

**nefai**  
**2023**

# Table of Contents

About the New England First Amendment Institute	3
Former NEFAI Fellows	4
Institute Schedule	7
NEFAI 2023 Keynote Speakers	13
NEFAI 2023 Faculty and Other Speakers	13
NEFAI 2023 Fellows	23
NEFAI 2023 Student Journalism Fellows	27

## Program Sponsors, Contributors and Special Recognition

The Academy of New England Journalists	2
Boston University	6
The Robertson Foundation and Paul and Ann Sagan	11
The Boston Globe	12
Northeastern University	14
Connecticut Public	20
WBUR-Boston	22
Hearst Connecticut	28
The Rhode Island Foundation	Back Cover

## Important Information

### **NEFAI 2023 Event Page**

[www.nefac.org/nefai-2023](http://www.nefac.org/nefai-2023)

### **NEFAI 2023 Schedule, Documents and Presentations**

[www.nefac.org/nefai-2023-curriculum](http://www.nefac.org/nefai-2023-curriculum)

### **Justin Silverman | NEFAC Executive Director**

[justin@nefac.org](mailto:justin@nefac.org) | 774.244.2365 (phone/text)

# 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 2023 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.

# 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



*NEFAI 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, Connecticut Public and WBUR-Boston.*



## Testimonials

*NEFAI 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. NEFAI 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 NEFAI training has allowed me to better keep an eye on the public's business and hold powerful interests to account. NEFAI 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 NEFAI 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

**Eric 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

**Marina Villeneuve**  
Associated Press

2017

**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

**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

**Jonathan Dame**  
Telegram & Gazette

**Nicole Dungca**  
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 NEFAI Fellows

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



**BOSTON UNIVERSITY'S**  
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION  
IS DELIGHTED TO CONGRATULATE

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**THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST  
AMENDMENT INSTITUTE'S**  
**CLASS OF 2023**

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AND TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF  
**THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST  
AMENDMENT COALITION.**



**Boston University** College of Communication

# NEFAI 2023 Schedule

## Local FOI Workshops

### CONNECTICUT

October 18 | 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
ACLU of Connecticut  
765 Asylum Avenue, Hartford

Dan Barrett | ACLU of Connecticut  
Mike Savino | American Business Media

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

### MAINE

October 10 | 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sun Journal  
64 Lisbon Street, Suite 201, Lewiston

Judith Meyer | Sun Media Group  
Sigmund Schutz | Preti Flaherty

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

### MASSACHUSETTS

October 18 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
WBUR  
890 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

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

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

October 16 | 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
ACLU of New Hampshire  
18 Low Avenue, Concord

Gilles Bissonnette | ACLU of New Hampshire  
Paul Cuno-Booth | Independent Journalist

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

### RHODE ISLAND

October 27 | 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Oliverio & Marcaccio  
30 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 109, N. Kingstown

Raymond A. Marcaccio | Oliverio & Marcaccio  
Eli Sherman | WPRI-Providence

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

### VERMONT

October 12 | 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Seven Days  
255 So. Champlain Street, Burlington

Harrison Stark | ACLU of Vermont  
Courtney Lamdin | Seven Days

*Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records  
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open  
Meetings (4) How Newsrooms Respond to Executive  
Session Secrecy*

## Introduction to R — Prep Session (Online)

*Fellows will have the option of attending either Basic Database Analysis or Introduction to R during the Institute. Those choosing Introduction to R must attend a 60-minute prep session prior to the Institute.*

October 16 | 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sarah L. Ryley | The Boston Globe

*Introduction: Justin Silverman | New England First Amendment Coalition*





# NEFAI 2023 Schedule

## October 30 (continued)

11:15 - 11:30

**Break**

11:30 - 1:45

**Break-Out Sessions**

11:30 - 12:30

**Round 1**

12:30 - 12:45

**Break / Lunch Served**

12:45 - 1:45

**Round 2**

**CLIMATE** [Curry – McLeod 1]

Beth Daley | The Conversation US

**EDUCATION** [Curry – McLeod 2]

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas | Hearst Connecticut Media Group

**HOW TO STAY SAFE WHILE REPORTING** [Curry – Room 342]

Stephanie Sugars | U.S. Press Freedom Tracker

**COURTS AND COPS** [Curry – Room 344]

John R. Ellement | The Boston Globe

**COVERING TRAGEDY** [Curry – Room 346]

Gal Tziperman Lotan | GBH News

*Required Viewing: Interviewing Traumatized Sources*

1:45 - 2:00

**Break**

2:00 - 3:30

**Intro to Copyright Law and Newsroom Legal Q/A** [Curry – Room 333]

Robert A. Bertsche | Klaris Law

Gregory V. Sullivan | New England First Amendment Coalition

*Introductions: Penelope Overton | Portland Press Herald*

*Required Viewing: (1) How to Respond to a Subpoena (2) How to Avoid Libel in Your Reporting (3) How to Balance Newsgathering with Privacy*

4:45 - 5:45

**Former Fellows Roundtable** [Westin Copley, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston]

Temi-Tope Adeleye | WJAR-Providence

Emily Duggan | Kennebec Journal

Brad Petrishen | Worcester Telegram & Gazette

*Moderator: Penelope Overton | Portland Press Herald*

# NEFAI 2023 Schedule

## October 30 (continued)

5:45 - 8:30 (or later)

**Dinner and Presentation** [Westin Copley, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston]

6:15 - 7:15

**Keynote Speaker**

Sisi Wei | The Markup

*Introduction: Penelope Overton | Portland Press Herald*

6:45

**Dinner**

*NEFAC will provide transportation from Northeastern University to The Westin Copley at 3:45 p.m.*

## October 31

8:15 - 8:30

**Announcements** [Curry – Room 333]

8:30 - 10:00

**Effective Sourcing** [Curry – Room 333]

Len Besthoff | NBC Connecticut

Cindy Galli | ABC News

Jenifer McKim | GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting

*Moderator: Penelope Overton | Portland Press Herald*

10:00 - 10:15

**Break**

10:15 - 12:15

**Database Analysis Break-Out Sessions**

*Suggested Viewing: (1) Data Cleaning 101 (2) Data Cleaning 102 (3) Data Visualization 101*

