

13th Annual

NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE

Presented by the New England First Amendment Coalition

October 29-31, 2023

Northeastern University | Boston, Mass.

Fellowship Application
Deadline August 18, 2023

nefai 2023

About the New England First Amendment Institute

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 2023 Institute will be held at Northeastern University in Boston from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31.

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 DOES IT COST?

The 25 fellows selected for this year's Institute will attend at no cost. A limited number of scholarships are available to cover hotel and travel expenses, if necessary to attend.

SUPPORTERS

Primary support for our Institute is generously provided by the following:



Northeastern University



RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION



NEFAC appreciates the support of all its donors and Sustaining Members. In addition to those named above, we would like to thank the following Leadership Circle donors and Major Supporters for their contributions: The Boston Globe, Paul and Ann Sagan, the Robertson Foundation, Hearst Connecticut Media Group, Genie Gannett for the First Amendment Museum, Linda Pizzuti Henry, the Champa Charitable Foundation Fund and Connecticut Public.



Testimonials

NEFAC taught me reporting skills I never acquired when working toward a media degree in college. Since attending the Institute, I have filled out more public records requests with more confidence. NEFAC didn't just teach me core skills. It also taught me how to be a digital-savvy journalist through data analysis and web scraping. These skills are crucial for journalists.

There is no question that NEFAC training has allowed me to better keep an eye on the public's business and hold powerful interests to account. NEFAC trainings have given me the confidence to push back on official narratives and shown me strategies I have used to pursue public information that officials have tried to shield from view.

The Institute opened my eyes to different ways stories can be shared. I also gained a variety of new skills including web scraping data, how to pitch a solid climate change story, and the rights journalist have to public records. For me, attending the classes was instrumental for my growth as an investigative journalist.

