

New England First Amendment Institute

Schedule

Day One: *The Value of Transparency*

3:15 **Welcome**
Walter Robinson, director, Initiative for Investigative Reporting,
Northeastern University School of Journalism
Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

3:30- 4:00 **Keynote address**
Brian McGrory, editor, The Boston Globe

4:00-6:00 **Panel: Tales from the Trenches**

Alexandra Zayas

“In God’s Name,” Tampa Bay Times

David Jackson

“Empty-Desk Epidemic,” The Chicago Tribune.

Alison Young

“Ghost Factories,” USA Today

Sharyl Attkisson

“Fast and Furious,” CBS News

Panelists will share their practical experience in investigative work through painstaking interviewing and use of freedom of information laws to unearth corruption and bring truth to light.

Moderator: Walter Robinson

6:00- 6:30 **Icebreaker**
Rosanna Cavanagh, executive director, NEFAC

6:30 **Dinner**

Day Two: *How Do We Harness Freedom of Information Laws and Publicly Available Data to Further Investigations?*

8:45 – 9:45 Common Pitfalls in Accessing Documents Through FOI Requests and How to Respond

Moderator: Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

Panelists:

Tim White, investigative reporter, WPRI

Sean Murphy, investigative reporter, The Boston Globe

9:45- 10:45 Tips for Staying out of Legal Trouble: Common Issues in Defamation, Invasion of Privacy and Copyright

Moderator: Gregory V. Sullivan, partner, Malloy & Sullivan

Panelists:

Peter Caruso, managing partner, Caruso & Caruso

Joseph V. Cavanagh, managing partner, Blish & Cavanagh

William Chapman, partner, Orr & Reno

Sigmund D. Schutz, partner, PretiFlaherty

Break out sessions A: 10:45 – 12:30

Connecticut – [Mitchell Pearlman,] lecturer University of Connecticut, and Lynne DeLucia, editor, Connecticut Health Investigative Team

New Hampshire -- Gregory Sullivan and William Chapman

Massachusetts -- Peter Caruso

Maine -- Sigmund Schutz

Rhode Island -- Joseph V. Cavanagh Jr.

Vermont -- **Dan Barrett**, staff attorney, ACLU Vermont and Michael Donoghue

The specifics of each state's laws and exemptions will be discussed and hands-on cases will be reviewed in break out sessions with knowledgeable attorneys and journalists from each state.

12:30- 1:30 Beat Lunches

- Politics
- Health care

- The resume
- Court reporting
- Broadcast

1:30- 3:30 Federal Freedom of Information Act

Speakers: **Elizabeth Ritvo**, partner, Brown Rudnick
Robert Bertsche, partner, Prince Lobel Tye
 TBD

How do you put the federal information law to use in pursuit of local stories? How do you win federal Freedom of Information Act battles? Examples of vital information made public via the federal Freedom of Information Act. What to do when the data you get doesn't tell the whole story.

3:30 – 4:30 Thinking Through a Story from Hunch to Headline Using Available Databases— Walter Robinson

4:30 – 6:00 Break out sessions:

The Confrontational Interview & Transition to Video -- Tim White

Writing Workshop/Narrative Flow – [TBD]

6:00 Dinner

6:30 Dinner Address: David Barstow, investigative reporter, The New York Times

Day Three: Digging Deeply and Listening Carefully

Panel—Effective Sourcing

9:00- 10:30

Moderator: Thomas Fiedler, dean, Boston University College of Communication

Barbara Laker, investigative reporter, The Philadelphia Daily News

Wendy Ruderman, investigative reporter, The Philadelphia Daily News

Anna Schecter, executive producer, NBC

When your FOI request languishes your reporting continues. Developing sources, relationships, knowing how to evaluate what you get.

10:30- 12:30 Break-out sessions C

Using database technology to analyze publicly available or FOI-request-won data to understand societal, financial, and economic trends is an important tool for the seasoned reporter.

Basic Database Analysis: Matt Carroll, reporter, The Boston Globe

Advanced Database Analysis: Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica

12:30-1:00 Lunch Break

1:00-3:00 Digging for Gold in Securities and Exchange Commission Documents - Todd Wallack, reporter, The Boston Globe

3:00-4:30 Quick Hit Investigations

Maggie Mulvihill, co-Director, New England Center for Investigative Reporting

Panel discussion with former fellows regarding balancing investigative projects and short-term assignments.

4:30 Conclusion: Rosanna Cavanagh, Executive Director, NEFAC