**BASIC DATABASE ANALYSIS** [Curry – Room 346]

Brooke Williams | Boston University

*Required Viewing: (1) Class Introduction and Database Basics*

**INTRODUCTION TO R** [Curry – Room 344]

Sarah Ryley | The Boston Globe

12:15 - 1:45

**Lunch** [Curry – McLeod Suites]

12:45

**Keynote Speaker**

Brian Rosenthal | The New York Times, IRE

*Introduction: Gregory V. Sullivan | New England First Amendment Coalition*

## October 31 (continued)

1:45 - 2:30

**Photo/Break** [Location TBD]

2:30 - 3:30

**Media Break-Out Sessions**

CONFRONTATIONAL INTERVIEWS [Curry – Room 346]

Mike Beaudet | Northeastern University, WCVB-Boston

WRITING WORKSHOP AND NARRATIVE FLOW [Curry – Room 344]

Dick Lehr | Boston University

3:30 - 3:45

**Concluding Remarks** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

We would like to acknowledge

**THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION**  
and  
**PAUL AND ANN SAGAN**

for their generosity and continued support of the  
First Amendment, the public's right to know and the  
education of journalists throughout New England.

Your support makes us a stronger organization and  
will help this year's New England First Amendment  
Institute become the most successful yet.

Thank you.



nefac



## NEFAI 2023 Keynote Speakers



**Eric Meyer**

Marion County Record

[eric@marioncountyrecord.com](mailto:eric@marioncountyrecord.com)

Returning to a weekly newspaper he purchased in 1998 with his parents and worked at from fifth grade through college, Eric Meyer is spending his retirement as majority owner, editor, and publisher of the Marion County Record in Marion, Kansas. A veteran of two years at the Bloomington (Illinois) Pantagraph and 18 years at the Milwaukee Journal, where he was news, photo and graphics editor and a Pulitzer Prize nominee for coverage of computer hackers, he spent 26 years as a tenured professor of journalism at the University of Illinois before retiring in 2021. While a professor, he also worked as a consultant to more than 350 online publishers worldwide and was a visiting professor of social media at the Dallas Morning News.



**Sisi Wei**

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Sisi Wei is the Editor-in-Chief of The Markup. Before joining The Markup, she was Co-Executive Director of OpenNews, where she envisioned and executed transformative initiatives for journalism. As part of her work, Sisi founded the DEI Coalition For Anti-Racist, Equitable, And Just Newsrooms in 2020, and led more than 100 members of the journalism community in co-creating and launching the DEI Coalition Slack space in March 2021. The Slack is dedicated to sharing knowledge and taking concrete action in service of a more anti-racist, equitable, and just journalism industry. She was the Assistant Managing Editor at ProPublica from 2018 to 2020, where she oversaw three editorial teams focused on news apps.



**Brian M. Rosenthal**

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Brian M. Rosenthal is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter at The New York Times and the president of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), a nonprofit that trains thousands of journalists around the world. He has worked at The Times for six years, primarily writing in-depth stories about New York. Previously, he was a beat reporter covering local government at The Seattle Times and the Houston Chronicle. He won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting for revealing that leaders of the New York taxi industry had trapped thousands of cabdrivers in predatory loans, and he was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for showing Texas was systematically denying special education services to children with disabilities.

## NEFAI 2023 Faculty and Other Speakers

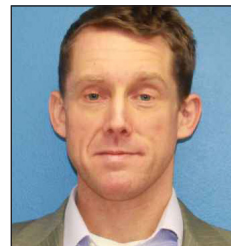


**Temi-Topé Adeleye**

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Temi-Topé Adeleye is a multimedia journalist and segment contributor with NBC 10 WJAR in Providence, R.I. Adeleye graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from Western Carolina University and a master's degree in Journalism from Emerson College. During her time with NBC 10, she has covered everything from crime and fatal fires to health and community involvement.

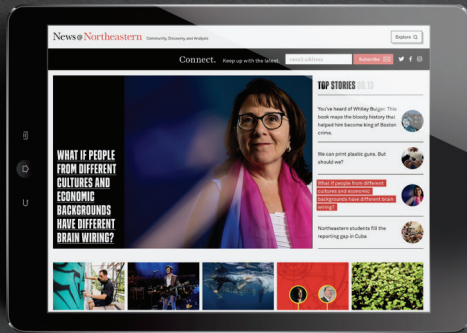
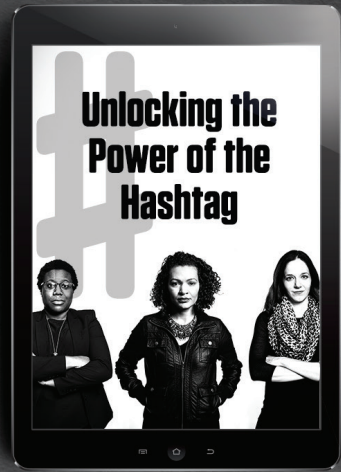


**Dan Barrett**

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Dan Barrett is the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut's legal director. His interests in the law include anonymous speech, freedom of movement, mass surveillance, and maximizing democratic control of government through open courts and open records. Prior to coming to the ACLU of Connecticut, Barrett directed the litigation at the ACLU of Vermont for seven years and clerked for the Hon. Janet Bond Arterton of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.



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## Mike Beaudet

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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 30 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.



## Robert A. Bertsche

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Robert A. Bertsche, a long-ago newspaperman and magazine editor, heads the Media and First Amendment practice at Klaris Law in Boston. In his fourth decade as a media lawyer, he handles content review for some of the nation's most prominent magazines and websites; litigates in federal and state courts on behalf of media entities of all kinds; and plays an "outside general counsel" role to a host of print, online, video and documentary film clients. Bertsche has particular expertise in libel, newsgathering, and copyright law. General counsel to the New England Newspaper and Press Association and a board member of NEFAC, Bertsche is nationally ranked in First Amendment law and litigation by Chambers, and "Best Lawyers" has named him Boston's First Amendment "Lawyer of the Year" for 2024, among other honors. He also serves as Board President of the startup nonprofit Needham Observer newspaper, launched earlier this year to help fill a news desert that Gannett left behind. Bertsche graduated, many moons ago, from Wesleyan University and Harvard Law School.



