

11th Annual

NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE

Presented by the New England First Amendment Coalition

October 31 - November 6 | Online

Fellowship Application Materials

Deadline September 18, 2021

nefai 2021

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 2021 Institute will be held online from Oct. 31 to Nov. 6.

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 2021 include:



THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION

STAY CONNECTED

Please stay updated on NEFAI news — including speaker announcements and faculty additions — by referencing the following hashtag: #NEFAI2021. You can also connect with NEFAI in the following ways:

- FiveFreedoms**
- www.tinyurl.com/nefailedin
- www.facebook.com/nefac.org
- KnowNewEngland**
- NEFirstAmendmentCoalition**
- FiveFreedoms**

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

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 Krassel
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

2019

Kimberly Drelich
The Day

Meghan Friedmann
Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Jo Kroeker
Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Justin Papp
Hearst Connecticut Media Group

2020

Tatiana Flowers
Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Peter Yankowski Hearst Connecticut Media Group

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

Former Fellows Continued

Kyle Jones WMTW News	Sarah Favot Lowell Sun	Susan Spencer Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Samantha Mercado Patch.com	Meghan Foley The Keene Sentinel	Janine Weisman Newport Mercury 2015	Abby Ledoux Milton Independent
Joshua Moore Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting	Martine Powers The Boston Globe	Gerry Tuoti Gatehouse Media 2017	Dasia Moore The Boston Globe	Allie Morris Concord Monitor	Jennifer Bogdan Providence Journal	Allison Teague The Commons 2015
Marina Villeneuve Associated Press 2017	Patrick Ronan Patriot Ledger	Collin Binkley Associated Press	Shira Stoll NBC 10 Boston	Ella Nilsen Concord Monitor 2017	Alex Kuffner Providence Journal	April Burbank Burlington Free Press
Abigail Adams Lincoln County News	Shaun Sutner Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Amanda Drane Berkshire Eagle	Julia Taliesin Somerville Journal	Caitlin Andrews Concord Monitor	Steph Machado WPRI-Providence 2016	Lola Duffort Rutland Herald
Charles Eichacker Kennebec Journal	Ryan Walsh WWLP 2013	Melissa Hanson MassLive	NEW HAMPSHIRE 2011	Allison DeAngelis Eagle-Tribune	Jacqueline Tempera Providence Journal 2017	Lesley Engle Fox44/ABC22
Callie Ferguson The Forecaster 2018	Doug Fraser Cape Cod Times	Brad Petrishen Telegram & Gazette	Joseph Cote Nashua Telegraph	Casey McDermott NHPR	Kate Bramson Providence Journal	Courtney Lamdin Milton Independent 2016
Anne Berleant Penobscot Bay Press	Wes Lowery The Boston Globe	Greg Ryan Boston Business Journal 2018	Mark Davis Valley News	Paige Sutherland NHPR 2018	Susan Campbell WPRI-Providence	Jess Aloe Burlington Free Press
Joe Glauber WMTW-Portland	Joshua Miller The Boston Globe	Sarah Betancourt Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism	Maddie Hanna Concord Monitor 2012	Breanna Edelstein The Eagle Tribune	Derek Gomes Newport Daily News	Colin Flanders The Essex Reporter and Colchester Sun
Rachel Ohm Morning Sentinel	Shawn Musgrave MuckRock	Michael Bonner The Standard Times	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Sierra Hubbard The Keene Sentinel	Diana Pinzon WPRI-Providence 2018	Stephanie Gorin NBC5-Vermont
Amanda Post WGME-Portland 2019	Neena Pathak Schuster Institute	Lisa Creamer WBUR-Boston	Maryalice Gill Nashua Telegraph	Meg McIntyre The Keene Sentinel 2019	Brian Amaral Providence Journal	Katie Jickling The Herald
Sarah Craighead Dedmon	Neal Simpson The Patriot Ledger	Dialynn Dwyer Boston.com	Meg Heckman Concord Monitor	Hadley Barndollar Portsmouth Herald	Parker Gavigan WJAR-Cranston	Elizabeth Murray Burlington Free Press 2017
Dan Lampariello WGME-Portland	Schuyler Velasco Christian 2014	Jennifer Lu Independent	Annmari Timmins Concord Monitor 2013	Paul Cuno-Booth The Keene Sentinel	Kim Kalunian WPRI-Providence 2019	Alicia Freese Seven Days
