

13TH ANNUAL

# NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT AWARDS



*Featuring*

**Brian McGrory**

*Former Editor at The Boston Globe*

**Stephen Hamblett**

**First Amendment Award**

*Also Honoring*

**Nancy West**

**Michael Donoghue**

**Freedom of Information Award**

**Susan Hawes**

**Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award**

**nefac**

*Presented by the*

**New England First Amendment Coalition**

June 1, 2023 | 7 p.m. | Tuscan Kitchen Seaport

## PROGRAM SPONSORS

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## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**Reception** 7:00

**Ceremony Begins** 7:30

**Welcoming Remarks** 7:40

Justin Silverman | NEFAC Executive Director  
Gregory V. Sullivan | NEFAC President

**Presentation of the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award** 8:00

*Introduction* Judy Meyer | NEFAC, Sun Media Group  
*Acceptance Remarks* Susan Hawes

**Presentation of the Michael Donoghue Freedom of Information Award** 8:10

*Introduction* Richard Gagliuso | NEFAC, Bernstein Shur  
*Acceptance Remarks* Nancy West

**Presentation of the Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award** 8:20

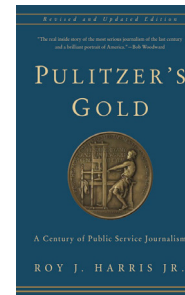
*Introduction* Emily Sweeney | NEFAC, The Boston Globe  
*Acceptance Remarks* Brian McGrory

**Closing Remarks** 8:55

Gregory V. Sullivan | NEFAC President

*The Robertson Foundation*

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



Congratulations to

**Brian McGrory**

On his NEFAC First Amendment Award

--From Roy Harris & Columbia University Press, publisher of *Pulitzer's Gold: A Century of Public Service Journalism*  
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# BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

## CONGRATULATES

the 2023 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



**Brian McGrory**, Department of Journalism Chair and Professor of the Practice, on receiving the Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award.



**Boston University** College of Communication

The College of Communication has been educating professional communicators since 1947. Its students represent the next generation of leaders in journalism, emerging media, film and television, advertising, public relations, and media science.

## 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."



**Hamblett**

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.

The Boston Globe  
Serving our community since 1872

# Congratulations Brian McGrory

on being named this year's Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award recipient. Your dedication and tireless work to hold those in power accountable illuminated the need for stronger freedom of information laws in Massachusetts.

*We salute you and thank you.*

Scan to read  
Brian's new  
column now



## HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD RECIPIENT BRIAN MCGRORY

Brian McGrory is a former reporter, columnist and editor at The Boston Globe where he led the newsroom for more than a decade. He now serves as the chair of Boston University's journalism department, a position he began in February.

As the Globe's editor, McGrory supported often lengthy and costly public records appeals and lawsuits to support



the reporting of his staff. In addition to the many cases litigated by the Globe during his leadership, McGrory helped oppose subpoenas of his reporters in civil and criminal actions in state and federal court — and did so without the benefit of a state shield law. McGrory distinguished himself from other editors by publicizing public record battles and the need for transparency.

## PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE HAMBLETT FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

**2022 Raney Aronson-Rath** | Aronson-Rath is the executive producer of FRONTLINE and an advocate for journalism and freedom of the press.

**2021 Yamiche Alcindor** | Alcindor is the former 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 former 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.



# Journalism that makes a difference in people's lives.



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.

'When Schools Use Force,' a multi-part series exposing systemic abuses in the use of restraint and seclusion in schools nationwide, did just that.

Soon after publication, lawmakers introduced legislation in multiple states to address the issues raised and called for more funding, resources, training and better oversight to limit the use of these practices.

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 2023 New England First Amendment Coalition's honorees.



## 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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## DONOGHUE FOI AWARD RECIPIENT NANCY WEST

Nancy West is founder of the New Hampshire Center for Public Interest Journalism and is executive editor of its website InDepthNH.org.

West, who spent 30 years as a reporter for the Union Leader, eschewed retirement and began the non-profit online news organization eight years ago. At a time when financial insecurity is threatening local newsrooms across the country, West is si-



multaneously serving as an investigative reporter and lead fundraiser for InDepthNH.org.

West's reporting last year included stories on the death of a mentally-ill inmate and the need for transparency within his prison, the lack of response by public officials to two tragedies involving homeless women, and the secrecy surrounding a car crash involving a Portsmouth Police Department employee.

## PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DONOGHUE FOI AWARD

**2022 Telegram & Gazette** | The Worcester Telegram & Gazette prevailed in a three-year legal battle for the internal affairs records of officers working in its city police department.

**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** | As a reporter for The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team, Wallack reported stories about online accessibility to criminal records and the overuse of 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.



**Prince Lobel**  
 is proud to sponsor the  
 New England First  
 Amendment  
 Coalition's  
**13th Annual New  
 England First  
 Amendment Awards.**



Congratulations to  
 tonight's award winners  
 for their inspiring  
 dedication to the public's  
 right to know.

▶ PRINCE LOBEL

**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**

**ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT  
 SUSAN HAWES**

Susan Hawes engaged in a protracted battle for information about the Cumberland County Jail and its employment practices.

When she learned of a fatal car accident in 2019 involving a county jail employee who fell asleep at the wheel after working two consecutive 16-hour shifts, Hawes began filing Freedom of Access Act requests with the county to obtain overtime records for

its corrections officers. Two days after she filed her public records request, the county sheriff claimed the employment records were confidential and refused to release them. Undeterred, Hawes filed a lawsuit and represented herself in a case she would ultimately win. Among other things, the records showed that county officials lied about the overtime being worked by corrections officers.



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**PAST RECIPIENTS OF  
THE ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

**2022 Tara Gunnigle** | Gunnigle used the New Hampshire Right to Know Law last year to investigate the illegal sale of a property to an acting town official.

**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 NH and 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 public employees in the state.

Congress of the United States

Agreed and held at the City of New York, on  
Wednesday the seventh of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.  
We would like to acknowledge

**MORGAN LEWIS and THE DAY**

for their 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.



New England  
First Amendment Coalition

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 #NEFAC2023**

**Join today at [nefac.org/join](https://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](https://nefac.org).*

**Tax-exempt contributions can be made at [nefac.org](https://nefac.org) or sent to NEFAC, 111 Milk Street, Westborough, MA 01581.**