## Len Besthoff

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Len Besthoff is the Chief Investigative Reporter for the NBC Connecticut Investigates team. Since joining NBC Connecticut in October of 2013, Besthoff has brought change and broken a number of stories with statewide impact including patient abuse at Connecticut's maximum security psychiatric hospital, glitches with the Connecticut's DMV software, and the state's new "Next Generation 911" system. Besthoff has also uncovered wrongdoing

by elected officials, and held public utilities accountable for their treatment of ratepayers. Besthoff concentrates on stories using data, records, and whistleblowers to expose waste, corruption, and wrongdoing. He advocates for protecting and improving our state's Freedom of Information statutes, and is on the board of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government (CFOG). Previously, he worked for WFSB-TV in Hartford for 11 years, and was part of the station's investigative unit, breaking a number of big stories, and receiving a number of awards for his efforts. Besthoff has covered major news stories on the East Coast and New England for 25 years, including 9/11, numerous hurricanes and snowstorms; and major stories in Connecticut, including the violence in Newtown and at Hartford Distributors in Manchester, along with the arrest of Hartford's mayor. He also worked for WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina, WDBJ-TV in Roanoke, Virginia, News12 Connecticut in Norwalk, and TV-34 News in Wall Township, New Jersey.



## Gilles Bissonnette

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Gilles Bissonnette is the Legal Director at the ACLU of New Hampshire, where he leads a team of three civil rights lawyers. He has litigated cases on the criminalization of poverty, voting, police and government accountability, public records, the First Amendment, immigrants' rights, and criminal justice issues. Bissonnette has testified before the New Hampshire legislature on hundreds of bills impacting civil liberties. He is the 2022 recipient of the New Hampshire Bar Association's Distinguished Service to the Public Award. In 2021, his legal team — along with co-counsel — received the Granite State Advocacy Award from the New Hampshire Association for Justice.



## Garance Burke

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Garance Burke is a global investigative journalist with The Associated Press, where her accountability reporting at the intersection of government, immigration, and technology has sparked federal investigations, congressional hearings, and Cabinet-level resignations. Based in San Francisco, Burke's current reporting is aimed at bringing more transparency to the power and impact technology has on our communities. Her journalism has been honored as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting, a winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and a National News & Documentary Emmy Award for a collaborative FRONTLINE/PBS documentary about the detention of migrant children, among other accolades.



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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. He is a Massachusetts Bar Fellow and a member of the American Bar Association and its Forum on Communications Law.



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Margaret Cronan is News Director for WCVB Channel 5, Boston's News and Community Leader. A communications executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience, Cronan returned to Hearst Television to head NewsCenter 5 in August 2021. She is just the eighth News Director in the station's distinguished history. As News Director, Cronan manages all operations of the news department including oversight of the more than 45 hours of newscasts produced weekly, breaking news, weather and sports, special projects, 5 Investigates, NewsCenter 5 Primetime specials, and all of the station's digital and social media news initiatives.



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Paul Cuno-Booth reports on health and equity for New Hampshire Public Radio. He previously worked at The Keene Sentinel for four years as a reporter and editor, and has written for the Granite State News Collaborative, BusinessNH magazine and other outlets in New Hampshire and Vermont.



## Beth Daley

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Beth Daley is the Executive Editor and General Manager of The Conversation US. Previously Daley had a leadership position at InsideClimate News. A Pulitzer Prize finalist for climate reporting at The Boston Globe, she also worked at the New England Center for Investigative Reporting as a reporter and director of partnerships. As Director of Strategic Development at InsideClimate, she worked to diversify the Pulitzer Prize-winning news outlet's revenue stream. Daley attended Stanford University as a John S. Knight Journalism fellow.



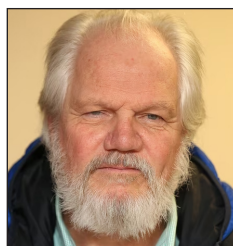
## Emily Duggan

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Emily Duggan has been an education reporter at the Kennebec Journal for two years. During her time at the Kennebec Journal, she notably reported on the "botched" University of Maine at Augusta presidential search and collaborated with the Portland Press Herald and The Sun Journal to strengthen their efforts re-

porting on the matter that resulted in votes of no confidence against the system chancellor. Before the Kennebec Journal, she graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. In her time at UNH, she was news editor of student-lead newspaper, The New Hampshire and interned at the Portland Press Herald while home in Portland for summer break. Duggan's articles have also appeared in the Granite State News Collaborative partnership pipeline and the Portland Phoenix. She lives in Portland and enjoys reading, catching up on the newest streaming show, and playing with her two cats.



## John R. Ellement

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John R. Ellement is an on-line journalist with 30 years of experience covering breaking news and who continues to report on criminal justice issues in Massachusetts, his primary area of expertise at [bostonglobe.com](http://bostonglobe.com). He was part of the Globe's coverage of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news coverage in 2014. He has worked as the Globe's primary state court reporter and covered the Boston police in the 1990s. He frequently writes the Home Of The Week feature for the Globe's Address section and [boston.com/realstate](http://boston.com/realstate).



## Cindy Galli

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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 investigations into racial bias in the NFL concussion settlement, the deaths of four soldiers in Niger, and the Tulsa Race Massacre. Galli also oversees collaborative investigative projects between ABC News and local stations and affiliates around the country. Galli currently serves on the board of directors for Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), where she has been a member since 1994.



## Samantha Hogan

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Samantha Hogan focuses on government accountability projects for The Maine Monitor. She joined the newsroom as its first full-time reporter in 2019 with Report for America. Hogan was named the 2021 Maine Journalist of the Year by the Maine Press Association, and spent 2020 reporting on Maine's court system through the ProPublica Local Reporting Network. Her reporting on county jails recording and listening to attorney-client phone calls won the Silver Gavel award from the American Bar Association and was also a semi-finalist for the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2023.