Former Fellows

CONNECTICUT

2011

Richard Campbell
The Register Citizen

Jenna Cho
The Day

JC Reindl
The Day

Alexandra Sanders
New Haven Register

Julie Stagis
Hartford Courant

2012

Shawn Beals
Hartford Courant

Beau Berman
WTIC-TV

Alexander Goldstein
The Day

Kevin Litten
Republican-American

Erin Logan
WTNH

Fran Silverman
Hearst Newspapers

2013

Lisa Backus
The Bristol Press

Jenna Carlesso
Hartford Courant

Tina Detelj
WTNH

Jessica Glenza
The Register Citizen

Maggie Gordon
Hearst Newspapers

David Iversen
WTNH

Alec Johnson
Republican-American

Viktoria Sundqvist
The Middletown Press

2014

Jason Bagley
TruthInAdvertising

Kelly Catalfamo
The Day

Jennifer Swift
New Haven Register

Tess Townsend
The Day

2015

Lindsay Boyle
The Day

Suzanne Carlson
Hartford Courant

Susan Haigh
The Associated Press

Esteban Hernandez
New Haven Register

Patrick Skahill
WNPR-Connecticut

2016

Julia Bergman
The Day

Anna Bisaro
New Haven Register

Mikaela Porter
Hartford Courant

2017

Stephen Busemeyer
Hartford Courant

Jill Konopka
WVIT-Hartford

Kaitlyn Krasselt
Norwalk Hour

Martha Shanahan
The Day

2018

Skylar Frazer
New Britain Herald

Ben Lambert
New Haven Register

Barry Lytton
The Stamford Advocate

Erica Moser
The Day

2019

Kimberly Drelich
The Day

Meghan Friedmann
Hearst Connecticut

Jo Kroeker
Hearst Connecticut

Justin Papp
Hearst Connecticut

2020

Tatiana Flowers
Hearst Connecticut

Peter Yankowski
Hearst Connecticut

2021

Verónica Del Valle
Hearst Connecticut

Currie Engel
Hearst Connecticut

Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Elizabeth Regan
The Day

2022

Richard Chumney
Hearst Connecticut

Emily DiSalvo
Hearst Connecticut

Walter Smith
Connecticut Public

Randolph
Connecticut Public

Sten Spinella
The Day

MAINE

2011

Susan Cover
Maine Today

Emily Guerin
The Forecaster

Jesse Nankin
Watchdog New England

Eric Russell
Bangor Daily News

2012

Will Graff
The Forecaster

Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal

2013

Matthew Curren
WGME

David Harry
The Forecaster

2014

Jon Chrisos
CBS13/Fox23

Michael Shepherd
Kennebec Journal

2015

Jordan Bailey
Courier Publications

Nate Holst
WMTW-Portland

David Sherwood
Maine Center for
Public Interest Reporting

2016

Matthew Daigle
Sun Journal

Stephanie Grinnell
The Republican Journal

Kyle Jones
WMTW News

Joshua Moore
Maine Center for
Public Interest Reporting

2017

Marina Villeneuve
Associated Press

Abigail Adams
Lincoln County News

Charles Eichacker
Kennebec Journal

Callie Ferguson
The Forecaster

2018

Anne Berleant
Penobscot Bay Press

Joe Glauber
WMTW-Portland

Rachel Ohm
Morning Sentinel

Amanda Post
WGME-Portland

2019

Sarah Craighead
Dedmon
Machias Valley
News Observer

Dan Lampariello
WGME-Portland

Patty Wight
Maine Public Radio

2020

Molly Shelly
The Morning Sentinel

Terry Stackhouse
WMTW News 8

Andrea Swiedom
Sun Media

2021

Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot

2022

Kaitlyn Budion
Morning Sentinel

Joaquin Contreras
Sun Journal

Emily Duggan
Kennebec Journal

Sawyer Loftus
Bangor Daily News

Kay Neufeld
Sun Media Group

Vanessa Paoella
Sun Journal

MASSACHUSETTS

2011

Keith Eddings
Eagle-Tribune

Jim Haddadin
Arlington Advocate

Laura Hutchinson
WWLP 22News

Lyle Moran
Lowell Sun

David Riley
MetroWest Daily News

Rory Schuler
Taunton Daily

Matthew Stout
The Enterprise

2012

Alex Bloom
The Enterprise

George Brennan
Cape Cod Times

Deirdre Fernandes
The Boston Globe

David Eisenstadter
The Transcript

Sarah Favot
Lowell Sun

Martine Powers
The Boston Globe

Patrick Ronan
Patriot Ledger

Shaun Sutner
Worcester
Telegram & Gazette

Ryan Walsh
WWLP

2013

Doug Fraser
Cape Cod Times

Wes Lowery
The Boston Globe

Joshua Miller
The Boston Globe

Shawn Musgrave
MuckRock

Neena Pathak
Schuster Institute

Neal Simpson
The Patriot Ledger

Schuyler Velasco
Christian Science Monitor

2014

Sean F. Driscoll
Cape Cod Times

Beryl Lipton
MuckRock

Priyanka McCluskey
The Boston Globe

Alexa Mills
The Boston Globe

Alex Ruppenthal
Medford Transcript

Eli Sherman
Waltham News Tribune

2015

Samantha Allen
Worcester
Telegram & Gazette

Jonathan Dame
GateHouse Media

Nicole Dungca
The Boston Globe

Jenna Fisher
GateHouse Media

Allison Manning
Boston.com

Jordan Mayblum
Wellesley Townsman

Jan Ransom
The Boston Globe

2016

Zeninjor Enwemeka
WBUR

Jordan Frias
Boston Herald

Phil Marcelo
Associated Press

Tom Relihan
The Recorder

Susan Spencer
Worcester
Telegram & Gazette

Gerry Tuoti
Gatehouse Media

2017

Collin Binkley
Associated Press

Amanda Drane
Berkshire Eagle

Melissa Hanson
MassLive

Brad Petrishen
Worcester
Telegram & Gazette

Greg Ryan
Boston Business Journal

2018

Sarah Betancourt
Boston Institute for
Nonprofit Journalism

Michael Bonner
The Standard Times

Lisa Creamer
WBUR-Boston

Dialynn Dwyer
Boston.com

Jennifer Lu
Independent

Angela Rowlings
Boston Herald

Bridget Turcotte
The Daily Item

Grant Welker
Worcester
Business Journal

2019

Amanda Burke
Fall River Herald News

Jo C. Goode
Fall River Herald News

Zoe Greenberg
The Boston Globe

Gal Tziperman Lotan
The Boston Globe

Haven

Orecchio-Egresitz
Berkshire Eagle

