Letter from NEFAC’s Executive Director 3
About the New England First Amendment Institute 4
Former NEFAI Fellows 4
Institute Schedule 7
NEFAI 2022 Keynote Speakers 13
NEFAI 2022 Faculty 13
NEFAI 2022 Fellows 23

Program Sponsors and Contributors

The Academy of New England Journalists 2
Boston University 6
Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications 11
The Boston Globe 12
Northeastern University 14
Hearst Connecticut Media Group 22
Rhode Island Foundation 26
Connecticut Public 28

Important Information

NEFAI 2022 Event Page
nefac.org/nefai-2022

NEFAI 2021 Schedule, Documents and Presentations
https://www.nefac.org/nefai-2022-curriculum

Justin Silverman | NEFAC Executive Director
justin@nefac.org | 774.244.2365 (phone/text)
The Academy of New England Journalists

Proud sponsor of
The New England
First Amendment Institute

The Academy of New England Journalists is a proud sponsor of The New England First Amendment Institute. Congratulations to the 2022 First Amendment Institute fellows, who are among the very best and brightest journalists in our six-state region.

The first-class training provided at the Institute is an investment in New England’s newsrooms. There has never been a more critical time for journalists to dig deep in order to keep those in power honest and accountable to the voters and taxpayers. That’s what organizations like NEFAC and the Academy are all about.

George Geers, Chairman
Academy of New England Journalists

Founded in 1960, the Academy of New England Journalists honors -- with the Yankee Quill Award -- those journalists from the region who have made extraordinary contributions to a free press and the welfare of their communities. Each year the Academy’s Selection Committee, which is comprised of past Quill winners and representatives of New England journalism organizations, select recipients of the award.

The Yankee Quill is the highest honor bestowed on journalists in our region, recognizing the lifetime achievement of those who have had a broad influence for good, both inside and outside the newsroom.
Dear NEFAI 2022 Fellow,

Congratulations on being selected to attend this year’s New England First Amendment Institute. Since 2011, we have provided this exclusive annual investigative journalism training program to nearly 300 of the best and brightest journalists in the region.

You are in very good company.

Previous fellows have taken what they’ve learned at NEFAI and helped their newsrooms in many ways. Consider these words from Anastasia Lennon at The New Bedford Light about how the Institute helped her report on secret court proceedings in Massachusetts:

Beyond the technical process of petitioning for access to show cause hearings, I learned to be more persistent and try all avenues in order to get the information I needed. This meant not just filing records requests with the police, but also going to the court and getting records from the clerks. Tips from panelists on working with sources also helped in my cultivating of a source, which ended up being very helpful for a while in obtaining information for subsequent stories.

Lennon (NEFAI 2021) will speak on Oct. 24 about her experiences since attending the Institute last year. She’ll be on our Former Fellows panel with Brad Petrishen (NEFAI 2017) at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette and Tiffany Tan (NEFAI 2020) at VTDigger.

In all, 40 elite reporters, editors, media attorneys and FOI experts volunteered their time this year to help you write your own success stories.

Congrats again on being selected as a New England First Amendment Institute fellow. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help you accomplish your goals during the next three days. I wish you a very productive NEFAI 2022.

Sincerely,

Justin Silverman
Executive Director
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.

SUPPORTERS
Primary support for our Institute is generously provided by the following:

NEFAC appreciates the support of all its donors and Sustaining Members. In addition to those named above, we would like to thank the following Leadership Circle donors and Major Supporters for their contributions: Hearst Connecticut Media Group, The Boston Globe, Paul and Ann Sagan, The Robertson Foundation, WBUR-Boston, Society of Professional Journalists Foundation, Genie Gannett for the First Amendment Museum, Linda Pizzuti Henry, Connecticut Public and GBH-Boston.

About the New England First Amendment Institute

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 Bussemeier
Hartford Courant
Jill Konopka
WWIT-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
2019
Kimberly Drellich
The Day
Meghan Friedmann
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
Jo Kroeker
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
2020
Tatiana Flowers
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
Peter Yankowski
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
Veronica Del Valle
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
2021
Currie Engel
Hearst Connecticut Media Group
Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant
Elizabeth Regan
The Day
2022
Will Graft
The Forecaster
Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal
2023
Matthew Curren
WGME
2024
Jon Chisos
CBS13/Fox23
Michael Shepherd
Kennebec Journal
2025
Jordan Bailey
Courier Publications
Nate Holst
WMTW-Portland

MAINE
2011
Susan Cover
Maine Today
Emily Guerin
The Forecaster
Jesse Nankin
Watchdog
New England
2012
Eric Russell
Bangor Daily News
Will Graft
The Forecaster
Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal
2013
Matthew Curren
WGME
David Harry
The Forecaster
2014
Jon Chisos
CBS13/Fox23
Michael Shepherd
Kennebec Journal
2015
Jordan Bailey
Courier Publications
Nate Holst
WMTW-Portland
2016
David Sherwood
Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting
Matthew Daigle
Sun Journal
Stephanie Grinnell
The Republican
2017
Kylie Jones
WMTW News
Joshua Moore
Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting
Marina Villeneuve
Associated Press
2018
Abigail Adams
Lincoln County News
Charles Eichacker
Kennebec Journal
2019
Callie Ferguson
The Forecaster
2020
Amanda Post
WGME-Portland
Sarah Craighead
Dedmon
Dana Lamperiello
WGME-Portland
Patty Wight
Maine Public Radio
Molly Shelly
The Morning Sentinel
Terry Stackhouse
WMTW News 8
Andrea Swedom
Sun Media
Lynda Clancy
Penobscot Bay Pilot
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

MASSACHUSETTS
2011
Keith Eddings
Eagle-Tribune
Jim Haddadin
Arlington Advocate
Laura Hutchinson
WWLP 22News
Lyle Moran
Lowell Sun

Former Fellows
## Former Fellows Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Kaitlin Mulhere</td>
<td>The Keene Sentinel</td>
<td>Associate Editor</td>
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<td>2021</td>
<td>Julia Furukawa</td>
<td>N.H. Public Radio</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Emily Corwin</td>
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<td>Jennifer Huberdeau</td>
<td>The Berkshire Eagle</td>
<td>Editor</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Nora Doyle-Burr</td>
<td>Valley News</td>
<td>Managing Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Samantha Mercado</td>
<td>Patch.com</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Amanda Mulvane</td>
<td>Providence Journal</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Bill Malinowski</td>
<td>Providence Journal</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Caitlin Andrews</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>McCarthy</td>
<td>Eagle-Tribune</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>NEW HAMPSHIRE</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Maggie Cassidy</td>
<td>Valley News</td>
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<td>Hadley Barndollar</td>
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<td>Paul Cuno-Booth</td>
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<td>Taylor Dobbs</td>
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<td>Jess Aloe</td>
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<td>John Briggs</td>
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<td>Anne Galloway</td>
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<td>Jennifer Weissman</td>
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<td>Alex Kuffner</td>
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<td>Staci DaSilva</td>
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BOSTON UNIVERSITY’S COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

IS DELIGHTED TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE’S CLASS OF 2022 AND TO BE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION.
Local FOI Workshops

