile issues and conflicts involving women in the field.
Boivin is a professor of practice and director of Arizona State University’s Cronkite News Sports Bureau. She’s taught sports ethics and is particularly tuned into the impact of social media and the relationships among journalists, athletes and fans. She’s a long-time sportswriter and a regular guest on local and national radio and television shows, including CNN and ESPN. Before joining ASU, she was a columnist at The Arizona Republic, covering major sporting events, sharing her hard-hitting commentary and game analysis.

Karen Bordeleau
Arizona State University
karenbordeleau@gmail.com
KarenBordeleau

Karen Bordeleau is the director of communications and a professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Bordeleau is the retired executive editor/senior vice president of The Providence Journal and is the first and only woman in The Journal’s 191-year history to hold the top editor’s position. She is responsible for shifting the newsroom into a “story-first” digital operation and is also credited with swinging open the proverbial doors of The Providence Journal by introducing many audience engagement initiatives — among them the award-winning Publick Occurences forums to promote civil discourse on complex topics. Under her leadership, The Journal won numerous state, regional and national reporting awards. The news organization was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in Public Service for the Forged by Fire series in 2004, which Bordeleau co-edited. In 2014, Bordeleau was honored with the Yankee Quill — the highest individual journalism honor in New England — which recognizes a lifetime contribution of excellence in the field. In 2016, she was presented with the Judith Brown Spirit of Journalism Award, given annually to one woman who has made a significant impact on journalism in New England. In 2013, she was named one of the “Top 10 Women to Watch in the U.S. Media” by Editor & Publisher magazine. She has also been named one of Rhode Island’s Most Powerful Women by Rhode Island Monthly. Bordeleau is president of the Board of Directors of the New England First Amendment Coalition, and is past president of both the New England Associated Press News Executives Association and the New England Society of Newspaper Editors. She served as a Pulitzer Prize juror in 2015 and 2016. She holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism cum laude from Northeastern University and a master’s degree in political science summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island.

Helen Branswell
STAT
helen.branswell@statnews.com
HelenBranswell

Helen Branswell is a senior writer at STAT, covering infectious diseases and global health. Branswell joined STAT at its 2015 launch. Previously, she worked for The Canadian Press, where she was medical reporter from 2000 to 2015 for Canada’s equivalent of the Associated Press. Branswell was a 2004 CDC Knight Fellow, when she embedded in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for three months. She was a 2011 Nieman Global Health Fellow at Harvard, focusing on polio eradication. She won the 2020 George Polk Award for Public Service and with colleagues was a 2020 Pulitzer finalist for breaking news for coverage of the Covid-19 pandemic. She won the 2021 Victor Cohn Prize for Excellence in Medical Science Reporting.

Peter J. Caruso, Sr.
Caruso
pearusosr@carusoandcaruso.com
PeterAndover

Peter J. Caruso, Sr., has represented the media in some of the most high-profile court cases in Massachusetts history since 1977. Caruso has represented print professionals in a vast spectrum of media litigation, including defamation, media and Internet law, newspaper access, advertising acceptance, news reporting, copyright and publications law. A Massachusetts Bar Fellow and a member of the American Bar Association and its Forum on Communications Law, Caruso has argued cases before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Lia Ernst
ACLU of Vermont
lernst@acluvt.org
liaernst17

Lia Ernst is the legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, where she litigates civil liberties, civil rights, and open government cases; advocates before state and municipal governmental bodies on ACLU legislative priorities; and educates community groups on protecting and exercising their rights. Before coming to the Vermont affiliate, Ernst had been a legal fellow at the ACLU of Massachusetts and a legal intern at the ACLU of Michigan. She also clerked for two years with U.S. District Court Judge Julian Abele Cook Jr. in Detroit and for one year with Judge Norman H. Stahl of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston. In between, she was an associate attorney at a Michigan law firm outside Detroit, focusing on criminal defense and attorney ethics. Ernst is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and holds a master’s degree in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin.

Edward Fitzpatrick
The Boston Globe
edward.fitzpatrick@globe.com
FitzProv

Edward Fitzpatrick is a Boston Globe staff writer covering Rhode Island. He worked for 16 years at the Providence Journal, including eight years as the political columnist and five years as the courts reporter. He is a member of the New England First Amendment Coalition Board of Directors. He worked as director of media and public relations at Roger Williams University, where he launched a First Amendment blog and taught journalism. He was a reporter at the Hartford Courant and the Albany Times Union, and...
he was the city editor at The Saratogian. He is a Rhode Island native who graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in magazine journalism and political science.

