

10th Annual

NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE

Presented by the New England First Amendment Coalition

September 26 - October 3, 2020 | Online

Fellowship Application Materials

Deadline August 15, 2020

nefai 2020

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 2020 Institute will be held online from Sept. 26 to Oct. 3.

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 DO YOU LEARN?

Though our curriculum is often changed to reflect the evolving needs of journalists, each Institute typically includes lectures and workshops that focus on the following:

- State public records and open meetings laws
- The federal Freedom of Information Act
- Database reporting skills
- How to respond to FOI request denials and rejections
- Inspiring stories from award-winning journalists

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The 25 fellows selected for this year's Institute will attend at no cost.

SUPPORTERS

Primary support for our Institute is generously provided by the Academy of New England Journalists.



Other supporters of NEFAI in 2020 include:



THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION

STAY CONNECTED

Please stay updated on NEFAI news — including speaker announcements and faculty additions — by referencing the following hashtag: #NEFAI2020. You can also connect with NEFAI in the following ways:

- Five Freedoms**
- www.tinyurl.com/nefaclinkedin
- www.facebook.com/nefac.org
- KnowNewEngland**
- NEFirstAmendmentCoalition**

Subscribe

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REPORT

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive news alerts and the monthly NEFAI Report, featuring original reporting and a comprehensive round-up of First Amendment and FOI news from across the region. Visit nefac.org and click "Subscribe."

Former Fellows

CONNECTICUT

2011
Richard Campbell
The Register Citizen
Jenna Cho
The Day
JC Reindl
The Day
Alexandra Sanders
New Haven Register
Julie Stagis
Hartford Courant

2012
Shawn Beals
Hartford Courant
Beau Berman
WTIC-TV
Alexander Goldstein
The Day
Kevin Litten
Republican-American
Erin Logan
WTNH
Fran Silverman
Hearst Newspapers

2013
Lisa Backus
The Bristol Press
Jenna Carlesso
Hartford Courant
Tina Detelj
WTNH
Jessica Glenza
The Register Citizen
Maggie Gordon
Hearst Newspapers
David Iversen
WTNH

Alec Johnson
Republican-American
Viktoria Sundqvist
The Middletown Press
2014
Jason Bagley
TruthInAdvertising.org
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
Skyler Frazer
New Britain Herald
Ben Lambert
New Haven Register
Barry Lytton
The Stamford Advocate
Erica Moser
The Day