CONNECTICUT
October 4 | 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1100, Hartford

Valicia Harmon | Connecticut FOI Commission
Mike Savino | American Business Media

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

MAINE
October 11 | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Preti Flaherty
45 Memorial Circle, Augusta

Judith Meyer | Sun Media Group
Sigmund Schutz | Preti Flaherty

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

MASSACHUSETTS
October 12 | 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
WBUR
890 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

Peter J. Caruso, Sr. | Caruso & Caruso
Todd Wallack | WBUR-Boston

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

NEW HAMPSHIRE
October 19 | 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Nackey S. Loeb School
749 E. Industrial Park Drive, Manchester

Gilles Bissonnette | ACLU of New Hampshire
Paul Cuno-Booth | Independent Journalist

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

RHODE ISLAND
October 13 | 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Oliverio & Marcaccio
30 Romano Vineyard Way, Suite 109, N. Kingstown

Raymond A. Marcaccio | Oliverio & Marcaccio
Amanda Milkovits | The Boston Globe

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

VERMONT
November 11 | 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Seven Days
255 So. Champlain Street, Burlington

Lia Ernst | ACLU of Vermont
Courtney Lamdin | Seven Days

Required Viewing: (1) Introduction to Public Records
(2) Public Record Appeals (3) Introduction to Open Meetings

Introduction to R — Prep Session

Fellows will have the option of attending either Basic Database Analysis or Introduction to R during the Institute. Those choosing Introduction to R must attend a 90-minute prep session prior to the Institute.

October 21 | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Remote (Contact Justin for Zoom Info)

Maggie Mulvihill | Boston University
October 23

2 p.m.  **Registration** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.  **Keynote Speaker** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

  Sewell Chan | The Texas Tribune

  Introduction: Karen Bordeleau | Arizona State University

4 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  **Break**

4:15 p.m. - 6 p.m.  **Panel: Tales from the Trenches** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

  Panelists will share their practical experience in investigative work through painstaking interviewing and use of freedom of information laws to unearth corruption and bring truth to light.

  Lauren Chooljian | New Hampshire Public Radio
  Matt Rocheleau | Hearst Connecticut Media Group
  Eric Tucker | Associated Press

  Moderator: Karen Bordeleau | Arizona State University

7:30 p.m.  **Dinner** [Tuscan Kitchen, 64 Seaport Boulevard, Boston]

October 24

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  **Announcements** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  **Common Pitfalls in Accessing Documents Through FOI Requests and How to Respond** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

  Callie Ferguson | Bangor Daily News
  Andrew Ryan | The Boston Globe
  Todd Wallack | WBUR-Boston

  Moderator: Mike Stanton | University of Connecticut

9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  **Break**

9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  **Web Scraping** [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

  Maggie Mulvihill | Boston University

  *Required Viewing: (1) Web Scraping 101 (2) Web Scraping 102*

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  **Break**
October 24 (continued)

11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.  Beat Break-Out Sessions

CLIMATE [Curry Student Center – McLeod 1]
  Beth Daley | The Conversation

EDUCATION [Curry Student Center – McLeod 2]
  Jacqueline Rabe Thomas | Hearst Connecticut Media Group
  Required Viewing: (1) FERPA and Public Records

DEMOCRACY AND ELECTIONS [Curry Student Center – Room 342]
  Geoff Foster | Common Cause Massachusetts

HEALTH [Curry Student Center – Room 344]
  Felice Freyer | The Boston Globe
  Required Viewing: (1) HIPAA and Public Records

TRAUMA JOURNALISM [Curry Student Center – Room 346]
  Jenifer McKim | GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting
  Required Viewing: (1) Interviewing Traumatized Sources

12:15 p.m.  Lunch [Served in Curry Student Center – Room 333]

1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  Break

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  Tips for Staying Out of Legal Trouble [Curry Student Center – Room 333]
  Gregory V. Sullivan | Malloy & Sullivan
  Required Viewing: (1) How to Respond to a Subpoena (2) How to Avoid Libel in Your Reporting (3) How to Balance Newsgathering with Privacy

3 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.  Break

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  Former Fellows Panel [Curry Student Center – Room 333]
  Anastasia Lennon | New Bedford Light
  Brad Petrishen | Worcester Telegram & Gazette
  Tiffany Tan | VTDigger
  Moderator: Edward Fitzpatrick | The Boston Globe
October 24 (continued)

5:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  Dinner and Presentation [Westin Copley, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston]

5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  Keynote Speaker

NEFAC’s Shirley Leung, a reporter at The Boston Globe, will be leading a conversation with Sacha about her career, bringing stories to life through audio and how fellows can incorporate different media into their own reporting.

Sacha Pfeiffer | NPR

Introductions: Edward Fitzpatrick | The Boston Globe

6:15 p.m.  Dinner

October 25

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  Announcements [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.  Panel: Effective Sourcing [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

When your FOI request languishes your reporting continues. Developing sources, relationships, knowing how to evaluate what you get.

Vanessa de la Torre | New England News Collaborative
Cindy Galli | ABC News
Phillip Martin | GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting

Moderator: Maggie Mulvihill | Boston University

10 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  Break

10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  Database Analysis Break-Out Sessions

Using database technology to analyze publicly available or FOI-request-won data to understand societal, financial, and economic trends is an important tool for the seasoned reporter.

BASIC DATABASE ANALYSIS [Curry Student Center – Room 346]
Brooke Williams | Boston University

Required Viewing: (1) Class Introduction and Database Basics

INTRODUCTION TO R [Curry Student Center – Room 344]
Maggie Mulvihill | Boston University

Required: Attend Introduction to R Prep Session Prior to Institute
October 25 (continued)

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  Lunch and Presentation [Curry Student Center – McLeod Suites]

12:45 p.m.  Keynote Speaker

Mark Walker | The New York Times, IRE

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  Photo/Break [Location TBD]

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  Media Break-Out Sessions

CONFRONTATIONAL INTERVIEWS AND TRANSITION TO A/V
[Curry Student Center – Room 346]

Tim White | WPRI-Providence

WRITING WORKSHOP AND NARRATIVE FLOW
[Curry Student Center – Room 344]

Jeff Howe | Northeastern University

3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  Concluding Remarks [Curry Student Center – Room 333]

Justin Silverman | New England First Amendment Coalition

We are grateful for our collaboration with NEFAC

To learn more about how the the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications promotes and defends the First Amendment and fosters interest, integrity and excellence in journalism and other forms of communication, visit our website and attend a free class or program.

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From telling the stories of Boston’s most influential to giving a voice to all in the region—The Boston Globe is honored to be serving our community for 150 years.
NEFAI 2022 Keynote Speakers

Sewell Chan
The Texas Tribune

Sacha Pfeiffer
NPR

Mark Walker
The New York Times, IRE

Sewell Chan joined The Texas Tribune as editor in chief in October 2021. Previously he was a deputy managing editor and then the editorial page editor at the Los Angeles Times, where he oversaw coverage that was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing in 2021. Chan worked at the New York Times from 2004 to 2018, as a metro reporter, Washington correspondent, deputy Op-Ed editor and international news editor. He began his career as a local reporter at the Washington Post in 2000. He has a degree in social studies from Harvard and a master’s in political science from Oxford, where he studied on a British Marshall scholarship.