2020

Dusty Christensen
Daily Hampshire Gazette

Vernal Coleman
The Boston Globe

Jessica Hill
Cape Cod Times

Former Fellows Continued

Jennifer Huberdeau The Berkshire Eagle	Christopher Garofolo Eagle Times	Mary McIntyre New Hampshire Public Radio	2015	Zane Wolfgang Newport Daily News	Adam Silverman Burlington Free Press
Lucia Maffei Boston Business Journal	Kathryn Marchocki NH Union Leader	Leah Willingham Concord Monitor 2020	Jennifer Bogdan Providence Journal	<u>VERMONT</u> 2011	Greg Sukiennik New England Newspapers 2018
Samantha Mercado Patch.com	Kaitlin Mulhere The Keene Sentinel 2014	Olivia Belanger The Kenne Sentinel	Alex Kuffner Providence Journal	John Briggs Burlington Free Press	Catherine Buni Independent
Dasia Moore The Boston Globe	Emily Corwin NH Public Radio	Madeline Hughes The Eagle-Tribune	Steph Machado WPRI-Providence 2016	Anne Galloway Vermont Digger	Staci DaSilva WFFF-Burlington
Shira Stoll NBC 10 Boston	Alyssa Dandrea The Keene Sentinel	Alexander LaCasse Seacoast Media Group 2021	Jacqueline Tempera Providence Journal 2017	Shay Totten Seven Days 2012	Xander Landen VTDigger 2019
Julia Taliesin Somerville Journal 2021	Nora Doyle-Burr Valley News	Julia Furukawa New Hampshire Public Radio	Kate Bramson Providence Journal	Dan D'Ambrosio Burlington Free Press	Liam Elder-Connors Vermont Public Radio
Dugan Arnett The Boston Globe	Peter McGuire Forecaster Newspapers	Amanda Gokee New Hampshire Bulletin 2022	Susan Campbell WPRI-Providence	Jennifer Cleveland Caledonian-Record	Christopher Mays Brattleboro Reformer
Greta Jochem The Berkshire Eagle	Kerry Miller Eagle Times 2015	Cassidy Jensen Concord Monitor	Derek Gomes Newport Daily News	Andrew Stein Vermont Digger 2013	Alex Nuti-de Biasi Journal Opinion
Anastasia Lennon New Bedford Light	Jeremy Blackman Concord Monitor	Jordan Phelan Eagle Times	Diana Pinzon WPRI-Providence 2018	Nathan Burgess Stowe Reporter	Orrin Schonfeld WPTZ-Burlington
Alex Newman Patch	Megan Doyle Concord Monitor	Jack Rooney Keene Sentinel 2022	Brian Amaral Providence Journal	Olga Peters The Commons	Cat Viglienzoni WCAX-Burlington 2020
Emma Platoff The Boston Globe	Rob Wolfe Valley News 2016	Ryan Spencer Keene Sentinel	Parker Gavigan WJAR-Cranston	Jennifer Reading WCAX 2014	Devin Bates Local 22/44
Tiana Woodard The Boston Globe 2022	Peter Biello New Hampshire Public Radio	Michaela Towfighi Concord Monitor	Kim Kalunian WPRI-Providence 2019	Taylor Dobbs Vermont Public Radio	Tom Garris WPTZ NBC 5
Marco Cartolano Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Tim Camerato Valley News	RHODE ISLAND 2011	Jessica Botelho WJAR-Cranston	Abby Ledoux Milton Independent	Anna Merriman Valley News
Audrey Cooney Fall River Herald News	Meghan Foley The Keene Sentinel	Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal	Laura Damon The Newport Daily News	Allison Teague The Commons 2015	Christopher Ross Addison County Independent
Samantha Gross The Boston Globe	Allie Morris Concord Monitor	David Scharfenberg Providence Phoenix	Hannah Dickison WPRI-Providence	April Burbank Burlington Free Press	Tiffany Tan Bennington Banner 2021
Faith Imafidon Boston Neighborhood Network Media	Ella Nilsen Concord Monitor 2017	Karen Ziner Providence Journal 2012	Nadine Maya Sebai The Public's Radio 2020	Lola Duffort Rutland Herald	Dom Amato WCAX-Burlington
<u>NEW</u> <u>HAMPSHIRE</u> 2011	Caitlin Andrews Concord Monitor	Lynn Arditi Providence Journal	Madeleine List Providence Journal 2021	Lesley Engle Fox44/ABC22	Jack Lyons VT Digger 2022
Joseph Cote Nashua Telegraph	Allison DeAngelis Eagle-Tribune	Ian Donnis Rhode Island Public Radio	Jeremy Bernfeld The Public's Radio	Courtney Lamdin Milton Independent 2016	April Barton Burlington Free Press
Mark Davis Valley News	Casey McDermott New Hampshire Public Radio	Kathleen Mulvaney Providence Journal 2013	Lauren Clem The Valley Breeze	Jess Aloe Burlington Free Press	Kevin Gaiss WCAX
Maddie Hanna Concord Monitor 2012	Paige Sutherland New Hampshire Public Radio 2018	Bill Malinowski Providence Journal	Sarah Guernelli WPRI-Providence	Colin Flanders The Essex Reporter and Colchester Sun	Michael Hoey-Lukakis WVNY/WFFF
Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Breanna Edelstein The Eagle Tribune	Mark Reynolds Providence Journal 2014	Rachel Nunes Patch	Stephanie Gorin NBC5-Vermont	Lilly St. Angelo Burlington Free Press
Maryalice Gill Nashua Telegraph	Sierra Hubbard The Keene Sentinel	Randal Edgar Providence Journal	Amy Russo Providence Journal 2022	Katie Jickling The Herald	<u>REGIONAL</u> 2021
Meg Heckman Concord Monitor	Meg McIntyre The Keene Sentinel 2019	Paul Grimaldi Providence Journal	Temi-Tope Adeleye WJAR	Elizabeth Murray Burlington Free Press	Maya Ergas Shwayder New England Public Media
Annmarie Timmins Concord Monitor 2013	Hadley Barndollar Portsmouth Herald	Janine Weisman Newport Mercury	Wheeler Cowperthwaite Providence Journal	Alicia Freese Seven Days	Kyle Stucker Gannett New England
Todd Bookman NH Public Radio	Paul Cuno-Booth The Keene Sentinel		Jacqueline Gomersall WPRI	Tommy Gardner Stowe Reporter	
Sarah Brubeck Valley News			Nina Sparling The Public's Radio	Hilary Niles Independent	



