

nefac

New England First Amendment Coalition
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Michael Donoghue
Freedom of Information Award
Nomination Deadline
January 15, 2018

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MICHAEL DONOGHUE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD

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ABOUT MICHAEL DONOGHUE

Michael Donoghue is an award-winning news and sports writer. He worked for more than 40 years at the Burlington Free Press and now is a freelancer. He was selected as the 2013 New England Journalist of the Year by the New England Society of News Editors and in 2015 received the Matthew Lyon First Amendment Award. Donoghue has been an adjunct professor of journalism and mass communications at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt. since 1985. He is a former board member for the New England Press Association and has served continuously as state chairman of Project Sunshine in Vermont since it was started by the Society of Professional Journalists in 1990. Donoghue is often credited as being a driving force behind the improvement to Vermont's open government (public records and meetings) legislation.



ABOUT THE FOI AWARD

Each year, the New England First Amendment Coalition honors individuals who have promoted and defended the First Amendment throughout the region. During its annual luncheon, the coalition presents several awards, including the Freedom of Information Award.

NEFAC's New England First Amendment Awards Luncheon

February 23, 2018

12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

606 Congress Street

Boston, Massachusetts

The FOI Award is to be given to a New England journalist or team of journalists for a body of work from the previous calendar year that protects or advances the public's right to know under federal or state law. Preference will be given to those who overcome significant official resistance.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please submit the story or series along with a cover letter explaining the process of getting the story, why you believe it was a significant accomplishment and how it impacted the public. Works should be submitted electronically, though originals will be checked prior to notification to the awardee. Complete the attached form and email it with the story or stories to mail@nefirstamendment.org. All nominations must be received by January 15, 2018. Please confirm receipt of materials if not otherwise notified.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2017 The Sun Journal | When Maine courts instituted a new procedure for sealing court records in violation of state law, The Sun Journal successfully fought for its reversal.

2016 Jenifer McKim | As a reporter for the New England Center for Investigative Reporting, McKim overcame significant freedom of information challenges to write "Out of the Shadows," a 2015 series about child abuse and neglect.

2015 James W. Foley (posthumously) | A seasoned war correspondent, New Hampshire native Foley committed himself to the truth and, in his words, "exposing untold stories." While working in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, Foley reported on the lives of those disadvantaged and suffering.

2014 Brent Curtis | A reporter for the Rutland (Vt.) Herald, Curtis fought for access to certain police records and helped make Vermont police departments more transparent.

2013 Don Stacom | Stacom of the Hartford Courant pursued stories about police misconduct through the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, prompting a shakeup of the New Britain, Conn., police department.

ABOUT NEFAC

Mission | The goal of the New England First Amendment Coalition is to defend, promote and expand public access to government and the work it does. The coalition is a broad-based organization of people who believe in the power of transparency in a democratic society. The coalition aspires to advance and protect the five freedoms of the First Amendment, and the principle of the public's right to know, in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. In collaboration with other like-minded advocacy organizations, NEFAC also seeks to advance understanding of the First Amendment across the nation and freedom of speech and press issues around the world.

History | NEFAC was formed in 2006 by a group of journalists concerned that citizens, as well as reporters, are routinely denied access to the work of government: public documents, meetings, hearings. Efforts in each of the six New England states to combat this growing trend had up until this point been marginally effective. The founders saw a need for a unified, region-wide organization that would speak in one robust voice across the six New England states. We've been making strides ever since.

What We Do | In addition to our annual investigative journalism institute and awards luncheon, NEFAC advocates for improved access laws and First Amendment rights and provides expert testimony on important legislative reform. We publish the NEFAC Report, a free monthly newsletter with original reporting from journalists and publishers within New England.



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Your Name _____

Your Email _____

Your Phone Number _____

Nominee Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Title _____

**Place of Employment
(If Self-Employed, please indicate)** _____

**Direct Supervisor or Editor
(If Applicable)** _____

Supervisor/Editor Email _____

Supervisor/Editor Phone Number _____