

nefac

2020 New England First Amendment Awards

Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award
Nomination Deadline January 10, 2020

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ANTONIA ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

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ABOUT ANTONIA ORFIELD

The late Antonia Orfield was an author, mother, optometrist, clinical professor and active citizen. She worked to improve the schools in the communities she lived in, serving on one of the first elected local school councils in Chicago. She also



sought to advance her profession and improve the lives of her patients through the use and teaching of therapeutic non-surgical methods of vision therapy. As a researcher, she knew the importance of access to data to analyze, draw conclusions and challenge existing assumptions of screening and treatment protocols. Dr. Orfield operated a vision clinic in Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, Mass., which docu-

mented the improvement of children's grades and test scores with unconventional vision-related remedies to learning problems. The findings were published in several articles and in "Eyes for Learning," her 2007 book.

ABOUT THE CITIZENSHIP 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 Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award.

New England First Amendment Awards Luncheon

February 7, 2020

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

Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

606 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts

The Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award is given to an individual from one of the six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont) who has fought for information crucial to the public's understanding of its community or what its government is doing (or not doing) on its behalf. The candidate should have shown tenacity or bravery in the face of difficulty in obtaining information that the public has a right to know.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please complete the attached form and email it to justin@nefac.org. All nominations must be received by January 10, 2020. Please confirm receipt of application if not otherwise notified.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2019 David Saad | Saad co-founded Right to Know NH as a nonpartisan citizen coalition working to improve transparency of New Hampshire state, county, and local governments.

2018 Hyde Square Task Force | A group of teenage-volunteers used the Mass. public records law to find an unenforced agreement between the city of Boston and the owners of TD Garden to give millions of dollars back to their community.

2017 Donna Green | Green won a public records battle in the New Hampshire Supreme Court which required the distribution of public, non-confidential information in commonly used electronic formats when available.

2016 Michael A. Champa | Champa uncovered inequities in special education services provided by Massachusetts towns after fighting a public records battle that was decided in his favor by the state's Supreme Judicial Court.

2015 Harriet Cady | Cady is a long-time open government activist, frequently speaking on freedom of information concerns and recently helping to create the watchdog group Right to Know NH.

2014 Kit Savage | Savage's investigation uncovered violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which formed the basis of a complaint to the Connecticut Department of Education.

2013 David Lang | After a nine-year crusade, Lang exposed the mismanagement of health insurance premiums, resulting in a court order to refund \$53 million to New Hampshire public employees.

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.

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.

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Your Name _____

Your Email _____

Your Phone Number _____

Your Address _____

Complete If Nominating Someone Other Than Yourself

Name of Nominee _____

Address of Nominee _____

Email of Nominee _____

Please answer the questions below and attach your answers to this cover sheet.

(1) Why are you nominating the above-named person for the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award? (200 words max.)

(2) What has the above-named nominee done to bring to the public's attention important information? Please be specific. (400 words max.)

(3) How did the above-named person go about finding this information and sharing it with the public? (200 words max.)



New England
First Amendment Coalition

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