Patty Wight Maine Public Radio 2020	Sean F. Driscoll Cape Cod Times	Angela Rowlings Boston Herald	Todd Bookman NH Public Radio	Mary McIntyre NHPR	Jessica Botelho WJAR-Cranston	Tommy Gardner Stowe Reporter
Molly Shelly The Morning Sentinel	Beryl Lipton MuckRock	Bridget Turcotte The Daily Item	Sarah Brubeck Valley News	Leah Willingham Concord Monitor 2020	Laura Damon The Newport Daily News	Hilary Niles Independent
Terry Stackhouse WMTW News 8	Priyanka McCluskey The Boston Globe	Grant Welker Worcester Business Journal 2019	Christopher Garofolo Eagle Times	Olivia Belanger The Kenne Sentinel	Hannah Dickison WPRI-Providence	Adam Silverman Burlington Free Press
Andrea Swiedom Sun Media	Alexa Mills The Boston Globe	Amanda Burke Fall River Herald News	Kathryn Marchocki NH Union Leader	Madeline Hughes The Eagle-Tribune	Nadine Maya Sebai The Public's Radio 2020	Greg Sukiennik New England Newspapers 2018
MASSACHUSETTS 2011	Alex Ruppenthal Medford Transcript	Jo C. Goode Fall River Herald News	Kaitlin Mulhere The Keene Sentinel 2014	Alexander LaCasse Seacoast Media Group	RHODE ISLAND 2011	Catherine Buni Independent
Keith Eddings Eagle-Tribune	Eli Sherman Waltham News Tribune 2015	Emily Corwin NH Public Radio	Emily Corwin NH Public Radio	Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal	AMANDA 2011	Staci DaSilva WFFF-Burlington
Jim Haddadin Arlington Advocate	Samantha Allen Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Zoe Greenberg The Boston Globe	Alyssa Dandrea The Keene Sentinel	David Scharfenberg Providence Phoenix	VERMONT 2011	Xander Landen VTDigger 2019
Laura Hutchinson WWLP 22News	Jonathan Dame GateHouse Media	Gal Tziperman Lotan The Boston Globe	Nora Doyle-Burr Valley News	Karen Ziner Providence Journal 2012	John Briggs Burlington Free Press	Liam Elder-Connors Vermont Public Radio
Lyle Moran Lowell Sun	Nicole Dungca The Boston Globe	Haven Orecchio-Egresitz Berkshire Eagle 2020	Peter McGuire Forecaster Newspapers	Lynn Ardit Providence Journal	Anne Galloway Vermont Digger	Christopher Mays Brattleboro Reformer
David Riley MetroWest Daily News	Jenna Fisher GateHouse Media	Dusty Christensen Daily Hampshire Gazette	Kerry Miller Eagle Times 2015	Ian Donnis RI Public Radio	Shay Totten Seven Days 2012	Alex Nuti-de Biasi Journal Opinion
Rory Schuler Taunton Daily	Allison Manning Boston.com	Vernal Coleman The Boston Globe	Jeremy Blackman Concord Monitor	Kathleen Mulvaney Providence Journal 2013	Dan D'Ambrosio Burlington Free Press	Orrin Schonfeld WPTZ-Burlington
Matthew Stout The Enterprise 2012	Jan Ransom The Boston Globe 2016	Jessica Hill Cape Cod Times	Megan Doyle Concord Monitor	Bill Malinowski Providence Journal	Jennifer Cleveland Caledonian-Record	Cat Viglienzoni WCAX-Burlington 2020
Alex Bloom The Enterprise	Zeninjor Enwemeka WBUR	Jennifer Huberdeau The Berkshire Eagle	Rob Wolfe Valley News 2016	Mark Reynolds Providence Journal 2014	Andrew Stein Vermont Digger 2013	Devin Bates Local 22/44
George Brennan Cape Cod Times	Jordan Frias Boston Herald	Lucia Maffei Boston Business Journal	Peter Biello NH Public Radio	Randal Edgar Providence Journal	Nathan Burgess Stowe Reporter	Tom Garris WPTZ NBC 5
Deirdre Fernandes The Boston Globe	Phil Marcelo Associated Press		Tim Camerato Valley News	Paul Grimaldi Providence Journal	Olga Peters The Commons	Anna Merriman Valley News
David Eisenstadter The Transcript	Tom Relihan The Recorder			Taylor Dobbs Providence Journal	Jennifer Reading WCAX 2014	Christopher Ross Addison County Independent



New England First Amendment Institute Fellowship Application Deadline September 18, 2021

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 Oct. 31 and Nov. 6. 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 who 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 Sept. 18, 2021, to justin@nefac.org. If there is no acknowledgment from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.



**New England First Amendment Institute
Recommendation Form
Deadline September 18, 2021**

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?