Sacha Pfeiffer is a correspondent for NPR’s Investigations team and an occasional guest host for some of NPR’s national shows. Pfeiffer came to NPR from The Boston Globe’s investigative Spotlight team, whose stories on the Catholic Church’s cover-up of clergy sex abuse won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, among other honors. That reporting is the subject of the movie Spotlight, which won the 2016 Oscar for Best Picture. Pfeiffer was also a senior reporter and host of All Things Considered and Radio Boston at WBUR in Boston, where she won a national 2012 Edward R. Murrow Award for broadcast reporting. While at WBUR, she was also a guest host for NPR’s nationally syndicated On Point and Here & Now.

Mark Walker is an investigative reporter in the Washington bureau of The New York Times and president of Investigative Reporters and Editors. He was part of The Times team that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of Covid-19 in 2020. Walker joined The Times in 2019 as the Freedom of Information Act coordinator for the Washington bureau. Before joining The Times, Walker was an investigative reporter at The Argus Leader in South Dakota and a former training director for IRE.

NEFAI 2022 Faculty

Gilles Bissonnette
ACLU of New Hampshire

Karen Bordeleau
Arizona State University

Gilles Bissonnette is the Legal Director at the ACLU of New Hampshire, where he leads a team of three civil rights lawyers. He has litigated cases on the criminalization of poverty, voting, police and government accountability, public records, the First Amendment, immigrants’ rights, and criminal justice issues. Bissonnette has testified before the New Hampshire legislature on hundreds of bills impacting civil liberties. He is the 2022 recipient of the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Distinguished Service to the Public Award. In 2021, his legal team — along with co-counsel — received the Granite State Advocacy Award from the New Hampshire Association for Justice for their legal work on behalf of medically-vulnerable immigrants being civilly detained amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to joining the ACLU in 2013, Bissonnette was a civil litigator in Boston at the law firms of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Todd & Weld LLP, and Cooley LLP. Bissonnette clerked for Judge Thomas M. Golden of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Bissonnette received his J.D. from UCLA School of Law where he was the Chief Comments Editor of the UCLA Law Review.

Karen Bordeleau is a professor and the director of Career and Professional Development at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Bordeleau is the retired executive editor/senior vice president of The Providence Journal and is the first and only woman in The Journal’s 193-year history to hold the top editor’s position. She is responsible for shifting the newsroom into a “story-first” digital operation and is also credited with swinging open the proverbial doors of The Providence Journal by introducing many audience engagement initiatives among them the award-winning Publick Occurences forums to promote civil discourse on complex topics. Under her leadership, The Journal won numerous state, regional...
Northeastern University is proud to support the New England First Amendment Coalition. We believe in your mission to advance the understanding of free speech, transparency, and public access to government.
and national reporting awards. The news organization was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist in Public Service for the Forged by Fire series in 2004, which Bordeleau co-edited. In 2014, Bordeleau was honored with the Yankee Quill — the highest individual journalism honor in New England — which recognizes a lifetime contribution of excellence in the field. In 2016, she was presented with the Judith Brown Spirit of Journalism Award, given annually to one woman who has made a significant impact on journalism in New England. In 2013, she was named one of the “Top 10 Women to Watch in the U.S. Media” by Editor & Publisher magazine. She has also been named one of Rhode Island’s Most Powerful Women by Rhode Island Monthly.

**Peter J. Caruso, Sr.**

Caruso & Caruso  

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**PeterAndover**

Peter J. Caruso, Sr., has represented the media in some of the most high-profile court cases in Massachusetts history since 1977. Caruso has represented print professionals in a vast spectrum of media litigation, including defamation, media and Internet law, newspaper access, advertising acceptance, news reporting, copyright and publications law. A Massachusetts Bar Fellow and a member of the American Bar Association and its Forum on Communications Law, Caruso has argued cases before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals.

**Lauren Chooljian**

New Hampshire Public Radio  

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Lauren Chooljian is a senior reporter/producer for New Hampshire Public Radio’s Document, a narrative-driven, longform reporting project. She co-hosted the award-winning Strangehold podcast, described by The New York Times as a “novelistic portrait of the relationship between the state’s residents and the [presidential] primary.” Her work has also been recognized by the Third Coast International Audio Festival. Most recently, she broke a major investigative story that unearthed sexual misconduct allegations involving the CEO of the largest addiction treatment network in New Hampshire. Before joining NHPR in 2017, Chooljian spent nearly six years as a reporter, producer and fill-in host for WBEZ in Chicago.

**Paul Cuno-Booth**

Independent  

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**paulcunobooth**

Paul Cuno-Booth is a freelance journalist based in Keene, N.H., focusing on police accountability and the criminal justice system. His work has appeared in NHPR, the Granite State News Collaborative, BusinessNH magazine, The Keene Sentinel and elsewhere. He previously worked as a reporter and editor for The Keene Sentinel and Trail Runner magazine. Photo Credit: Michael Moore/The Keene Sentinel.

**Beth Daley**

The Conversation US  

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**BethBDaley**

Beth Daley is the Executive Editor and General Manager of The Conversation US. Previously Daley had a leadership position at InsideClimate News. A Pulitzer Prize finalist for climate reporting at the Boston Globe, she also worked at the New England Center for Investigative Reporting as a reporter and director of partnerships. As Director of Strategic Development at InsideClimate, she worked to diversify the Pulitzer Prize-winning news outlet’s revenue stream. Daley attended Stanford University as a John S. Knight Journalism fellow.

**Vanessa de la Torre**

New England News Collaborative  

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**vdelatorre**

Vanessa de la Torre is executive editor of the New England News Collaborative, a regional hub of nine public media stations producing news and in-depth storytelling throughout New England. Previously, she was a reporter for Connecticut Public and the public radio collaborative Sharing America, covering issues of race, identity and culture. Before joining the public media world, she wrote for newspapers such as the Hartford Courant, where her investigative storytelling on Hartford education won regional and national awards. She also was part of the Courant team that was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting.

**Lia Ernst**

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Lia Ernst is the legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, where she litigates civil liberties, civil rights, and open government cases; advocates before state and municipal governmental bodies on ACLU legislative priorities; and educates community groups on protecting and exercising their rights. Before coming to the Vermont affiliate, Ernst had been a legal fellow at the ACLU of Massachusetts and a legal intern at the ACLU of Michigan. She also clerked for two years with U.S. District Court Judge Julian Abele Cook Jr. in Detroit and for one year with Judge Norman H. Stahl of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston.

**Callie Ferguson**

Bangor Daily News  

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**callieferguson**

Callie Ferguson is an enterprise and investigative reporter for the Bangor Daily News, the only independent statewide daily newspaper in Maine. She primarily writes about criminal justice, police, and housing. She is particularly interested in the
operation of Maine correctional facilities, rural law enforcement, and the state’s affordability crisis. In 2022, she was a Livingston Award finalist for her coverage of a Maine man’s worsening plight in solitary confinement.