Former Fellows Continued

2019 Kimberly Drellich The Day	Callie Ferguson The Forecaster 2018	Neal Simpson The Patriot Ledger	Michael Bonner The Standard Times	Peter McGuire Forecaster Newspapers	2013	Olga Peters The Commons
Meghan Friedmann Hearst Connecticut Media Group	Anne Berleant Penobscot Bay Press	Schuyler Velasco Christian Science Monitor 2014	Lisa Creamer WBUR-Boston	Kerry Miller Eagle Times 2015	Bill Malinowski Providence Journal	Jennifer Reading WCAX 2014
Jo Krocker Hearst Connecticut Media Group	Joe Glauber WMTW-Portland	Sean F. Driscoll Cape Cod Times	Dialynn Dwyer Boston.com	Jeremy Blackman Concord Monitor	2014	Taylor Dobbs Vermont Public Radio
Justin Papp Hearst Connecticut Media Group	Rachel Ohm Morning Sentinel	Beryl Lipton MuckRock	Jennifer Lu Independent	Megan Doyle Concord Monitor	Randal Edgar Providence Journal	Abby Ledoux Milton Independent
	Amanda Post WGME-Portland 2019	Priyanka McCluskey The Boston Globe	Angela Rowlings Boston Herald	Rob Wolfe Valley News 2016	Paul Grimaldi Providence Journal	Allison Teague The Commons 2015
<u>MAINE</u>	Sarah Craighead Dedmon	Alexa Mills The Boston Globe	Bridget Turcotte The Daily Item	Grant Welker Worcester Business Journal 2019	Janine Weisman Newport Mercury 2015	April Burbank Burlington Free Press
2011	Machias Valley News Observer	Alex Ruppenthal Medford Transcript	Amelia Burke Fall River Herald News	Peter Biello NH Public Radio	Jennifer Bogdan Providence Journal	Lola Duffort Rutland Herald
Susan Cover Maine Today	Dan Lampariello WGME-Portland	Eli Sherman Waltham	Jo C. Goode Fall River Herald News	Tim Camerato Valley News	Alex Kuffner Providence Journal	Lesley Engle Fox44/ABC22
Emily Guerin The Forecaster	Patty Wight Maine Public Radio	Samantha Allen Worcester	Zoe Greenberg The Boston Globe	Meghan Foley The Keene Sentinel	Steph Machado WPRI-Providence 2016	Courtney Lamdin Milton Independent 2016
Jesse Nankin Watchdog New England	<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	Jonathan Dame GateHouse Media	Gal Tziperman Lotan The Boston Globe	Allie Morris Concord Monitor	Jacqueline Tempera Providence Journal 2017	Jess Aloe Burlington Free Press
Eric Russell Bangor Daily News 2012	2011	Nicole Dungea The Boston Globe	Haven	Ella Nilsen Concord Monitor 2017	Kate Bramson Providence Journal	Colin Flanders The Essex Reporter and Colchester Sun
Will Graff The Forecaster	Keith Eddings Eagle-Tribune	Jenna Fisher GateHouse Media	Orecchio-Egresitz Berkshire Eagle	Caitlin Andrews Concord Monitor	Susan Campbell WPRI-Providence	Stephanie Gorin NBC5-Vermont
Lindsay Tice Sun Journal 2013	Jim Haddadin Arlington Advocate	Allison Manning Boston.com	<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>	Allison DeAngelis Eagle-Tribune	Derek Gomes Newport Daily News	Katie Jickling The Herald
Matthew Curren WGME	Laura Hutchinson WWLP 22News	Jordan Mayblum Wellesley Townsman	2011	Casey McDermott NHPR	Diana Pinzon WPRI-Providence 2018	Elizabeth Murray Burlington Free Press 2017
David Harry The Forecaster 2014	Lyle Moran Lowell Sun	Jan Ransom The Boston Globe 2016	Joseph Cote Nashua Telegraph	Paige Sutherland NHPR 2018	Brian Amaral Providence Journal	Alicia Freese Seven Days
Jon Chrisos CBS13/Fox23	David Riley MetroWest Daily News	Mark Davis Valley News	Mark Davis Valley News	Breanna Edelstein The Eagle Tribune	Parker Gavigan WJAR-Cranston	Tommy Gardner Stowe Reporter
Michael Shepherd Kennebec Journal 2015	Rory Schuler Taunton Daily	Maddie Hanna Concord Monitor 2012	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Sierra Hubbard The Keene Sentinel	Kim Kalunian WPRI-Providence 2019	Hilary Niles Independent
Jordan Bailey Courier Publications	Matthew Stout The Enterprise 2012	Maddie Hanna Concord Monitor 2012	Maryalice Gill Nashua Telegraph	Meg McIntyre The Keene Sentinel 2019	Jessica Botelho WJAR-Cranston	Adam Silverman Burlington Free Press
Nate Holst WMTW-Portland	Alex Bloom The Enterprise	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Meg Heckman Concord Monitor	Hadley Barndollar Portsmouth Herald	Laura Damon The Newport Daily News	Greg Sukiennik New England Newspapers 2018
David Sherwood Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting 2016	George Brennan Cape Cod Times	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Annmarie Timmins Concord Monitor 2013	Paul Cuno-Booth Keene Sentinel	Hannah Dickison WPRI-Providence	Catherine Buni Independent
Matthew Daigle Sun Journal	Deirdre Fernandes The Boston Globe	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Todd Bookman NH Public Radio	Mary McIntyre NHPR	Nadine Maya Sebai The Public's Radio	Staci DaSilva WFFF-Burlington
Stephanie Grinnell The Republican Journal	David Eisenstadter The Transcript	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Sarah Brubeck Valley News	Leah Willingham Concord Monitor	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	Xander Landen VTDigger 2019
Kyle Jones WMTW News	Sarah Favot Lowell Sun	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Christopher Garofolo Eagle Times	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	2011	Liam
Joshua Moore Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting	Martine Powers The Boston Globe	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Kathryn Marchocki NH Union Leader	Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal	John Briggs Burlington Free Press	Elder-Connors Vermont Public Radio
Marina Villeneuve Associated Press 2017	Patrick Ronan Patriot Ledger	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Kaitlin Mulhere The Keene Sentinel 2014	David Scharfenberg Providence Phoenix	Anne Galloway Vermont Digger	Christopher Mays Burlington Reformer
Abigail Adams Lincoln County News	Shaun Sutner Worcester	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Emily Corwin NH Public Radio	Karen Ziner Providence Journal 2012	Shay Totten Seven Days 2012	Alex Nuti-de Biasi Journal Opinion
Charles Eichacker Kennebec Journal	Wes Lowery The Boston Globe	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Alyssa Dandrea The Keene Sentinel	Lynn Ardit Providence Journal	Dan D'Ambrosio Burlington Free Press	Orrin Schonfeld WPTZ-Burlington
	Joshua Miller The Boston Globe	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Nora Doyle-Burr Valley News	Ian Donnis RI Public Radio	Jennifer Cleveland Caledonian-Record	Cat Viglienzoni WCAX-Burlington
	Shawn Musgrave MuckRock	Maggie Cassidy Valley News		Kathleen Mulvaney Providence Journal	Andrew Stein Vermont Digger 2013	
	Neena Pathak Schuster Institute	Maggie Cassidy Valley News			Nathan Burgess Stowe Reporter	



New England First Amendment Institute Fellowship Application Deadline August 15, 2020

The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — including editors, reporters and producers — to remotely attend a multi-day training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques between Sept. 26 and Oct. 3. To be eligible, an applicant must be a working journalist in print, digital or broadcast media in New England. The Institute is designed for both relatively new and veteran journalists, however, applicants should have at least two years of professional news reporting experience and long-term plans to stay within the profession. Applicants working for a news organization must submit letters of recommendation from their current editors or supervisors, along with the application and required attachments. One additional recommendation from a former editor or supervisor is optional. Self-employed applicants may submit recommendations as described below. Broadcast journalists should submit their stories via links if possible, and on DVDs if not possible.

To apply, please submit a letter of application and the documents listed below. On a separate sheet of paper, fully answer the following questions, restating the question in your answer.

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

Required Documents

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

Please submit your application, resume, portfolio and recommendation in one single PDF file via email by August 15, 2020, to mail@nefirstamendment.org. If there is no acknowledgment from NEFAI, please confirm that your application has been received.



**New England First Amendment Institute
Recommendation Form
Deadline August 15, 2020**

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Position _____

Your Name _____

**Your Organization
and Position** _____

Phone/Email _____

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

- (1) How long have you worked with the applicant, and in what capacity?
- (2) How long have you known the applicant?
- (3) In detail, what is your assessment of the quality of the applicant's work, and the level of investigative reporting the applicant is capable of currently?
- (4) Why do you believe the applicant is firmly committed to freedom of information and will use the knowledge gained through this fellowship to improve his or her reporting — as well as to help colleagues with their own reporting — during the next several years?