New England First Amendment Institute Fellowship Application Deadline August 18, 2023

The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — including editors, reporters and producers — to attend a multi-day training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques from Oct. 29-31. To be eligible, an applicant must be a working journalist in print, digital or broadcast media in New England. The Institute is designed for both relatively new and veteran journalists who have at least two years of professional news reporting experience and long-term plans to stay within the profession. Applicants working for a news organization must submit letters of recommendation from their current editors or supervisors, along with the application and required attachments. One additional recommendation from a former editor or supervisor is optional. Self-employed applicants may submit recommendations as described below. Broadcast journalists should submit their stories via links if possible, and on DVDs if not possible.

To apply, please submit the documents listed below. Please also fully answer the following questions, restating the question in your answer.

- (1) Describe why you would like to attend the New England First Amendment Institute. What do you hope to take away from the program? What do you hope to add to the program?
- (2) Describe a problem you have encountered while investigating a story and how you reacted to it. Do you think attending the Institute might help you with similar difficulties in the future? If so, how?
- (3) Describe what you believe is your best asset as a journalist. Please tell us what you feel has been your greatest success as a journalist.
- (4) Tell us how you would spread the knowledge you gain at the Institute to others in your news organization.
- (5) The Institute is designed for professional journalists, with different levels of experience, who are committed to continue working in journalism after the Institute. What skills do you hope to acquire during NEFAI to help your journalism career over the next several years?
- (6) Have you applied to or attended the Institute in a previous year?
- (7) If you are selected as a fellow for this year's Institute, will your attendance be contingent on the availability of a scholarship to cover all or part of your travel and hotel accommodations?

Required Documents

- (1) Resume, including mailing address, phone number and preferred email address.
- (2) Recommendation from a current editor/supervisor or, if self-employed, a former or current editor of your freelance work. Please use the Recommendation Form included in this application.
- (3) Portfolio of your three best investigative stories. If you have not done investigative work, please attach three news-based stories that represent your best effort.

*Please submit your application, resume, portfolio and recommendation in **one single PDF file** via email on or before August 18, 2023, to justin@nefac.org. If there is no acknowledgment from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.*



New England First Amendment Institute Recommendation Form Deadline August 18, 2023

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Position _____

Your Name _____

**Your Organization
and Position** _____

Phone/Email _____

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

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

(2) How long have you known the applicant?

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

(4) Why do you believe the applicant is firmly committed to freedom of information and will use the knowledge gained through this fellowship to improve his or her reporting — as well as to help colleagues with their own reporting — during the next several years?

(5) While the three days of training and meals are covered in full by the Institute fellowship, is your organization willing to sponsor the applicant for other associated costs, such as transportation and lodging?

Yes

No