**Ernest Kung**  
The Associated Press

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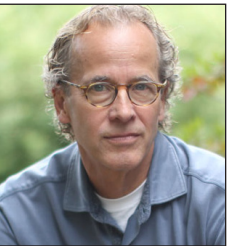
Ernest Kung is the AI Product Manager for The Associated Press helping local newsrooms implement artificial intelligence into their workflows. Previously, he was an award-winning local television news producer and writer. Kung pursued a master's degree to shift into the technology development side of news to make it easier for journalists to do their jobs. He earned a Master of Business Information Systems with Distinction from the University of Canterbury where his research project was on AI for journalism in Aotearoa New Zealand. Kung worked for 15 years in the newsrooms of CBS-owned and affiliated stations in Los Angeles, San Diego and Portland, Oregon. He also holds a BA in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Southern California.



**Courtney A. Lamdin**  
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Courtney A. Lamdin is a news reporter covering the city of Burlington, Vt. for the independent weekly newspaper Seven Days. Lamdin grew up in Central Vermont and discovered her love for reporting after reading "All the President's Men" in a high school journalism class. She studied journalism at St. Michael's College, later returning there as a part-time adjunct professor. A NEFAI 2015 fellow, Lamdin previously worked as the executive editor of three weekly papers serving Vermont's largest county. At Seven Days, Lamdin has written extensively about police accountability, including stories that forced two police chiefs to resign in a matter of months.



**Dick Lehr**  
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Dick Lehr, a professor of journalism at Boston University, is the author of eight previous works of nonfiction and fiction, including the New York Times bestseller *Black Mass: Whitey Bulger, the FBI and a Devil's Deal*, which became the basis of the Warner Bros. film of the same name. His nonfiction book, *The Birth of a Movement: How Birth of a Nation Ignited The Battle for Civil Rights*, became the basis of a PBS/Independent Lens documentary. Lehr was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting as a member of the Boston Globe's Spotlight Team. His honors include the Edgar Award for Nonfiction, the Associated Press Managing Editors Public Service Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists' Enterprise Reporting Award. His work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Conversation*, *The Chicago Tribune* and numerous other publications. He was a Visiting Journalist at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. He lives outside Boston.



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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.



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Jenifer McKim is a deputy investigative editor with the GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting. 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 the 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.



**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 and was inducted in the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame in 2021. 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.



**Penelope Overton**  
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Penelope Overton is the Portland Press Herald's first climate reporter, mixing coverage of sea level rise, greenhouse gas emissions and a warming Gulf of Maine with environmental stories. Since moving to Maine in 2016, Penny has covered the statehouse, marijuana, and the lobster industry, with regular detours into investigations and narratives.



**Brad Petrishen**  
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Brad Petrishen has worked as a journalist in Massachusetts since graduating in 2008 from Framingham State University,

where he served as editor of the school newspaper. He has been recognized numerous times by the New England Newspaper & Press Association for his work, including for investigative journalism. He has reported on several regions in the state, including for The MetroWest Daily News in Framingham, the Winchester Star, and, since 2014, the T&G in Worcester.



**Jacqueline Rabe Thomas**  
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Jacqueline Rabe Thomas is an investigative reporter with Hearst Connecticut Media. She has also been an investigative

reporter with Connecticut Public’s Accountability Project, a housing and education reporter with The Connecticut Mirror, and a fellow with ProPublica. A recent investigation she led uncovered undocumented immigrants being trapped in the hospital despite being healthy enough to leave. Shortly after that story was published, the governor changed the policy and hundreds of immigrants returned home. After her investigation into the air quality in schools during the pandemic, the governor reversed course and dedicated millions in state spending for ventilation upgrades. A series about youth crime during the pandemic — and how a backlog of court cases was preventing children from getting connected to help — resulted in the governor announcing the day after the story was published that more judges would be hired and cases processed faster. Her team at Connecticut Public recently won a national Sigma Delta Chi award for fact checking the claims being made around youth crime and a Public Media Journalists Association award for Best Continuing Coverage of special education during the pandemic.



**Sarah L. Ryley**  
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Sarah L. Ryley is an investigative and data journalist. Before joining the Globe in 2021, she had been a journalist in New

York for 15 years. More recently, she covered the coronavirus pandemic as a freelancer for the New York Times Opinion video team, law enforcement’s failure to solve shootings for The Trace, and was an investigative reporter and projects editor primarily focused on courts and policing for the New York Daily News. Her work has led to dozens of laws and other reforms, played a significant role in dismantling “broken windows” policing in New York City, and helped free a man from prison, and has won or was named a finalist in more than two-dozen awards. Her series on the NYPD’s abuse of eviction laws, done in partnership with the Daily News and ProPublica, was the recipient of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. She was born and raised in the Midwest and studied journalism at Wayne State University in Detroit.



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Mike Savino is president of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information, the state’s oldest advocacy group for FOI and open government laws. He’s head of multimedia for American Business Media, which produces business-to-business news content for the mortgage industry. He’s also previous worked for WFSB TV-3, the Record-Journal, Journal Inquirer and Chronicle.



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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 Preti Flaherty, LLP and media law counsel for the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram for more than 25 years, Schutz has served as counsel in many precedent setting public access cases in Maine. They have involved 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, obtaining records of closed law enforcement investigations, access to state police disciplinary records and the standard for proceeding under pseudonyms in federal litigation.



**Eli Sherman**  
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Eli Sherman is an Emmy and Murrow award-winning journalist. He joined the 12 News investigative unit in 2019, having previously worked as an investigative reporter for GateHouse Media. He’s also covered economics for Providence Business News and worked as a metro reporter for the Waltham News Tribune. Sherman was part of the 12 News team to win a national Edward R. Murrow award for overall excellence in 2023. He’s also the recipient of a New England Emmy and multiple regional Edward R. Murrow awards for investigative journalism.