Richard C. Gagliuso
Bernstein Shur
rgagliuso@bernsteinshur.com

Richard Gagliuso has years of experience representing the media in issues like libel and privacy claims, efforts to gain access to public records and proceedings, and the myriad legal issues that may arise during the newsgathering and reporting process. Gagliuso’s expertise and decades of knowledge of the law and specific industry practices makes him an effective and reliable advocate, both inside and outside the courtroom. He regularly serves as a mediator or arbitrator in construction and other business disputes. He is a member of the Construction and Commercial Mediation and Arbitration Panels of the American Arbitration Association, and a member of the Panel of Neutrals of the New Hampshire Superior Court and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

Cindy Galli
ABC News
cynthia.k.galli@abc.com
mustangalli

Cindy Galli is the executive producer of ABC News’ award-winning investigative unit. She oversees a team of network correspondents, reporters and producers specializing in investigations ranging from government fraud and corporate corruption to racial injustice, consumer and environmental issues. Most recently, her team was recognized with three national Edward R. Murrow Awards for reporting on inequities in policing, the Jeffrey Epstein case and illegal logging in the Amazon. Galli also oversees collaborative investigative projects between ABC News and local stations and affiliates around the country. She serves on the board of directors of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), where she has been a member since 1994. A longtime consumer investigative reporter whose work has garnered regional and national awards over 25 years of reporting, Galli got her start with ABC’s San Francisco station, KGO-TV, before joining the investigative team at Inside Edition in New York, moving to ABC News in 2011. Galli was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

Madeline Hughes
The Eagle-Tribune
mhughes@eagletribune.com
ByMaddieHughes

Madeline Hughes reports for The Eagle-Tribune covering stories in Andover, Mass. where she previously worked in southern New Hampshire for the Tribune and in Vermont where she wrote for the Vermont Community Newspaper Group’s six newspapers. Hughes graduated from St. Michael’s College in 2017 where she was executive editor for the school’s paper. During college, she also studied journalism in Morocco through a program with SIT Study Abroad.

Libor Jany
Star Tribune
libor.jany@startribune.com
@StribJany

Libor Jany is the Minneapolis crime reporter for the Star Tribune. He joined the newspaper in 2013, after stints in newsrooms in Connecticut, New Jersey, California and Mississippi. He spent his first year working out of the paper’s Washington County bureau, focusing on transportation and education issues, before moving to the Dakota County team. Jany got his start in journalism in the sports department of his hometown paper, the St. Paul Pioneer Press. He attended Lewis & Clark College (Portland, Ore.) and Mississippi State University, majoring in communications with a minor in sociology. In his free time, he likes traveling, having visited 25 countries on six continents, including Pakistan in the summer of 2017. He was born in Czechoslovakia, and has lived in Gabon, France and seven U.S. states.

Melissa Korn
The Wall Street Journal
melissa.korn@wsj.com
@melissakorn

Melissa Korn writes about higher education for The Wall Street Journal. She joined Dow Jones in 2007, first writing breaking corporate news for the Dow Jones Newswires Spot News desk and then covering for-profit colleges, student lenders, alcohol and tobacco for the wire. She moved to The Journal in 2011 to cover business education, workplace issues and the college-to-career pathway. Korn graduated from Cornell University with degrees in English and History and has a master’s degree from the Columbia University Grad School of Journalism. She is co-author of “Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit and the Making of the College Admissions Scandal,” published in 2020.

Courtney A. Lamdin
Seven Days
courtney@sevendaysvt.com
@clamdin

Courtney A. Lamdin is a news reporter covering the city of Burlington, Vt. for the independent weekly newspaper Seven Days. A 2015 NEFAI fellow, Lamdin was also previously the executive editor of three weekly papers serving Vermont’s largest county. She grew up in Central Vermont and discovered her love for reporting after reading “All the President’s Men” in a high school journalism class. Lamdin graduated at the top of her college journalism class at St. Michael’s College, where she was taught by none other than legendary Vermont reporter Mike Donohue. Lamdin later returned to her alma mater as a part-time adjunct professor to oversee the production of the same college newspaper that she once served as editor. Her work has earned numerous accolades from the Vermont Press Association and New England Newspaper & Press Association, including a first-place prize for a series of stories about hazing on a high school football team and for an investigative piece into a youth sports organization’s shady financial practices. In 2019, she was named to Editor & Publisher’s “25 under 35” list of rising stars in the news industry.
Travis Lazarczyk
Portland Press Herald
tlazarczyk@pressherald.com
@TLazarczykMTM

Travis Lazarczyk has covered sports in Maine since 2000, and has been with the Portland Press Herald since August, 2021 after writing for the Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal since 2000. A Vermont native, he graduated from the University of Maine in 1995 with a BA in English. After a few years working as a sports information director and in the ski industry, he began his journalism career at the Berlin (N.H.) Reporter in 1999.