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Edward Fitzpatrick is a Boston Globe staff writer covering Rhode Island. He worked for 16 years at the Providence Journal, including eight years as the political columnist and five years as the courts reporter. He is a member of the New England First Amendment Coalition Board of Directors. He worked as director of media and public relations at Roger Williams University, where he launched a First Amendment blog and taught journalism. He was a reporter at the Hartford Courant and the Albany Times Union, and he was the city editor at The Saratogian. He is a Rhode Island native who graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in magazine journalism and political science.

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Geoff Foster (he/him) is the Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts, a 50-year-old organization working to make democracy more equitable and accessible. Geoff is a community organizer and youth worker with over 15 years of experience in Massachusetts state policy, advocacy, and civic engagement.

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Felice J. Freyer is a health care reporter for The Boston Globe, where she covers almost every aspect of health and medicine, with a focus on public health, mental health and addiction. During the pandemic she embedded at a hospital ICU, revealed the plight of Covid “long-haulers” and tracked the vaccine roll-out. Previously, she was the medical writer for The Providence Journal. Since 2009, she has served on the board of the Association of Health Care Journalism, where she spearheaded open-government advocacy. She is currently the AHCJ president.

Cindy Galli
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Cindy Galli is the Executive Producer of ABC News’ award-winning Investigative Unit. She oversees a team of network correspondents, reporters and producers specializing in investigations ranging from government fraud and corporate corruption to racial injustice, consumer and environmental issues. Most recently, her team was recognized with three national Edward R. Murrow Awards for investigations into racial bias in the NFL concussion settlement, the deaths of four soldiers in Niger, and the Tulsa Race Massacre. Galli also oversees collaborative investigative projects between ABC News and local stations and affiliates around the country. Galli currently serves as vice-president on the board of directors for Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE), where she has been a member since 1994. A longtime consumer investigative reporter, she got her start with ABC’s San Francisco station, KGO-TV, before joining the investigative team at Inside Edition in New York, moving to ABC News in 2011. Galli was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

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Valicia Dee Harmon graduated magna cum laude from Wellesley College in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish Literature. In 1999, Harmon graduated with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law with her juris doctorate. Harmon has been counsel to the Freedom of Information Commission for almost 16 years and currently services as the Commission’s Director of Litigation.

Jeff Howe
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Jeff Howe is an assistant professor at Northeastern University. A longtime contributing editor at Wired magazine, he coined the term crowdsourcing in a 2006 article for that magazine. In 2008 he published a book with Random House that looked more deeply at the phenomenon of massive online collaboration. Called Crowdsourcing: How the Power of the Crowd is Driving the Future of Business, it has been translated into 10 languages. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University during the 2009-2010 academic year. He has written for the Washington Post, Newyorker.com, The New York Times, Time, Newsweek, and many other publications.

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Courtney A. Lamdin is a news reporter covering the city of Burlington, Vt., for the independent weekly newspaper Seven Days. A NEFAI 2015 fellow, Lamdin was also previously the executive editor of three weekly papers serving Vermont’s largest county. She grew up in Central Vermont and discovered her love for reporting after reading “All the President’s Men” in a high school journalism class. Lamdin graduated at the top of her college journalism class at St. Michael’s College, where she was taught by none other than legendary Vermont reporter Mike Donoghue. Lamdin later returned to her alma mater as a part-time adjunct professor to oversee the production of the same college newspaper that she once served as editor.
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Anastasia E. Lennon is a reporter for The New Bedford Light. She joined The Light in 2021 where she covers a range of subjects, including the city’s police department, the fishing industry and offshore wind. She has a bachelor’s degree in history and anthropology from Stony Brook University and a master’s degree in journalism from Boston University. She’ll always call Long Island, N.Y., home, but Massachusetts has become a wonderful second home.

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Shirley Leung is a columnist and associate editor at the Boston Globe. She has written on everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender and diversity issues in the workplace. She has been a three-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary. In 2018, Boston Magazine named her to its list of the “100 Most Influential People in Boston.” Leung is also a contributor to WGBH’s “Boston Public Radio” and “Greater Boston,” as well as a regular guest on New England Cable News. Previously, Leung served as the Globe’s interim editorial page editor. She also has been the Globe’s business editor, where she oversaw its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to the Globe, Leung was a staff reporter at The Wall Street Journal. A graduate of Princeton University, she started her career at her hometown paper, The Baltimore Sun.

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Raymond A. Marcaccio is the co-founder of Oliverio & Marcaccio LLP. Marcaccio enjoys a varied practice in trial and appellate advocacy, as well as conducting sensitive internal investigations concerning misconduct, discrimination and sexual harassment. He has been representing the news media for over 20 years in all facets of media law, including pre-publication review, access to public records and meetings, and defending against defamation claims. Marcaccio is a recipient of the Public Justice Achievement Award from the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

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Phillip Martin, senior investigative reporter for The GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting, is a multi-award winning journalist. Honors include the 2019 National Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting, the National Society of Professional Journalists 2017 Sigma Delta Chi award for Best Investigative Reporting and the 2014 national Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Investigative Reporting. He is also the recipient of the 2013 New York Festivals Gold Award and the 2013 United Nations UNDPI Gold Award. He was part of a team of reporters that was honored in 2002 with a George Foster Peabody Award to NPR for coverage of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. He has received numerous other journalism and civic engagement honors over the course of his career including AP, NABJ, regional Edward R. Murrow, AAJA, Rueban Salazar, Gabriel, Prized Pieces, PRNDI, Harry Chapin and Clarion awards. WGBH also awarded Martin one of its highest honors, the Margret and Hans Rey Producer of the Year Award (2011-2012). Martin was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and most recently a Pulitzer-Center grantee (2018). He has also received fellowships from the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), the U.S. Japan Media Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism and the Poynter Institute. He is the recipient of two major Ford Foundation grants and reporting grants from the Fund for Investigative Journalism and the Paul Robeson Fund.

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Judith Meyer is executive editor of the Sun Journal, Kennebec Journal, the Morning Sentinel and seven weekly newspapers owned by the Sun Media Group. She serves as vice president of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition and is a member of the Right to Know Advisory Committee to the Legislature. A journalist since 1990 and former editorial page editor for the Sun Journal, she was named Maine’s Journalist of the Year in 2003 and was inducted in the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame last year. She serves on the New England Newspaper & Press Association Board of Directors and was the 2018 recipient of the Judith Vance Weldon Spirit of Journalism Award. A fellow of the National Press Foundation and the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, she attended George Washington University, lives in Auburn with her husband, Phil, and is an active member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

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Anastasia E. Lennon is a reporter for The New Bedford Light. She joined The Light in 2021 where she covers a range of subjects, including the city’s police department, the fishing industry and offshore wind. She has a bachelor’s degree in history and anthropology from Stony Brook University and a master’s degree in journalism from Boston University. She’ll always call Long Island, N.Y., home, but Massachusetts has become a wonderful second home.