**Harrison Stark**  
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As a Staff Attorney at the Vermont ACLU affiliate, Harrison Stark litigates a range of civil rights and civil liberties matters in state and federal court, including cases addressing free speech, anti-discrimination, border surveillance, and government transparency. Prior to joining the ACLU of Vermont in 2021, he was an Appellate Litigation Fellow/Assistant Attorney General at the D.C. Office of the Solicitor General (OSG).



  
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## Stephanie Sugars

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Stephanie Sugars is the senior reporter for the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker. She documents press freedom violations in the

United States and by U.S. officials abroad. A graduate of New York University's Global and Joint Program Studies program in journalism and international relations, her professional work focuses on human rights, politics, and identity-targeted violence. She has previously worked at the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Post-Conflict Research Center.



## Todd Wallack

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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.



## Gregory V. Sullivan

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Gregory V. Sullivan is president of the New England First Amendment Coalition and has served as general counsel for the Union Leader Corporation for more

than 40 years. He has represented Union Leader and many other media organizations regarding First Amendment issues in federal and state courts. Sullivan served 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.



## Mark Walker

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Mark Walker is an investigative reporter in the Washington bureau of The New York Times and former president of Investigative Reporters and Editors. He was part of The Times team that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of Covid-19 in 2020. Walker joined The Times in 2019 as the Freedom of Information Act coordinator for the Washington bureau. Before joining The Times, Walker was an investigative reporter at The Argus Leader in South Dakota and a former training director for IRE.



## Tim White

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Tim White is an investigative reporter and managing editor for the CBS affiliate in Providence, R.I. White joined the 12 News

team in September 2006 and is the recipient of six New England Emmy Awards, including five for investigative reporting. He was also part of a team that was honored with a 2022 national Edward R. Murrow Award for overall excellence. White is the co-author of the book "The Last Good Heist," a true-crime story about a brazen robbery at a secret bank used by members of the New England crime family and their associates.



## Emily Sweeney

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Emily Sweeney covers local news and writes the "Blotter Tales" column for the Globe. She's also the author of several

nonfiction books, including "Boston Organized Crime," "Gangland Boston," and "Dropkick Murphy: A Legendary Life." A proud native of Dorchester, Sweeney graduated from Northeastern University and played on NU's championship-winning women's ice hockey team.



## Brooke Williams

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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.



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Gal Tziperman Lotan is a digital producer for GBH's Morning Edition. Before coming to GBH, she covered policing and

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Rutland Herald

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Sophia Buckley-Clement is a 23-year-old reporter for the Rutland Herald in Rutland, Vermont. She is a passionate writer and communicator with more than three years of print and online newspaper experience. Buckley-Clement graduated with a degree in media and communications with a concentration in journalism from Castleton University, where she served for two years as the managing editor of the student newspaper, The Castleton Spartan. She was hired as the education reporter for the Herald in February after serving as a freelancer and intern for the paper the year prior. She enjoys covering controversial topics that challenge readers to see multiple sides of a story and is committed to creating engaging, informative and accurate content that is relevant to the community.

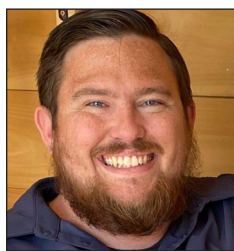


## Toni Caushi

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

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Toni Caushi has been working in local print news for two years, currently writing for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. Previously, he spent several months writing for the MetroWest Daily News and the Milford Daily News. At the Telegram & Gazette, Caushi covers Growth and Development, often writing about business developments and major construction that more frequently include housing projects. Caushi holds a master's degree in journalism from Boston University which he earned after a bachelor's in science from Worcester State University. He pivoted from science into journalism after getting a job writing for a sports publication called Game Changers Sports Network in 2018, during the soccer World Cup. He then put out a weekly column commenting on the latest developments in the soccer world. Caushi wrote copy for a film magazine based in Atlanta for a short time before making the decision to pursue a degree in journalism. He was born in Albania and moved to the United States with his family in 2010.



## Joe Charpentier

Sun Journal

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Joe Charpentier started his career in 2017 as a beat reporter for the weekly Boothbay Register in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. After five years covering everything “smalltown,” he moved on to the Sun Journal in Lewiston, Maine to cover the city's cops and crime beat during the day and the wider western Maine area's mayhem during odd hours. He earned his master's degree in international journalism from Swansea University in Wales, UK and his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Maine at Farmington. He attended Northfield

Mount Hermon School in western Massachusetts. His passions are community and watchdog journalism, and he feels everything— from the smallest of town meetings to the goings on in Augusta to the hijinks of Washington politicians— is important in the grand scheme of things. He values the important role the media plays in holding those with power accountable and bringing to light real issues on the local and national stage and he considers it an honor to play a role in that. Charpentier sits on the Maine Press Association board of directors as its Second Vice President. He currently lives in rural western Maine with his wife, Haley, and three children.



## Jamie Costa

Concord Monitor

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✕ [jamiecostaem](#)

Jamie Costa knew she wanted to be a journalist when she was 17 years old. Already an avid reader and writer, she took a journalism class on a whim during her junior year of high school and never looked back. A 2018 graduate of Roger Williams University, she studied both Journalism and Spanish and earned a dual degree. As both a freshman and a senior, she traveled to Chile and the Dominican Republic on study abroad trips where she reported on social justice issues throughout the countries and covered the controversial 2016 Presidential Election as part of her studies. She began her career with the Cortland Standard as a city government, crime and law enforcement reporter in the winter of 2021 in upstate New York and shortly left for a position with her hometown paper, the Sandwich Enterprise, that fall. Bored by weekly town reporting, she sought a job with the Concord Monitor in 2022 and was quickly accepted into the high profile position covering the capital city as a city government, crime and law enforcement reporter with a focus on investigative journalism. In 2022, Costa earned third place as a social justice reporter as part of the New England Newspaper & Press Association local newspaper competition and hopes to grow her career as an investigative journalist in the city of Concord. Growing up on Cape Cod, she has a love for all things outdoors, especially on the water and even more so when she can involve her dog. She spends her downtime binging true crime and historical fiction novels, spending time with friends and cooking.



