12th Annual
NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE
Presented by the New England First Amendment Coalition

October 23-25, 2022
Northeastern University | Boston, Mass.

Fellowship Application
Deadline August 12, 2022
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 2022 Institute will be held at Northeastern University in Boston from Oct. 23 to Oct. 25.

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 DOES IT COST?
The 25 fellows selected for this year’s Institute will attend at no cost. A limited number of scholarships are available to cover hotel and travel expenses, if necessary to attend.
The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — including editors, reporters and producers — to attend a multi-day training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques from Oct. 23-25. 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?

7. If you are selected as a fellow for this year’s Institute, will your attendance be contingent on the availability of a scholarship to cover all or part of your travel and hotel accommodations?

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 12, 2022, to justin@nefac.org. If there is no acknowledgment from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.
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?

(5) While the three days of training and meals are covered in full by the Institute fellowship, is your organization willing to sponsor the applicant for other associated costs, such as transportation and lodging?

☐ Yes

☐ No