Jason Leopold
BuzzFeed News
jason.leopold@buzzfeed.com
@JasonLeopold

Jason Leopold is a senior investigative reporter on the BuzzFeed News investigations team. He has twice been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in international reporting, most recently this year as one of the lead reporters on the massive reporting project known as the FinCEN Files. Leopold’s Freedom of Information Act work has been profiled by dozens of radio, television, and print outlets, including a 2015 front-page story in the New York Times. In 2020, the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), a data research organization out of Syracuse University, identified Leopold as “the most active individual FOIA litigator in the United States today.” Politico has also referred to Leopold as “perhaps the most prolific Freedom of Information requester.” In 2016, Leopold was awarded the FOI award from Investigative Reporters & Editors and was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Hall of Fame by the Newseum Institute.

Raymond Marcaccio
Oliverio & Marcaccio, LLP
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Raymond A. Marcaccio is the co-founder of Oliverio & Marcaccio LLP. Marcaccio enjoys a varied practice in trial and appellate advocacy, as well as conducting sensitive internal investigations concerning misconduct, discrimination and sexual harassment. He has been representing the news media for over 20 years in all facets of media law, including pre-publication review, access to public records and meetings, and defending against defamation claims. Marcaccio is a recipient of the Public Justice Achievement Award from the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

Jennifer McKim
GBH Center for Investigative Reporting
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Jennifer McKim is a senior reporter with the GBH Center for Investigative Reporting and a clinical instructor of investigative journalism at Boston University. She specializes in social justice issues including criminal justice, child welfare and consumer debt. She has won numerous awards, including the national Edward R. Murrow Award, a Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism, and the Freedom of Information Award from the New England First Amendment Coalition. She was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service. Before joining center in 2013, McKim worked as a staff writer at The Boston Globe, the Orange County Register in Southern California and the San Juan Star in Puerto Rico. She is a fellow of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University.

Judith Meyer
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Judith Meyer is executive editor of the Sun Journal, Kennebec Journal, the Morning Sentinel and seven weekly newspapers owned by the Sun Media Group. She serves as vice president of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition and is a member of the Right to Know Advisory Committee to the Legislature. A journalist since 1990 and former editorial page editor for the Sun Journal, she was named Maine’s Journalist of the Year in 2003. She serves on the New England Newspaper & Press Association Board of Directors and was the 2018 recipient of the Judith Vance Weld Brown Spirit of Journalism Award. A fellow of the National Press Foundation and the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, she attended George Washington University, lives in Auburn with her husband, Phil, and is an active member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

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Kendall Moore is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and a professor in the departments of Journalism and Film Media at the University of Rhode Island. Before joining the faculty at URI in 2003, she worked as a television journalist focusing on medical, health, race, and environmental issues. Moore has produced numerous independent documentaries that have aired on PBS and in various film festivals including: Charm City (1996), Song in the Crisis (2004), Sovereign Nation/Sovereign Neighbor (2006), The Good Radical (2009), Sick Building (2014), Philosophy of the Encounter (fiction, 2016), and Jalen and Joanna: A Lead Paint Story (2017). She has received several grants and awards for her work, including two Fulbright Scholar Awards: Tanzania (2001) and Jamaica (Specialist, 2004); The Rhode Island Film Fellowship for Outstanding Filmmaking (2007); and, the Metcalf Award for 2015. In 2016, she was commended by Crain’s magazine as a professor of merit, in the field of journalism. She serves on the boards of The Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting as well as The Story Board at Salve Regina University. She also enjoys mentoring women of color interested in documentary film production. She earned her B.A. from Syracuse University in Latin American Studies and an M.A. in Media Studies and documentary film, from The New School for Social Research. Her PhD research, at the European Graduate School for Media and Communication, focuses on race, philosophy and aesthetics. She resides in Rhode Island with her husband and daughter.
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Maggie Mulvihill is a veteran investigative data journalist, a news entrepreneur and impassioned defender of our right to know. Her data journalism students have been honored with 10 regional or national journalism awards since 2011 as well as being named finalists for the prestigious Livingston Award for Young Journalists. An attorney, Mulvihill is also a Faculty Affiliate at the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering and co-founder of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. In 2014, Maggie founded BU’s summer workshops, Data + Narrative: Data-Driven Storytelling. She serves on the Steering Committee of the Reporter’s Committee for Freedom of the Press, the board of the New England First Amendment Coalition, was a 2004–2005 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. She’s appeared on C-SPAN, and Cheddar, as well as several radio shows including WNYC’s The Takeaway. Pierre-Louis occasionally hangs out with astronauts, and seriously loves climate reporter with The New York Times, a staff writer for Popular Science (PopSci) where she wrote about science, the environment, and, occasionally, mayonnaise. In addition, her writing has appeared in FiveThirtyEight, The Washington Post, Newsweek, Modern Farmer, and Slate. Pierre-Louis is also the author of the book, “Green Washed: Why We Can’t Buy Our Way to a Green Planet.” Pierre-Louis has an S.M (M.S) in Science Writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), an M.A. in Sustainable Development with a focus on Policy Analysis and Advocacy from the SIT Graduate Institute, and a B.A. in Economics from Cornell University. She’s appeared on C-SPAN, and Cheddar, as well as several radio shows including WNYC’s The Takeaway. Pierre-Louis occasionally hangs out with astronauts, and seriously loves the arctic. When she’s not achieving dramatic feats like living in France without eating butter, Pierre-Louis can often be found on Twitter railing against mayo.