## Amy Coval

Hearst Conn. Media Group

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Amy Coval is a trending reporter with Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She is passionate about data journalism and using her technical skills to tell stories throughout Connecticut, especially covering education and affordable housing issues in the state. She began her career in her hometown of San Diego, California, writing for her high school news magazine. She is a 2022 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, where she also studied Sociology and Legal Studies. Prior to Hearst Connecticut, she worked as an intern at the San Francisco Chronicle and was a guest contributor at the Pulitzer Center.



## Colleen Cronin

ecoRI News

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Colleen Cronin is a reporter and Report for America corps member covering rural communities in Rhode Island for ecoRI News. Prior to joining ecoRI, Cronin worked as a digital producer and metro correspondent at The Boston Globe, working the overnight shift and supporting The Great Divide team. She has also reported for The New York Times, People Magazine, The Cape Cod Times, and The Provincetown Independent. Her journalism career began at the Brown Daily Herald, where she worked her way up from a metro reporter to Editor-in-Chief and President. While studying at Brown, Cronin worked on a year-long project investigating the opioid epidemic in Rhode Island which was published in The Public's Radio.



## Savana Dunning

Newport Daily News

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Savana Dunning is a reporter with the Newport Daily News, reporting on government and business news for Newport County, Rhode Island. She has covered a wide range of topics in Newport County, including breaking crime news, planning and economic development and local events. A Texas native, she graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2020 and worked as an intern for the Houston Chronicle and KUT Austin's The Texas Standard, among other publications, before moving to her new home in Rhode Island.

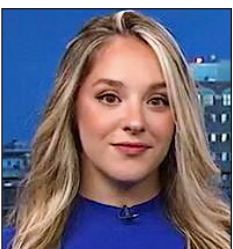


## Theresa Gaffney

STAT

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✕ [\\_gaffknee](#)

Theresa Gaffney is a reporter and podcast producer at STAT where she covers gender-affirming care, reproductive health, mental health, and more. She attended the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY.



## Stephanie Grindley

WGME-Portland

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✕ [StephanieWGME](#)

Stephanie is an anchor and investigative reporter originally from Wheeling, West Virginia with a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Grove City College in Pennsylvania. Broadcast journalism has taken her to different parts of the world, including Ireland as a radio reporter. Her work grew in West Virginia where she served as a morning anchor for multiple years. In her time not at the desk, she started to get a taste for investigative journalism. Notably, she uncovered a coalmine's operations that were crossing under a highly-traveled interstate. She has interviewed state governors, covered gruesome murders, surprised unsuspecting teachers

with giant checks and now she hopes to bring her knack for defending "the underdog" to Maine. Since joining an I-Team in Maine, she has uncovered "hazard laws" in response to train derailments, looked into FEMA's slow response times to towns waiting years for relief and questioned the light punishment for child labor violators. She hopes to continue holding those in power, accountable with her favorite topics being climate stories and cold cases.



## Ashad Hajela

Connecticut Public

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Ashad is the Tow Fellow for Race, Youth, and Justice on Connecticut Public's Accountability Project team. He writes about aspects of the juvenile justice system and the criminal justice system at large. He has worked in local journalism throughout his career. Hajela previously worked at The News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina where he covered courts, crime and criminal justice. He covered the George Floyd protests, along with data-informed stories about crime, that held police departments accountable for their inability to close cases, and for abuses of power. He also worked at Spotlight PA, as part of their State College bureau. There, he covered rural affairs and wrote stories about coroners, closing schools, hospital tax exemptions and dark skies. Hajela has his Bachelor's from New York University and was a Stabile Investigative Fellow at Columbia Journalism School.



## Cheryl Hatch

The Public's Radio

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✕ [holoholohatch](#)

Cheryl Hatch is the Newport Bureau Reporter for The Public's Radio, serving the communities on Aquidneck Island and surrounding areas. Hatch worked as a photographer and reporter for newspapers, wire services and European press agencies. She is a multi-lingual storyteller and educator with years of global experience. As an international journalist, she covered the cost of conflict in the Middle East and Africa. She focused on witnessing and sharing the stories of those who are often caught in the crossfire. She also worked for community newspapers in Oregon, Florida and California. After her international experiences, she founded a nonprofit, Women's Education Initiative. With her volunteer board members, she seeks to support and enrich the lives of women overseas through access to a college education in their homelands. Hatch also developed journalism courses for higher education and a successful journalism conference and multimedia workshop.



## Norah Hogan

WMTW-Portland

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Norah Hogan is a TV news reporter. She's currently working at WMTW News 8 in Portland, Maine where she's covered everything from housing and immigration to blizzards and the lobster industry. Before joining WMTW in January 2022, she earned her master's degree in journalism at New York University.





## Alexandra Leslie

WPRI-Providence

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Alexandra Leslie is an investigative reporter for WPRI 12's award-winning Target 12 team. While she only joined the investigative unit in May 2023, she has been with the station since 2018. She is currently tasked with covering the Providence beat which includes the state-run school department, a new mayor, a new police chief, and much more. Leslie also enjoys covering crime and courts. In 2021, she was honored as one of the Rhode Island Foundation's COVID heroes for her reporting during the pandemic. Prior to joining WPRI 12, she was a reporter, producer, and anchor for WVNY/WFFF in Burlington, Vt. She is a 2014 graduate of the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca College where she earned a degree in Journalism. Leslie is originally from North Reading, Mass. She lives in Pawtucket, R.I. with her fiancé, Stephen, and their dog, Eddie.



## Stella Lorence

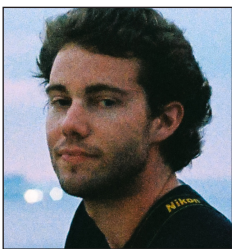
Woonsocket Call

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✕ [slorence3](#)

Stella Lorence is a general assignment reporter at the Woonsocket Call in northern Rhode Island and a board member for

the New England chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She is currently a NEFAC mentee of The Public's Radio reporter Ian Donniss. She graduated with a journalism degree from Boston University, where she got her first exposure to both investigative reporting and NEFAC through excellent mentors, including Maggie Mulvihill. In Woonsocket, she has investigated and reported on issues including malfunctions at the regional wastewater treatment plant, corruption at the public housing authority and trouble with the city's financial audit. Lorence is also a proud native of the San Francisco Bay Area.