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Shirley Leung is a columnist and associate editor at the Boston Globe. She has written on everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender and diversity issues in the workplace. She has been a three-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary. In 2018, Boston Magazine named her to its list of the “100 Most Influential People in Boston.” Leung is also a contributor to WGBH’s “Boston Public Radio” and “Greater Boston,” as well as a regular guest on New England Cable News. Previously, Leung served as the Globe’s interim editorial page editor. She also has been the Globe’s business editor, where she oversaw its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to the Globe, Leung was a staff reporter at The Wall Street Journal. A graduate of Princeton University, she started her career at her hometown paper, The Baltimore Sun.

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Raymond A. Marcaccio is the co-founder of Oliverio & Marcaccio LLP. Marcaccio enjoys a varied practice in trial and appellate advocacy, as well as conducting sensitive internal investigations concerning misconduct, discrimination and sexual harassment. He has been representing the news media for over 20 years in all facets of media law, including pre-publication review, access to public records and meetings, and defending against defamation claims. Marcaccio is a recipient of the Public Justice Achievement Award from the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

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Phillip Martin, senior investigative reporter for The GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting, is a multi-award winning journalist. Honors include the 2019 National Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting, the National Society of Professional Journalists 2017 Sigma Delta Chi award for Best Investigative Reporting and the 2014 national Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Investigative Reporting. He is also the recipient of the 2013 New York Festivals Gold Award and the 2013 United Nations UNDPI Gold Award. He was part of a team of reporters that was honored in 2002 with a George Foster Peabody Award to NPR for coverage of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. He has received numerous other journalism and civic engagement honors over the course of his career including AP, NABJ, regional Edward R. Murrow, AAJA, Rueban Salazar, Gabriel, Prized Pieces, PRNDI, Harry Chapin and Clarion awards. WGBH also awarded Martin one of its highest honors, the Margret and Hans Rey Producer of the Year Award (2011-2012). Martin was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and most recently a Pulitzer-Center grantee (2018). He has also received fellowships from the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), the U.S. Japan Media Foundation, the German Marshall Fund, the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism and the Poynter Institute. He is the recipient of two major Ford Foundation grants and reporting grants from the Fund for Investigative Journalism and the Paul Robeson Fund.

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Judith Meyer is executive editor of the Sun Journal, Kennebec Journal, the Morning Sentinel and seven weekly newspapers owned by the Sun Media Group. She serves as vice president of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition and is a member of the Right to Know Advisory Committee to the Legislature. A journalist since 1990 and former editorial page editor for the Sun Journal, she was named Maine’s Journalist of the Year in 2003 and was inducted in the Maine Press Association Hall of Fame last year. She serves on the New England Newspaper & Press Association Board of Directors and was the 2018 recipient of the Judith Vance Weldon Spirit of Journalism Award. A fellow of the National Press Foundation and the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, she attended George Washington University, lives in Auburn with her husband, Phil, and is an active member of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.
Amanda Milkovits
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Amanda Milkovits is a reporter at The Boston Globe. She previously worked at the Providence Journal, where she covered crime and justice stories since 2000. She has won recognition and awards for articles about high-profile issues including sex trafficking, gang slayings and the impact of gun violence. She is accustomed to battling police agencies over public records, including The Journal’s attempt to obtain records of the state police investigation of the governor’s son’s underage drinking party.

Maggie Mulvihill
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Maggie Mulvihill is a veteran investigative and data journalist, journalism educator, news entrepreneur and impassioned defender of the public’s right to know. Her data journalism students have been honored with 10 regional or national journalism awards since 2011 as well as being named finalists for the prestigious Livingston Award for Young Journalists. An attorney, Mulvihill is also a Faculty Affiliate at the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering and co-founder of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. In 2014, Mulvihill founded BU’s summer workshops, Data + Narrative: Data-Driven Storytelling.

Brad Petrishen
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Brad Petrishen has worked as a journalist in Massachusetts since graduating in 2008 from Framingham State University, where he served as editor of the school newspaper. He has been recognized numerous times by the New England Newspaper & Press Association for his work, including for investigative journalism. He has reported on several regions in the state, including for The MetroWest Daily News in Framingham, the Winchester Star, and, since 2014, the T&G in Worcester.

Jacqueline Rabe Thomas
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Jacqueline Rabe Thomas is an investigative reporter with Hearst Connecticut Media. She has also been an investigative reporter with Connecticut Public’s Accountability Project, a housing and education reporter with The Connecticut Mirror, and a fellow with ProPublica. A recent investigation she led uncovered undocumented immigrants being trapped in the hospital despite being healthy enough to leave. Shortly after that story was published, the governor changed the policy and hundreds of immigrants returned home. After her investigation into the air quality in schools during the pandemic, the governor reversed course and dedicated millions in state spending for ventilation upgrades. A series about youth crime during the pandemic — and how a backlog of court cases was preventing children from getting connected to help — resulted in the governor announcing the day after the story was published that more judges would be hired and cases processed faster. Her team at Connecticut Public recently won a national Sigma Delta Chi award for fact checking the claims being made around youth crime and a Public Media Journalists Association award for Best Continuing Coverage of special education during the pandemic. At The Connecticut Mirror she investigated housing discrimination, school spending, prison conditions, and pay raises for the top brass at public colleges. She has won three national awards from the Education Writers Association and a Theodore Driscoll Award for Investigative Reporting from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalists for her work at the Connecticut Mirror. She has a masters in public policy from Trinity College and a journalism degree from Bowling Green State University. She has taught classes at UConn’s School of Business and will soon teach journalism at Wesleyan University. She lives in Hartford with her husband, two children, and three dogs. She is a hater of the prepared statement, a tantrum negotiator, is generally well-caffeinated, and will work for tips.

Matt Rocheleau
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Matt Rocheleau is an editor at Hearst overseeing data and investigations for the Times Union in Albany and a network of about 20 daily and weekly newspapers in Connecticut. Prior to starting in that role in May 2021, he was a reporter at The Boston Globe for a decade, most recently a member of the Spotlight Team. At the Globe, Rocheleau led a year-long investigation that uncovered repeated failures to keep problem drivers off the road had cost lives. The project prompted immediate change at DMVs and courts across the country and won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting. He has spearheaded numerous other long-term and rolling investigations, using hard-fought public records, tips from sources and detailed data analysis to uncover wrongdoing and hold leaders accountable at a host of government agencies and private companies.

Andrew Ryan
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Andrew Ryan is an investigative reporter for The Boston Globe. He joined the newspaper in 2006 as a breaking news reporter. In 2010, he became City Hall bureau chief and wrote about influence peddling in state and city government. He was on the metro staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and was also a Pulitzer finalist as a member of the Globe’s Spotlight Team investigation into racism in Boston. In recent years, he has written about police and prosecutorial misconduct and wrongful convictions. Prior to joining the Globe, Ryan wrote for the Associated Press in Boston, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, The Day in New London, Conn., and the Highbridge Horizon in the Bronx.
Mike Savino  
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Mike Savino is president of the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information, the state’s oldest advocacy group for FOI and open government laws. He’s head of multimedia for American Business Media, which produces business-to-business news content for the mortgage industry. He’s also previously worked for WFSB TV-3, the Record-Journal, Journal Inquirer and Chronicle.