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Justin Pelletier is a Deputy Regional Sports Editor for McClatchy - Southeast, based in Raleigh, N.C., where he primarily helps oversee coverage of pro hockey, ACC college athletics and high school sports. Pelletier was previously the sports editor of the Boston Herald, a managing editor/sports editor/designer/all-around utility journalist at the Sun Journal in Lewiston, Maine. He is a graduate of Boston University’s College of Communication.

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Walter V. Robinson is Editor At Large at the Boston Globe, where his high impact stories about local, national and international events have graced the front page since 1972. He is also the Edith Kinney Gaylord Visiting Professor in Investigative Journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Robinson led the Boston Globe Spotlight Team that won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its investigation of the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests. The Spotlight Team’s groundbreaking investigation exposed a decades-long cover-up that, in Boston alone, shielded the crimes of nearly 250 priests. Eighteen years later, the team’s work continues to spark similar disclosures across the country and around the world. Spotlight’s investigation was made into the 2015 Academy Award-winning film, “Spotlight,” starring Michael Keaton as Robinson. After leading the investigative team for seven years, he left the Globe in 2007 to become Distinguished Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University. In 2014, he returned to the newspaper. In the mid-1970s Robinson covered politics and government for the Globe, and went on to cover the White House during the Reagan and first Bush Administrations. He covered the presidential election in 1984 and was the newspaper’s lead reporter for presidential elections in 1988 and 1992. In 2000, he did investigative reporting on that year’s candidates. In 1990 and 1991, Robinson was the paper’s Middle East Bureau chief during the first Persian Gulf War. In 1992, Robinson became the Globe’s city editor, and then for three years the metro editor.

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Matt Rocheleau is an editor overseeing data and investigative projects for Hearst Connecticut Media Group and the Times Union. He previously worked for a decade as a reporter for The Boston Globe, where he was a member of the Spotlight Team and led a project that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting.

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Annie Ropeik is the environment and climate change reporter for Spectrum News Maine. Prior to joining the team in 2021, Annie spent about a decade as a public radio journalist, reporting from NPR member stations in New Hampshire, Indiana, Delaware and Alaska’s Aleutian Islands. Her work has aired on NPR, the BBC, CBC and CNN and earned honors from the Public Radio Journalists Association, the Society of Environmental Journalists and state press clubs. Originally from Silver Spring, Maryland, Annie holds a degree in classics from Boston University. She lives with her husband and their two cats in Portland.
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Fernanda Santos is a Washington Post contributing columnist. Santos has reported in three languages, in Latin America and across the United States, on issues including politics, policy, criminal justice, immigration and more. She began her journalism career in Rio de Janeiro and is now a full-time professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University teaching narrative writing and bilingual reporting. Previously, she spent 12 years at The New York Times, including five as its Phoenix bureau chief. Santos is a recipient of the Kiplinger, International Reporting Project and Casey Children and Family fellowships; author of “The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots,” about one of the deadliest wildfires in U.S. history; and a member of the faculty of the Poynter Institute’s Power of Diverse Voices seminar. She is also a board member of the Arizona Latino Media Association.

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Mike Savino is a reporter for Channel 3 Eyewitness News in Connecticut, joining the station and its I-Team in May. Prior to that, he covered local and state politics and state and federal courts for the Record-Journal in Meriden, the JInquirer in Manchester and the Chronicle in Willimantic. Savino is also president of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information, the top lobbying organization for open government and transparency in that state. He is also a past president of the Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, and is currently on the SPJ’s national FOI Committee.