## Corey McDonald

Vermont Community Newspaper Group

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✕ [cwmcdonald\\_](#)

Corey McDonald is a writer and reporter contributing to the Vermont Community

Newspaper Group, which publishes The Stowe Reporter, The News & Citizen, The Other Paper, The Shelburne News and The Citizen. He was previously based in New Jersey, where for four years he covered a variety of beats including politics, government and policy, crime, education and more for The Jersey Journal, The Newark-Star Ledger, NJ.com, and Hudson County View. He won several New Jersey Press Association awards during his time there, including First Place for Best News Writing Portfolio and Second Place for the Robert P. Kelly Award for New Journalists. Originally from New Jersey, McDonald graduated cum laude from West Virginia University's Reed College of Media in 2016 with a B.S. in Journalism and a Minor in Communications. He lives in Vermont with his partner Sam and their dog Willow.



## Zara Norman

Bangor Daily News

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Born and raised in the UK, Zara Norman moved to New England in 2018 to attend Brown University in Rhode Island.

There, she took classes in journalism while majoring in American Legal History and Ancient Greek. She also managed a comedy publication and interned with The Boston Globe's Rhode Island bureau. After graduating, she joined the Morning Sentinel in Waterville, Maine where she ran the gamut on 14 communities in Somerset County as a general assignment reporter. She joined the Bangor Daily News in 2023.



## Hunter Oberst

The Keene Sentinel

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Hunter Oberst is the city government and housing reporter at The Keene Sentinel, a publication based in Keene, New Hampshire. Oberst is a Granite State native, having grown up in Alstead, about 18 miles north of where

he currently lives and works. In his final semester at Keene State College, before graduating in spring of 2022, Oberst was fortunate enough to land a general assignment reporting internship at The Sentinel and joined the newsroom full time after he got his degree. In Oberst's current role, he aims to provide readers with a thorough and consistent source of information for what's going on at Keene's City Hall. He also keeps tabs on the trends in New Hampshire's housing market and strives to identify ways communities are trying to increase housing supply.



## Kathleen O'Brien

Bangor Daily News

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Kathleen O'Brien was born and raised in Portland, Maine and earned a degree in Communications and Journalism from

Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She began her print journalism career in 2019 at The Times Record, a daily newspaper based in Brunswick, Maine where she covered the city of Bath and Bath Iron Works, a major shipyard known for building Navy destroyers. In 2022, O'Brien joined the Bangor Daily News, a daily newspaper based in Bangor, Maine, the state's third largest city. She primarily covers the Bangor City Council and the Bangor School Department as well as homelessness and the ongoing opioid crisis.



## Peter O'Neil

Needham Observer

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After a near 40-year hiatus, Peter O'Neil returned to journalism in the spring of 2023 as the founding Executive Editor of the Needham Observer. A free, independent, nonprofit news service launched and operated by a volunteer group of journalists and engaged community members, the

nefac.org | 25

Observer (needhamobserver.com) provides news and features via a weekly newsletter and website that serves the 33,000 residents of Needham, a near suburb of Boston. His last newspaper role had been a four-year tenure as a general assignment reporter at a suburban daily, the Malden Evening News, where he worked from 1980-84. He had previously worked as a sports reporter at another suburban daily, the Westfield Evening News in western Massachusetts, his first job after his graduation from Boston College in 1979. While attending BC, he had worked as a sports correspondent for the Boston Globe from 1977-79 where he mostly covered high school sports. The 40-year gap between leaving journalism and helping launch the Observer was spent in several jobs in both the public and private sectors, all with the common element of providing research and writing services. This included time as a Congressional aide, public information officer for UMass Amherst and a state environmental agency, and finally as a research manager for an institutional investment research firm before ‘retiring.’ He is a 30-year resident of Needham where he is a member of Town Meeting and formerly served as Chair of the Special Education Parents Advisory Council.

cast exploring the Supreme Court’s evolution and future. She also contributed to the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism’s investigation “Mega Billions: The great lottery wealth transfer” and was a part of a major ongoing Associated Press investigation into law enforcement practices. At CT Public, Seltzer has produced several stories chronicling wrongful conviction in Connecticut, as well as features about the state’s relatively lax safety standards for medical marijuana products, and the failure of Connecticut’s major cultural institutions to follow federal law requiring the return of artifacts taken from indigenous communities. She is a committed Red Sox fan and a deeply uncommitted runner.



**Julian E.J. Sorapuru**

The Boston Globe

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 ✕ [JulianSorapuru](#)

Julian E.J. Sorapuru is the inaugural Development Fellow at The Boston Globe, where he rotates onto different teams every few months. Prior to joining the Globe, he interned at KQED, POLITICO and The Times-Picayune in his hometown of New Orleans. Sorapuru was the first and only Black male Editor-in-Chief in the history of the University of San Francisco’s student newspaper, the San Francisco Foghorn.

**Megan Stewart**

Burlington Free Press

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Megan Stewart is the government accountability reporter for the Burlington Free Press in Burlington, Vermont. A recent Oregon transplant, she previously worked as a general assignment reporter for the Newberg Graphic and the Forest Grove News-Times, notably covering the unconstitutional Black Lives Matter and Pride flag ban in Newberg schools that made national headlines. Possessing a B.A. in Journalism and Psychology from George Fox University, Stewart’s investigative passions lie in researching religious and political extremism, social injustice and government corruption. When she’s not working, she enjoys reading, hiking and talking at her two cats, Nyx and Gingersnap.

**Jared Weber**

The Stamford Advocate

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 ✕ [jared\\_webby](#)



Jared Weber writes about growth, development and economic mobility for The Stamford Advocate in Stamford, Connecticut. He came to The Advocate in 2023 from the Lansing State Journal, where he covered breaking news in Michigan’s capital. Before then, he studied journalism and global studies at his hometown college — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — graduating in the early months of the pandemic. Outside of work, they can often be found playing some type of racket sport, being awestruck about living so close to New York City, listening to music or meeting the demands of their cat Mitty. They are also trying their hand at writing fiction and watching Gilmore Girls to tap into the Connecticut spirit.