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Sigmund D. Schutz represents the news media in First Amendment matters, defamation and privacy, state and federal freedom of information, newsgathering and cyber law. As a partner at Preti Flaherty, LLP and media law counsel for the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram for more than 25 years, Schutz has served as counsel in many precedent setting public access cases in Maine. They have involved access to transcripts of 911 calls, the right to attend jury selection in criminal cases in Maine state court, access to “draft” settlement agreements to which the State of Maine is a party, access to dash cam police cruiser video, obtaining records of closed law enforcement investigations, access to state police disciplinary records and the standard for proceeding under pseudonyms in federal litigation.

Mike Stanton  
University of Connecticut  
[Email]  [Twitter]

Mike Stanton is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter who worked from 1985 to 2013 at the Providence Journal, as a sportswriter covering the Big East and then an investigative reporter specializing in political corruption and organized crime. He was a Boston Globe Spotlight fellow in 2019-2020. Stanton has been a journalism professor at the University of Connecticut since 2013 and is the author of two books, the New York Times bestselling The Prince of Providence, about former Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci, and Unbeaten, a biography of undefeated heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano that was named one of the best books of 2018 by the Wall Street Journal and the Boston Globe.

Tiffany Tan  
VTDigger  
[Email]  [Twitter]

Tiffany Tan is a regional reporter for VTDigger, where she reports on local issues as well as the opioid epidemic and criminal justice system. A native of the Philippines, she worked in China and Singapore before moving to the United States in 2015. She was previously a reporter at the Rapid City Journal (S.D.), where she got a crash course on covering federal, state and Native American law enforcement and courts. She started her journalism career as a television producer in Manila. She speaks Tagalog, Mandarin Chinese and Ilonggo.

Eric Tucker  
Associated Press  
[Email]  [Twitter]

Eric Tucker covers the FBI, Justice Department and national security for The Associated Press in Washington. He led AP’s coverage of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian election interference and Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, and has reported on mass shootings, secret grand jury investigations, presidential impeachments and federal criminal trials. He has also covered local law enforcement in the Washington, D.C. area. But his favorite job by far was right here in New England, covering crime, courts and investigations in the Providence bureau of the AP.

Gregory V. Sullivan  
Malloy & Sullivan  
[Email]

Gregory V. Sullivan has served as general counsel for the Union Leader Corporation for more than 40 years. He has represented Union Leader and many other media organizations regarding First Amendment issues in federal and state courts. Sullivan served on the New Hampshire Supreme Court’s Committee on the Judiciary and the Media, as well as the Committee for Public Access to Courts, and is president of the Hingham, Mass.-based media law firm, Malloy & Sullivan. Sullivan has successfully argued before the New Hampshire Supreme Court in several landmark First Amendment and public access cases. He teaches First Amendment Law at Suffolk University Law School in Boston and at the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications in Manchester, N.H.

Todd Wallack  
WBUR-Boston  
[Email]  [Twitter]

Todd Wallack has been the deputy managing editor in WBUR’s newsroom since March 2021. As part of that role, he oversees a team of reporters who cover politics, criminal justice, and general news. Previously, Wallack spent 14 years as a reporter at the Boston Globe, including eight as an investigative and data reporter on the Globe’s Spotlight Team. Wallack has also worked at several other newspapers, including the San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Herald, and the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News. While at the Globe, Wallack worked on five projects that were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, including ones exploring Boston’s legacy of racism, the troubled Massachusetts mental health system, a deadly national outbreak meningitis traced to a Massachusetts pharmacy, and unsafe housing for Boston college students.
Target 12 investigative reporter Tim White joined the 12 News team in September 2006. White is the recipient of five New England Emmy Awards for investigative reporting. He was honored for a 2010 series of stories probing government waste in Rhode Island. He won his second Emmy for 2012 coverage of Providence’s troubled pension system. A 2014 probe into a lack of accountability at a local fire district led to his third Emmy honor. A 2016 investigation that raised questions as to where a powerful state representative actually lived resulted in the politician’s indictment and was White’s fourth Emmy win. White’s documentary “The Mafia Tapes,” on the 30th anniversary of an infamous 1989 mob induction ceremony, was the recipient of two Regional 2020 Edward R. Murrow Awards.

Brooke Williams is an investigative reporter, professor of the practice of computational journalism, and civic tech fellow at Boston University. Her data-driven investigative reporting has contributed to a Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting, a George Polk Award and a Gerald Loeb Award, among many others. As a contributor to The New York Times, she co-authored and built the database behind a series of front-page investigations into think tanks, foreign governments, corporations and influence. As a reporter at the Center for Public Integrity, Williams was on the team that produced “Windfalls of War,” an award-winning investigation into defense contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. She also co-authored “Harmful Error: Investigating America’s Local Prosecutors” and contributed a chapter to “The Buying of the President 2004.”

We would like to acknowledge THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION and PAUL AND ANN SAGAN for their generosity and continued support of the First Amendment, the public’s right to know and the education of journalists throughout New England. Your support makes us a stronger organization and will help this year’s New England First Amendment Institute become the most successful yet.

Thank you.
Journalism that makes a difference in people’s lives.

When Hearst Connecticut Media Group investigated a year’s worth of intimate-partner homicides, it found state laws were failing to protect victims. After exposing those flaws and telling the stories of the women lost to abuse, Gov. Ned Lamont pledged millions to provide safeguards for those in danger.

Public-service journalism that informs our readers and improves our communities is what we provide in our network of newspapers, websites, newsletters, and magazine. Every day.
Temi-Tope A. Adeleye
WJAR-Providence

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TemiTopeReports

Temi-Tope Adeleye is a multimedia journalist and segment contributor with NBC 10 WJAR in Providence, R.I. Adeleye graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Mass Communications from Western Carolina University and a master’s degree in Journalism from Emerson College. In her 10 months with NBC 10, she has covered everything from crime and fatal fires to health and community involvement. She has also made it her goal to highlight the vast cultures and overlooked communities in Rhode Island. Adeleye was the first on-air journalist to report on the investigation into a Rhode Island woman accused of stolen valor and other frauds against the military. She also created, produces and edits “Lost in Translation,” a series that focuses on the challenges that refugees and immigrants face starting a new life in Rhode Island. Adeleye is proud to have been chosen as a NEFAI 2022 fellow and looks forward to learning more about how she can help get the information that the public has a right to know.

April Barton
Burlington Free Press

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aprildbarton

April Barton is the Youth Forward Reporter for the Burlington Free Press, a daily and online Gannett/USA Today Network newspaper based in Burlington, Vt. Her enterprise stories cover issues related to children, families and education in the Chittenden County area and, at times, take a statewide look at trends. She has been with the Free Press since 2019. Through a New England Gannett regional partnership, she contributed stories to the Solutions Journalism Network revealing novel ways in which schools across the nation worked to keep students engaged during the Covid-19 pandemic. She is a photographer and videographer as well, beginning her career in broadcast journalism as a television news reporter/multimedia journalist in Texas, where she grew up.

