

12TH ANNUAL

NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT AWARDS



Featuring

Raney Aronson-Rath
FRONTLINE
Stephen Hamblett
First Amendment Award

Also Honoring

Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Michael Donoghue
Freedom of Information Award

Tara Gunnigle
Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award

Presented by the
New England First Amendment Coalition
April 13, 2022 | 7 p.m. | Online | nefac.org

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Ceremony Begins 7:00

Welcoming Remarks 7:02

Justin Silverman | NEFAC Executive Director
Karen Bordeleau | NEFAC President

Presentation of the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award 7:06

Introduction Janet Wu | NEFAC, WCVB-Boston

Acceptance Remarks Tara Gunnigle

Presentation of the Michael Donoghue Freedom of Information Award 7:11

Introduction Tim White | NEFAC, WPRI-Providence

Acceptance Remarks Telegram & Gazette Staff and Attorney

Presentation of the Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award 7:17

Acceptance Remarks Raney Aronson-Rath | FRONTLINE

Audience Q/A with Raney Aronson-Rath
Moderated By Edward Fitzpatrick | The Boston Globe

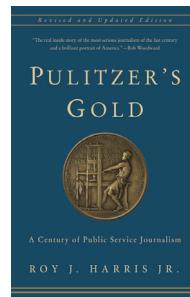
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Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the First Amendment and the public's right to know throughout New England.

Congratulations to

Raney Aronson-Rath

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



**GBH IS PROUD
TO CONGRATULATE**

Raney Aronson-Rath

Executive Producer, FRONTLINE

on receiving the NEFAC Stephen Hamblett
First Amendment Award for her commitment
to transparency in journalism.



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."



Hamblett

"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.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

CONGRATULATES

the 2022 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.

HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD RECIPIENT RANEY ARONSON-RATH

Raney Aronson-Rath oversees FRONTLINE's reporting on air and online and directs the series' editorial vision, executive producing more than 20 documentaries each year on critical issues facing the country and world. Under her leadership, FRONTLINE has earned two Oscar nominations and won every major award in broadcast journalism. Aronson-Rath spearheaded an initiative to bolster local journalism in news deserts and led an ongoing charge for transparency in journalism — including through the FRONTLINE Transparency Project. She also served as the sole public media representative on the Knight Commission on Trust, Media and Democracy, which published a report on the challenges to democracy.



PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

2021 Yamiche Alcindor | Alcindor is the anchor and moderator of Washington Week on PBS and a correspondent for NBC News.

2020 A. G. Sulzberger | 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 Free-

dom 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.

*"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 a former board member 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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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.

'Lost to Abuse,' a recent multi-part series exposed gaps in how Connecticut addressed intimate-partner violence. The series caught the attention of state officials who pledged to act. Gov. Ned Lamont proposed investing \$18 million in services for victims, including for short-term emergency shelter and long-term housing.

The funding is key for local service providers, who served nearly 38,000 victims of domestic violence in Connecticut in 2020.

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 2022 New England First Amendment Coalition's honorees.

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DONOOGHUE FOI AWARD RECIPIENT BANGOR DAILY NEWS

Led by reporter Brad Petrishen, the Worcester Telegram & Gazette requested internal affairs records of officers working in its city police department. The newspaper believed that the information in the documents it requested would help readers better understand whether officers in their community were being held accountable for their actions. Despite strong legal precedent requiring the documents to be disclosed, the po-

lice department kept the records secret. The Telegram & Gazette fought back, beginning what would become a three-year legal battle. A Worcester Superior Court judge last year ruled in favor of the Telegram & Gazette and earlier this year ordered the city of Worcester to pay the newsroom's legal fees. The court even imposed the first award of punitive damages in a public records lawsuit since at least 2016.

**TELEGRAM
& GAZETTE**
telegram.com

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DONOGHUE FOI AWARD

2021 Bangor Daily News | The newspaper used public record laws to report on the misconduct of police and corrections officers in Maine through its "Lawmen Off Limits" series.

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 breakup of the New Britain, Conn., police department.

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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, clinical 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

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.



Orfield

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ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT TARA GUNNIGLE

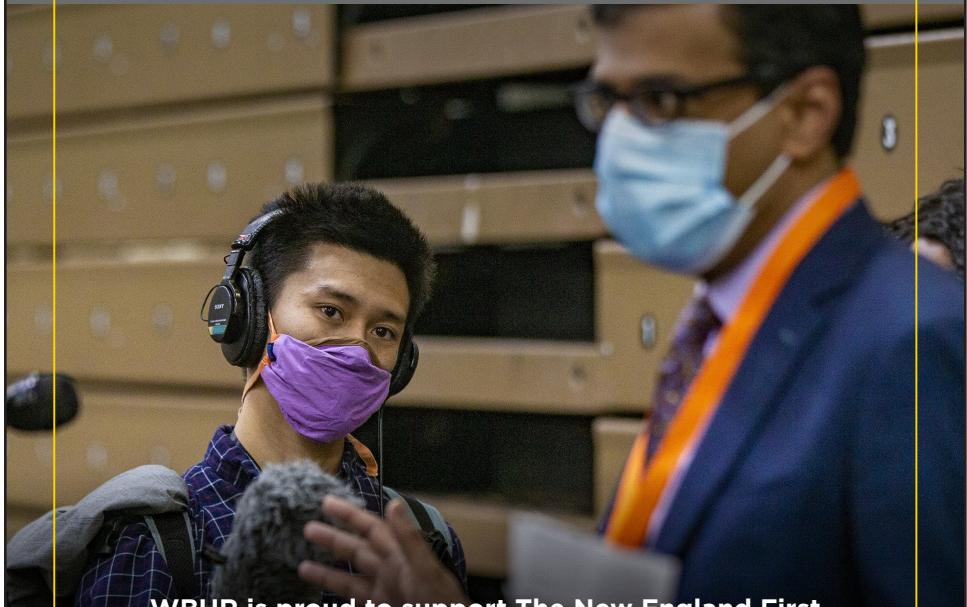
With the help of her husband Jon Pearson, Tara Gunnigle began asking questions after the town treasurer in Webster, New Hampshire, mentioned during a public meeting that he owned two plots of land across the street from his waterfront home. At town meetings, Gunnigle sought information about the properties and how they were sold. She requested that the board unseal the minutes of the 2019 meeting

when the sale was approved. She also used the New Hampshire Right to Know Law to file public records for town documents related to the sale. What Gunnigle uncovered was an illegal sale of the property by the town to the acting treasurer for \$7,000. It is a Class B misdemeanor to buy town property while serving as a public official unless there is a competitive bidding process.



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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.

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PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

2021 Jeanne Kempthorne | 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.

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 citizen coalition working to improve transparency in New Hampshire government.

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 N.H. 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.

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.

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.

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 #NEFAC2022

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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.