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Sigmund D. Schutz represents the news media in First Amendment matters, defamation and privacy, state and federal freedom of information, newsgathering and cyber law. As a partner at PretiFlaherty, LLP and media law counsel for the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram for more than 20 years, Schutz has served as counsel in many precedent setting public access cases in Maine. These have included access to transcripts of 911 calls, the right to attend jury selection in criminal cases in Maine state court, access to “draft” settlement agreements to which the State of Maine is a party, access to dash cam police cruiser video, and access to records of closed law enforcement investigations. Schutz writes the Maine chapters in the Media Law Resource Center’s 50-state guide to media libel law and privacy law and the Maine chapter in the Open Government Guide published by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

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Mary E. Schwind is managing director and associate general counsel at the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, an independent public agency that enforces the provisions of Connecticut’s Freedom of Information Act. She began working at the Commission in 1997. In her role as managing director, she oversees the adjudication of hundreds of formal complaints per year. Previously, Schwind worked at both the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission and the Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, Public Records Division. Schwind is a graduate of Fordham University and Suffolk University Law School and is admitted to the bars of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and the District of Columbia.

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Terry Stackhouse is a weekend anchor and reporter with WMTW in Portland, Maine. He joined News 8 in May of 2020. He’s been reporting for nearly a decade, beginning in Bangor, Maine and continuing his career in Albany, N.Y., before returning to the Pine Tree State. Stackhouse is a fellow of the First Amendment Coalition, participating in the organization’s 2020 Institute with a focus on utilizing government records to strengthen reporting. He has produced data driven stories related to mental health, addiction, COVID-19 hospitalizations and Medicare. Immigration and refugee resettlement is of particular interest to Stackhouse. He has published stories highlighting the experiences of new Mainers from countries including Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Somalia. Stackhouse has researched barriers to refugee resettlements and reported on efforts to raise the United State’s annual refugee admissions cap. Stackhouse extensively covered the Black Lives Matter movement, reporting live during demonstrations in Portland and Lewiston. He has shared the experiences of participants and leaders in local efforts to advance social justice.

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Mike Stanton came to the University of Connecticut from The Providence Journal, where he was an award-winning investigative reporter specializing in public corruption, politics and government, and organized crime. He is the author of “Unbeaten: Rocky Marciano’s Fight for Perfection in a Crooked World” (Henry Holt, 2019), a biography of the former undefeated heavyweight boxing champion and “The Prince of Providence” (Random House, 2003), a widely acclaimed New York Times bestseller about the felonious former Rhode Island mayor, Buddy Cianci. Stanton was part of the team that won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for exposing corruption in the Rhode Island court system. His freelance work has appeared in Columbia Journalism Review, The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, The Sporting News and Yankee magazine.
**Gregory V. Sullivan**  
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Gregory V. Sullivan has served as general counsel for the Union Leader Corporation for the past 40 years. He has represented Union Leader and many other media organizations regarding First Amendment issues in federal and state courts. Sullivan also currently serves on the New Hampshire Supreme Court’s Committee on the Judiciary and the Media, as well as the Committee for Public Access to Courts, and is president of the Hingham, Mass.-based media law firm, Malloy & Sullivan. Sullivan has successfully argued before the New Hampshire Supreme Court in several landmark First Amendment and public access cases. He teaches First Amendment Law at Suffolk University Law School in Boston and at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications in Manchester, N.H.

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Cheryl W. Thompson is an investigative correspondent for NPR. Prior to joining NPR in January 2019, she spent 22 years at The Washington Post, where she wrote extensively about law enforcement, political corruption and guns, and was a White House correspondent during Barack Obama’s first term. Her investigative series that traced the guns used to kill more than 500 police officers in the U.S. earned her an Emmy, a National Headliner, an IRE, a White House News Photographers Association and other awards. In 2015, her reporting found that nearly one person a week died in the U.S. after being Tasered by police. The story was part of a year-long series on police shootings in the United States that won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting. In 2017, her examination of Howard University Hospital revealed myriad problems with the storied facility, including that it had the highest rate of death lawsuits per bed among the six major hospitals in the District of Columbia.

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Todd Wallack has been the deputy managing editor in WBUR’s newsroom since March 2021. As part of that role, he oversees a team of reporters who cover politics, criminal justice, and general news. Previously, Wallack spent 14 years as a reporter at the Boston Globe, including eight as an investigative and data reporter on the Globe’s Spotlight Team. Wallack has also worked at several other newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Herald, and the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News. While at the Globe, Wallack worked on five projects that were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, including ones exploring Boston’s legacy of racism, the troubled Massachusetts mental health system, a deadly national outbreak meningitis traced to a Massachusetts pharmacy, and unsafe housing for Boston college students.

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Nancy West founded the nonprofit New Hampshire Center for Public Interest Journalism in April of 2015 and is the executive editor of InDepthNH.org, the center’s investigative news website. West won many awards for investigative reporting during her 30 years at the New Hampshire Union Leader. She taught investigative journalism at the New England Center for Investigative Reporting’s summer program for pre-college students at Boston University. West is passionate about government transparency.