**Olivia Richardson**

New Hampshire Public Radio

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 ✕ [viaOliviaR](#)



Olivia Richardson has reported for WUWM in Milwaukee where she was the Eric Von Fellow. She started in journalism at WBEZ in Chicago, where she contributed stories about the local house music scene and the city’s role in the Underground Railroad. She also has extensive podcast production experience, including for The Double Shift.

**Katy Savage**

The Mountain Times

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Katy Savage is an award-winning reporter based in Vermont. She has more than 10 years of experience working in daily, weekly and digital news organizations as both an editor and reporter. She graduated from the University of Vermont and shortly after started freelancing at the Vermont Standard, where she got her introduction to news writing. She is now the editor at the Mountain Times.

**Kate Seltzer**

Connecticut Public

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Kate Seltzer is the Howard Center for Investigative Reporting Fellow for Connecticut Public’s Accountability Project. She completed her master’s in journalism at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism in December. At UMD, Seltzer worked as a reporter for Capital News Service, where she co-created, produced and hosted “Takeover,” a pod-

# NEFAI 2023 Student Journalism Fellows

The New England First Amendment Coalition is pleased to announce its first class of student journalism fellows. With the support of the Rhode Island Foundation, the coalition accepted this year a group of student journalists to attend along with 25 professional reporters, editors and producers from newsrooms throughout New England. The students were all nominated by faculty members at their respective schools.



**Susan Azizi**  
Salve Regina University  
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Susan Azizi is from Afghanistan and currently a transfer student at Salve Regina University majoring in English, communication, and media. Previously, Azizi was a third-year Journalism and Mass Communication student at the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During her studies there, she was a member of the AUCA Media Fellowship Program which was a comprehensive program on different practical trainings for students from different majors and backgrounds. As a starter in the media field, capitalizing from the training on podcasting she received, Azizi created a podcast called Home, Away from Home, on the stories of Afghan refugees, their struggles, and joys. She also worked on a documentary named “Surviving the Taliban” where she told the story of being stuck in Afghanistan while the Taliban took power in August 2021.



**Lauren Drapeau**  
University of Rhode Island  
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✕ [laurendrapeauri](https://www.instagram.com/laurendrapeauri)

Lauren Drapeau is a junior journalism student at the University of Rhode Island. Drapeau is originally from North Smithfield, R.I. where she discovered a passion for writing and numbers. She has fully immersed herself in campus life, joining the school newspaper and working up to the position of Entertainment Editor. When Drapeau is not covering or pitching stories for the school newspaper, she is spending time with loved ones, journaling, or pursuing new opportunities to further her career. Drapeau works at the Digital Research and Writing Center on campus where she teaches other students how to use programs for multimodal projects, such as Adobe Illustrator, In-design or Premiere Rush.



**Noble Brigham**  
Brown University  
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✕ [BrighamNoble](https://www.instagram.com/BrighamNoble)

Noble Brigham is a senior journalism student at Brown University. He writes investigative stories regularly for The Providence Journal and interned at The Idaho Statesman as a general assignment news reporter on the accountability team. In the summer of 2022, he interned at The Virginian-Pilot as a city hall reporter. His favorite projects include a recent story for The Journal about how local courts in Rhode Island often do not use credentialed language interpreters, potentially violating federal law; a Journal story about Rhode Island’s unclaimed bodies burial program; and a story he wrote at The Statesman about Idaho’s decision not to accept \$15 million in federal funding for food insecure students when two state agencies couldn’t figure out how to work together.



**Tyler Jackman**  
Rhode Island College  
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✕ [tmjckmn](https://www.instagram.com/tmjckmn)

Tyler Jackman is from West Warwick, Rhode Island and is a senior at Rhode Island College, finishing his B.A. in Communications. Jackman is also the Managing Editor of The Anchor, Rhode Island College’s independent student newspaper. He serves as the Social Media Manager for Anchor TV, Rhode Island College’s student-run TV station. Journalism and media studies as a whole have always excited him because he sees the free media as a bulwark of an open and democratic society, and he strives to be a part of that and help advocate for those who need a voice. Beyond journalism, Jackman is an avant-garde music and art fanatic, and enjoys cycling and exploring his local community in Rhode Island.

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

Investigation launch

**CONNECTIONICUT POST**  
Sunday October 26, 2023 | 10:00 AM | www.ctpost.com

**INVESTIGATION**  
**WHEN SCHOOLS USE FORCE**  
Little known and often used, restraint and seclusion practices cause harm, even death, among U.S. schoolchildren

By **Kaitlin Thomson, Matt Barthelemy, Alex Patterson, Lily Taylor and Alexandra Kashi**

**How we reported our project**  
When Schools Use Force is 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.

**FORCE**  
A national investigation

He didn't deserve that: The stories of children, young adults who died after restraint or seclusion

By **Taylor Johnson, Alex Patterson, Kaitlin Thomson, Lily Taylor and Matt Barthelemy**

Practices used repeatedly on some students; Black students disproportionately subjected

By **Alex Patterson**

Days later

**CONNECTIONICUT POST**  
Sunday November 4, 2023 | 10:00 AM | www.ctpost.com

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**Lawmakers pursue reforms on school restraint, seclusion**  
Hearst Newspapers investigation prompts calls for change across U.S.

By **Kaitlin Thomson and Matt Barthelemy**

**FORCE**  
A national investigation

**A RUN IN THE SUN**  
At stake in state legislative contests: Spending caps, early voting

By **John Hovius and Ken Stone**

**Work advances on apartment complex near Trumbull mall**  
By **Annexa Cuda**

**Racial imbalances in Fairfield schools a long-term problem**  
By **Tom Galvin**

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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.

‘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.

The most important thing  
you can do while you're here  
is to ensure the world will be  
better when you're not.

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Proud to support the work of the  
New England First Amendment Coalition

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