Kaitlyn Budion
Morning Sentinel

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Kaitlyn Budion covers Fairfield, Benton, Clinton, Albion, Pittsfield and the surrounding area in central Maine for the Morning Sentinel. She is a 2020 graduate of Northeastern University’s School of Journalism, where she also studied history and women’s, gender and sexuality studies. While at Northeastern she worked with a variety of outlets, including Somerville Media Center, the Groundtruth project, the Massachusetts State House News Service, and News@Northeastern. A native Minnesotan, Budion now lives in Waterville.

Marco Cartolano
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

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marco_cartolano

Marco Cartolano is a reporter based in Worcester working for the Telegram & Gazette. Originally from Miami, Florida, Cartolano knew that he wanted to be a journalist at a young age following the 2008 presidential election. He studied journalism and political science at Northwestern University. In college wrote for the student news website North By Northwestern where he wrote for the politics and entertainment sections and served as audio editor. In college, Cartolano interned for the Miami Herald where he produced podcasts that the paper published online. After college, Cartolano worked for the Jacksonville Journal-Courier in Jacksonville, Illinois. At the Journal-Courier, he covered everything from city council meetings to check-ins with corn and soybean farmers. Cartolano moved to Worcester in January of 2021. In his time at the Telegram & Gazette, he has covered the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination program, police and fire breaking news and the local impact of state and national politics among other subjects. Cartolano was also the lead reporter covering the competitive Democratic primary for the open 1st Worcester state Senate District. He has a strong interest in all things related to politics and elections along with government accountability.

Richard Chumney
Hearst Conn. Media Group

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RichChumney

Richard Chumney is a general assignment reporter for the Connecticut Post and Hearst Connecticut Media Group. He also covers breaking news for Heart’s CT Insider and previously wrote for the Norwalk Hour. Before moving to the Connecticut State in the spring of 2021, he worked at the News & Advance in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he covered Liberty University.

Joaquin Contreras
Sun Journal

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Joaquin Contreras is a reporter at the Sun Journal in Lewiston, Maine. He began his journalism career writing for his high school paper in Oyster Bay, Long Island, eventually contributing music reviews and editorials to campus publications at the State University of New York at Purchase, where he received a Bachelor’s in Journalism and English in 2020. Contreras received his Master’s in Journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 2021 and joined the Sun Journal staff as a crime reporter and features writer in the fall of that year.
Audrey Cooney
Fall River Herald News
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Audrey Cooney is a reporter for the Fall River Herald News, where she primarily covers education, health, and social services. Previously, she worked for Wicked Local and The Patriot Ledger. She is a 2019 graduate of Northeastern University.

Wheeler Cowperthwaite
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A reporter for the Providence Journal, Wheeler Cowperthwaite learned to love public records during a five-year stint at the investigative New Mexico weekly, the Rio Grande SUN, before migrating to the East Coast, first at two Massachusetts papers, the Cape Cod Times and then the Patriot Ledger, before landing at the Providence Journal.

Emily DiSalvo
Hearst Conn. Media Group
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Emily DiSalvo is a reporter covering Greater Hartford for Hearst Connecticut Media Group/CT Insider. Prior to joining CT Insider, she covered Covid-19 and poverty as an investigative fellow for News 21 out of the Walter Cronkite School. Before that, she covered Hamden for the New Haven Independent and state issues for CT News Junkie as a freelance reporter. DiSalvo enjoys covering most any topic, but is particularly passionate about housing, LGBTQ issues, transportation, the gig economy and human services. At CT Insider, she’s been covering anything from deteriorating housing conditions at a local apartment complex to opportunity zone investments in the capital city. DiSalvo has her bachelors and masters degrees in journalism from Quinnipiac University. In her free time she enjoys hiking, swimming, reading and spending time with her elderly cat, Mittens.

Emily Duggan
Kennebec Journal
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Emily Duggan has been an education reporter at the Kennebec Journal for two years. During her time at the Kennebec Journal, she notably reported on the “botched” University of Maine at Augusta presidential search and collaborated with the Portland Press Herald and The Sun Journal to strengthen their efforts reporting on the matter that resulted in votes of no confidence against the system chancellor. Before the Kennebec Journal, she graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2020 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. In her time at UNH, she was news editor of student-lead newspaper, The New Hampshire and interned at the Portland Press Herald while home in Portland for summer break. Duggan’s articles have also appeared in the Granite State News Collaborative partnership pipeline and the Portland Phoenix. She lives in Portland and enjoys reading, catching up on the newest streaming show, and playing with her two cats.

Kevin Gaiss
WCAX-Burlington
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@KevinGaissTV

Kevin Gaiss is a reporter for WCAX in Burlington, Vt., where he has been for just over two years. Gaiss was born and raised in central Connecticut before attending college at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. New England has always been a part of who Gaiss is, and he’s grateful to have been able to start a career here. Before launching a career, Gaiss had the opportunity to intern at various stations across New England and in New York City for CBS Mornings. He has had a long love of news and the news process and feels lucky to live in a region rich with journalists across all platforms with high integrity and incredible skill sets. Gaiss is thrilled to be a part of this year’s Institute.

Jacqueline Gomersall
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Jacqueline Gomersall joined 12 News in 2011 and is currently an investigative producer with Target 12. She still gets a rush from uncovering new information and always enjoys a good election season. Prior to working at WPRI-12, Gomersall was a producer at ABC6 in Providence for six years. She is a life-long Rhode Islander and a proud alumna of the University of Rhode Island’s journalism program. Gomersall lives in East Providence with her husband and two small children.

Samantha Gross
The Boston Globe
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Samantha Gross is a reporter at The Boston Globe, where she has been covering state government and politics since January 2022. Prior to coming to the Globe, Gross worked as a politics reporter at The Miami Herald. She was part of the team that won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting for their coverage of the deadly condominium collapse in Surfside, Fla., in June 2021. Gross is a graduate of Boston University’s College of Communication.

Michael Hoey-Lukakis
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Michael Hoey-Lukakis (using the name Mike Hoey in the workplace) is a television news anchor, reporter and producer for WVNY and WFFF, the ABC and Fox affiliates in Burlington, Ver-

24 | nefac.org
Faith Imafidon
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Faith Imafidon is a proud Boston native and first-generation Nigerian. She currently serves as News Director and Anchor at Boston Neighborhood Network Media (BNN) in Roxbury. This June, Imafidon re-launched BNN News, a half-hour hyper local news program focusing on the neighborhoods of Boston. Prior to joining BNN, Imafidon worked in the theatre and arts education space with Center Theatre Group as a Discussion Facilitator and Theatre of NOTE as part of their Artistic Management Committee in Los Angeles, California. Imafidon earned her BA in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard College and MFA from Harvard and Moscow Art Theatre. Imafidon is honored to be part of the 2022 New England First Amendment Institute and looks forward to building her knowledge and skills as a journalist.

Sawyer Loftus
Bangor Daily News
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Sawyer Loftus is a reporter with the Bangor Daily News City Desk team covering regional accountability in the Bangor area, the University of Maine System and other special topics important to the region. Loftus worked for USA Today’s Burlington Free Press, Vermont Public Radio and VTDigger before joining the Bangor Daily News in 2021 after he graduated from the University of Vermont. Loftus grew up in Vermont, and during his senior year of college was the editor-in-chief of the Vermont Cynic, the University of Vermont’s independent student newspaper. When he is not working Loftus is enjoying Maine’s waterways and woods or reading a good book.