**Tim White**  
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Target 12 investigative reporter Tim White joined the 12 News team in September 2006. White is the recipient of four New England Emmy Awards for investigative reporting. He was honored for a 2010 series of stories probing government waste in Rhode Island. He won his second Emmy for 2012 coverage of Providence’s troubled pension system. A 2014 probe into a lack of accountability at a local fire district led to his third Emmy honor. A 2016 investigation that raised questions as to where a powerful state representative actually lived resulted in the politician’s indictment and was White’s fourth Emmy win. White’s documentary “The Mafia Tapes,” on the 30th anniversary of an infamous 1989 mob induction ceremony, was the recipient of two Regional 2020 Edward R. Murrow Awards.

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Brooke Williams is an investigative reporter, professor of the practice of computational journalism, and civic tech fellow at Boston University. Her data-driven investigative reporting has contributed to a Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, a George Polk Award and a Gerald Loeb Award, among many others. As a contributor to The New York Times, she co-authored and built the database behind a series of front-page investigations into think tanks, foreign governments, corporations and influence. As a reporter at the Center for Public Integrity, Williams was on the team that produced “Windfalls of War,” an award-winning investigation into defense contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. She also co-authored “Harmful Error: Investigating America’s Local Prosecutors” and contributed a chapter to “The Buying of the President 2004,” a New York Times bestselling book. Early in her career, she worked as an investigative reporter at The San Diego Union-Tribune where her collaborative investigations into wildfire cleanup, city finances and other issues had a lasting impact. Before joining Boston University, she was a residential journalism fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University.
Thank You

Paul and Ann Sagan

The New England First Amendment Coalition thanks Paul and Ann Sagan for all their support of the First Amendment and free press.
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Dom Amato is a Morning Anchor/Reporter at WCAX-TV, the CBS affiliate in Burlington, Vt. He graduated from Lyndon State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Journalism Arts in 2016. Amato quickly found his first job in the WCAX newsroom, starting his journalism career as the morning photographer. As the years went on, he kept changing roles, becoming a multimedia journalist on the weekends, and eventually moving to a Monday thru Friday reporting job. Amato’s beat was focused on crime, the court system, and police. He’s covered several homicide cases, police shootings and kept the public informed during high-profile trials.

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Dugan Arnett is a reporter on The Boston Globe’s quick strike investigative team. He joined the paper in 2015 and has also worked in the features and metro departments. Before arriving in Boston, he spent four years as a reporter at the Kansas City Star. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

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Jeremy Bernfeld is Senior Editor for Investigations at The Public’s Radio, the public radio station serving Rhode Island and the South Coast of Massachusetts. A Massachusetts native, Bernfeld moved back to New England earlier this year from Washington, D.C., where he was Director of Collaborative Reporting at WAMU and lead editor of the Guns & America project, a national, multi-platform journalism collaboration covering the role of guns in American life. Prior to that, he was the editor of Harvest Public Media, based at KCUR, Kansas City’s public radio station, and worked on the digital team at WBUR in Boston.

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Lynda Clancy is editorial director of the Penobscot Bay Pilot, a digital news outlet that covers a large Midcoast region of the coast of Maine. She has been reporting in Maine since 1984, when she first started covering one of then many powerful paper mills and periodic union strikes. The beauty and complexity of New England, and its culture, self-governance and controversies, have inspired her as a writer, editor, photographer and publisher. An award-winning journalist over the years for a variety of Maine newspapers, she is current president of the Maine Press Association’s Board of Directors, and serves on the Maine Legislature’s Right To Know Advisory Committee.

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Lauren Clem is the deputy editor of The Valley Breeze newspaper in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She primarily covers the communities of Woonsocket and North Smithfield, R.I., and Blackstone, Mass., and helps oversee a family of newspapers covering 11 communities across two states. As a writer at The Breeze, she has reported on corruption allegations at the local housing authority, efforts to improve community safety following a fatal accident and the controversy around the state’s largest solar farm. Prior to arriving at The Breeze in 2018, she worked as a staff reporter for Rhode Island’s largest Catholic newspaper. She is a native of Rhode Island and graduated from Villanova University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication.

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Verónica Del Valle is a reporter covering growth and development for the Stamford Advocate and economic mobility for Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She prioritizes using data-driven journalism to dive deeper into municipal and regional policy issues like housing affordability and zoning reform. Since joining the Advocate in 2020, Del Valle has written extensively about the proposed solution for Stamford’s affordability crisis and the people fighting back against widespread changes to their neighborhoods. She graduated in 2020 from American University, where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

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Currie Engel is a reporter with Hearst Connecticut Media at the Danbury News-Times, covering health issues and general assignment news. A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Journalism School, she has worked for publications like The Houston Chronicle, Harper’s Magazine, and TIME. Engel’s recent work at Hearst Connecticut has included investigations into a weight-loss camp in Connecticut, pet scams across the state, and the suspension of a local health department director. Originally from Charlotte, N.C., she has made the tri-state area her home for the past six years.
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Julia Furukawa is a fellow at New Hampshire Public Radio, producing their afternoon news magazine, All Things Considered. Born and raised in Seattle, she came to New Hampshire by way of Paris, Texas, where she was assistant managing editor of The Paris News. Furukawa has previously worked for KNKX Public Radio in Seattle, Bellingham Alive! Magazine and Klipsun Magazine, and was editor in chief of The Western Front, her college newspaper. Furukawa is a proud member of the Asian American Journalists Association and her work has received awards from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors.

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Amanda Gokee is the New Hampshire Bulletin’s energy and environment reporter. She previously reported on these issues at VTDigger. Gokee grew up in Vermont and is a graduate of Harvard University. She received her master’s degree in liberal studies, with a concentration in creative writing, from Dartmouth College. Her work has also appeared in the LA Review of Books and the Valley News.

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Sarah Guernelli joined 12 News team in April 2021 as a Target 12 producer and reporter. Before joining 12 News, Guernelli was the weekend anchor and weekday reporter for Western Mass News in Springfield, Mass. During her time there, she covered a wide variety of stories including the B-17 crash at Bradley International Airport and the coronavirus outbreak at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home. Guernelli started off her career as a writer for Channel 7 news in Boston, while also working as a part-time reporter at WMCT-TV in Marlboro, Mass.

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Cassidy Jensen is a reporter at the Concord Monitor, covering the city of Concord and criminal justice. Previously, she was a fellow at the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University, where she earned a master’s degree. Her work has been published in Documented, THE CITY, Washington City Paper and Street Sense Media. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she received a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Georgetown University. When she’s not at City Council meetings, you can find her hiking in the White Mountains.

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Greta Jochem is a reporter at The Berkshire Eagle and a Report for America corps member. At The Eagle, she covers North Adams, Mass., and is a member of the investigations team. Jochem got her start in local news by reporting on Northampton, Massachusetts for the Daily Hampshire Gazette, where she covered topics like growing homelessness, city politics, and LGBTQ issues. As a fellow at Grist, a nonprofit news organization that covers climate change, she reported on climate news, and she has written about science as an NPR intern. Jochem grew up in Wisconsin and graduated from Tufts University.

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Anastasia E. Lennon is a reporter for The New Bedford Light. She joined The Light in 2021 after covering city government and fisheries for The Standard-Times. She has a bachelor’s degree in history and anthropology from Stony Brook University and a master’s degree in journalism from Boston University. She’ll always call Long Island, N.Y., home, but Massachusetts has become a wonderful second home.

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Jack Lyons is a reporting intern at VTDigger. He previously interned for The Boston Globe, The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield, Mass. and WDEV Radio in Waterbury, Vt. He is a 2021 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in theology and participated in the Gallivan Program for Journalism, Ethics and Democracy.

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Alex Newman is a local editor for Patch in Massachusetts, covering the communities of Arlington, Malden, Medford, Reading and Somerville. He graduated from Northeastern University in 2016 and previously worked for WGBH Radio in Boston, MSNBC and the Wentworth Institute of Technology. Newman hails from New Jersey but has spent the last decade in the greater Boston area.
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Jordan Jeffrey Phelan is the Eagle Times’ managing editor and general reporter. Since joining the Eagle Times in October of 2019, he has worked to provide readers in both New Hampshire and Vermont with engaging reporting that remains true to the publication’s devotion to community-based journalism with a blend of statewide coverage and national news. He has previously worked as the communications director for New England Distance, communications intern for the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island, public relations intern for Newport Mental Health, and photojournalist for Special Olympics Rhode Island through the Hassenfeld Student Leadership Fellowship. A Portsmouth, R.I., native, Phelan graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism with minors in economics and mathematics from Roger Williams University in May 2019.

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Emma Platoff covers government and politics for The Boston Globe, where she started in 2021. Previously, she spent four years covering justice, politics, and COVID-19 for The Texas Tribune in Austin. A Connecticut native, Platoff is a graduate of Yale and a former managing editor of the Yale Daily News.

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Alex Putterman is a reporter for the Hartford Courant, reporting primarily on the coronavirus pandemic. Hired in 2018 as a sportswriter, he has covered UConn football and the Huskies athletic department, plus sports betting, stadium economics, local mascot debates and more. He has also reported in-depth stories on housing discrimination, police militarization, among other subjects. Previously, he contributed to publications including The Atlantic, VICE, MLB.com and Awful Announcing.