Kay Neufeld
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Kay Neufeld (they/them) is a journalist, writer, photographer, and Chatty Kathy. They were born and raised in New York, where they attended New York University’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute and acquired a bachelor’s degree in journalism and gender & sexuality studies. Their writing has been published in Vox, Salon, The Observer, NYLON Magazine and some of Maine’s biggest newspapers, including the Portland Press Herald, Morning Sentinel, and Sun Journal. Kay has written about everything from the Kardashians to the Trumps, literature, music and fashion, homelessness, climate change, mental health and mass incarceration. Kay previously worked as a reporter for Sun Media Group’s regional newspapers in western Maine photographing and writing about breaking news, local politics, community, business, culture and identity. They have also developed beats in LGBTQ+ issues and homelessness. At the Franklin Journal, Livermore Falls Advertiser and Sun Journal, Kay has interviewed a U.S. senator, been on the water with lobstermen, delved through municipal and school budgets, covered protests and acted in a haunted house. And they have written investigative work including breaking coverage on chaos in the University of Maine-System and issues around the treatment of LGBTQ+ people in the region. Kay is most proud of their relationship with the communities they report on. They are committed to not just covering the community, but becoming a community member. Kay is always bringing their notepad and audio recorder with them, even when off the clock and headed to the local bar.

Vanessa Paolella
Sun Journal
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Vanessa Paolella is a staff writer at the Sun Journal in Lewiston, Maine, primarily covering local education and municipal government. Before joining the Sun Journal in 2021, she interned for the paper twice and led the Bates College student newspaper, The Bates Student, as it transitioned to a digital-first model. This fall, Paolella is teaching an introduction to print journalism class at the New England School of Communications in Bangor, Maine. Paolella graduated from Bates College with a Bachelor of Science in geology.

Walter Smith Randolph
Connecticut Public
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Walter Smith Randolph is the Investigative Editor & Director of The Accountability Project at Connecticut Public Broadcasting. In the first year of CT Public’s new investigative news initiative, The Accountability Project’s reporting has led to statewide policy changes and has been recognized with a Sigma Delta Chi award from the Society of Professional Journalists, a first-place award from the Public Media Journalists Association and six awards from the Connecticut chapter of SPJ. Before Connecticut, Walter spent a decade reporting in local tv newsrooms in Elmira-Ithaca, N.Y.; Flint, M.I.; Kalamazoo, M.I., and Cincinnati, Ohio, specializing in accountability and local government reporting. The New York City native also serves as Treasurer of The National Association of Black Journalists where he was elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2022. He is a graduate of Villanova University and the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, where he serves as chair of the Alumni Board. Randolph has also taught journalism at Western Michigan University and Northern Kentucky University.
The most important thing you can do while you’re here is to ensure the world will be better when you’re not.

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<th>Nina Sparling</th>
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Nina Sparling is an investigative producer at the Public's Radio, where she reports, files records requests, and supports other journalists in the newsroom. She attended the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Her work has appeared with NPR, KQED, the Global Center for Investigative Reporting, the New York Times, and Logic Magazine.

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Ryan Spencer is the public safety and criminal justice reporter at The Keene Sentinel in New Hampshire. After growing up in rural Vermont with a passion for writing, Spencer fell in love with journalism while working at his college paper at Brandeis University. During his junior year, he dove headfirst into his first investigative series, dissecting the circumstances surrounding the cancellation of an undergraduate theater production. His reporting for The Brandeis Hoot raised questions about free speech on campus and was picked up by The Boston Globe, WBUR and The New York Times. Straight out of college, Spencer joined The Enterprise Newspapers on Cape Cod, where he worked for more than two years covering the Town of Mashpee. In addition to reporting on municipal boards and committees, he broke down thorny legal battles, steeped in centuries of history, between the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Trump Administration and developed a focus on environmental issues impacting the Cape. Looking to return to the mountains where he feels most at home, Spencer moved to New Hampshire at the start of 2022 to begin at The Keene Sentinel. In the months since, he has reported on police officers in the region with credibility concerns, highlighted record-keeping deficits at the city’s fire department, and is helping to reshape the paper’s crime reporting policies. Outside of work, Spencer enjoys all things outdoors, including hiking, gardening, birding, kayaking and skiing.

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<th>Sten Spinella</th>
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Sten Spinella is a state politics news reporter for The Day newspaper in New London, Connecticut. He is the first state government reporter for the newspaper in 10 years. Spinella graduated from the University of Connecticut with a double major in English and political science. He earned his Master’s Degree in journalism, specifically magazine writing, from the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He has written for PolitiFact, Vox Magazine, the Columbia Missourian, the Sarasota Observer, the Longboat Key Observer and other publications. Spinella has practiced journalism since he was a middle school student because he loves writing and creating access to information that could help the public. He lives in New London, Connecticut.

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<th>Lilly St. Angelo</th>
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Lilly St. Angelo is the urban change reporter at the Burlington Free Press in Burlington, Vermont. She writes about everything from city development projects to equity issues in Burlington and the surrounding towns. She grew up in Carmel, Indiana, just outside of Indianapolis and graduated from Indiana University in 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degree and a certificate in French. She has interned at the Indy Star in Indianapolis as well as WTTU, the public radio station in Bloomington, Indiana. St. Angelo’s passions in journalism lie in good storytelling, holding leaders accountable and giving a voice to underserved communities. Outside of journalism, she loves being outdoors, hanging out at coffee shops, taking care of her plants, baking, cooking, crafting and reading.

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<th>Michaela Towfighi</th>
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Michaela Towfighi reports on struggling middle-class and working-class residents as the Two New Hampshires reporter for the Concord Monitor. She started in June 2022, after graduating from Duke University with a degree in public policy and journalism and media studies. While at Duke, wrote and edited for The 9th Street Journal, an online publication focusing on local Durham news, and North Carolina’s Indy Week. Her story about a family grappling with a delayed trial for a fatal car accident in Concord, New Hampshire, won first place in Duke’s Melcher Family Award for Excellence in Journalism. Towfighi is an American expat who calls London home, despite not having picked up a British accent just yet.

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<th>Zane Wolfang</th>
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Zane Wolfang is a local government reporter for the Newport Daily News in his home state of Rhode Island. Before joining the Daily News staff in 2022, Wolfang lived and worked in various countries throughout the Middle East, first as an English teacher and Arabic student in the occupied West Bank of Palestine, and later as a freelance reporter, editor and media instructor in the Kurdistan Region of northern Iraq, in Jordan’s capital city Amman, and in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. He speaks Arabic and Spanish, and hopes to achieve a basic level of fluency in French and Hebrew as well. He is an avid ultimate frisbee player, an amateur haiku poet, and a lifelong student of both history and current events.

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Congratulations to Walter Smith Randolph, Investigative Editor & Director of The Accountability Project, for being selected as one of 25 fellows for the 12th annual New England First Amendment Institute. To learn more about TAP or sign up for our newsletter visit ctpublic.org/accountability
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

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