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Elizabeth Regan graduated from an all-women’s college, took jobs in publishing and public relations, got married, had children, and stayed home with them for several years before waking up one morning as a self-declared journalist. She put the whim into practice by creating a hyperlocal news website devoted to her small, rural town, where a story about the shooting of an unarmed man by a state trooper soon became the centerpiece of her burgeoning portfolio. Regan went on to work at daily, online and weekly publications before landing at The Day. There, she covers the routine and extraordinary aspects of small-town Connecticut life with the same level of care and attention to detail. This commitment is guided by the belief that the local level is where an informed citizenry can have the biggest impact. Regan enjoys telling the stories that make this area unique and asking the questions that readers need answered.

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Jack Rooney is the deputy local news editor at The Keene Sentinel in Keene, N.H. He joined The Sentinel in May 2020, and before assuming his new role in mid-October, covered education and business as a staff writer. Rooney began his journalism career at The Daily Record in Wooster, Ohio, where he covered public safety, courts, business and local government from 2018 to 2020. He also has completed internships at the Better Government Association, a non-profit investigative reporting organization in his native Chicago; the Concord Monitor; and the Tampa Bay Times. He is especially passionate about stories involving education access and equity, local government accountability and anything and everything that makes communities unique. A proud third-generation journalist, Rooney earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he double majored in political science and American studies, and minored in Journalism, Ethics & Democracy. At Notre Dame, he worked his way up through the news department of The Observer, and served as managing editor his senior year.

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Amy Russo joined The Providence Journal as a city reporter in 2021. A New York City transplant, she previously wrote for outlets including The New York Post, HuffPost and NBC News, where she scripted a daily morning news show. Her coverage has spanned politics, national news and the media industry itself. Russo has also reported internationally, investigating Sweden’s treatment of child refugees in 2017 as a fellow for the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. She is a graduate of Hunter College in Manhattan.
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of the First Amendment, the public’s
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become the most successful yet.

Thank you.
Maya Ergas Shwayder is an award-winning multimedia journalist, currently co-hosting and producing “And Another Thing,” New England Public Media’s daily, news-driven radio show covering Western New England. Originally from the metro Detroit area, Maya graduated from Harvard and Columbia Journalism School. She spent four years in New York City as a local reporter writing for a variety of outlets, eventually becoming the UN Correspondent for the Jerusalem Post, before moving abroad to pursue a TV career. She spent five years working for DW News/Deutsche Welle, Germany’s international broadcaster. For DW, Shwayder was an anchor and on-air correspondent, based both in Berlin and the US East Coast, where she reported on the far-right wing attacks in Charlottesville, Hurricane Florence, the U.S. embassy’s move to Jerusalem, the immigrant experience in the United States and in Germany, the Trump–Kim summit in Singapore, Hong Kong’s pro-democracy protests, and much more. She also contributed to the book “A Place They Called Home,” a collection of essays all written by Jews from all over the world who have reclaimed the German citizenship that was taken from them or their family. Her work has also appeared in The Washington Post, The Atlantic and the Daily Beast, among others. Most recently, she has worked as a host for WCRB, Boston’s classic music station, as well as a writer for Business Insider and The Boston Globe, covering the intersection of education, privacy and technology. She now lives in Watertown with her fiancé, two step kids, and puppy named Rosie. In her spare time she likes to read terrible fantasy novels, play her cello, and sing along at the top of her lungs to whatever’s on the radio.

Kyle Stucker is the New England justice reporter for the USA Today Network. Throughout his career, his reporting has focused on equity issues, centered human impact and vulnerable populations, and explored the core of his communities. His extensive reporting on housing issues and houselessness in his home region, New Hampshire’s Seacoast area, has fueled large-scale changes and earned him national, regional and state awards. What drives Stucker is bringing communities together around solutions, along with an unquenchable thirst for information. Previous career stops include hometown paper Foster’s Daily Democrat, the Portsmouth Herald, and a hyperlocal news site. He has also served on the New Hampshire Press Association’s Board of Directors.

Tiana Woodard is The Boston Globe’s inaugural Report for America corps member, covering the city’s Black neighborhoods. Prior to joining the Globe, Tiana wrote for and fellowed at publications including The Dallas Morning News, The Texas Tribune, and The Indianapolis Star. In 2019, she was selected as a ProPublica Emerging Reporter. She grew up in Tennessee and Texas and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2021.

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The New England First Amendment Coalition provides a unique opportunity for you to help keep government accountable and journalism thriving. 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. Our founders saw a need for a unified, region-wide organization that would speak in one robust voice throughout New England. With the support of individuals like you, NEFAC is making strides.

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From all of us at NEFAC, thank you.
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