

*13th Annual*

**NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE**

Presented by the New England First Amendment Coalition

**October 29-31, 2023**

**Northeastern University | Boston, Mass.**

**Fellowship Application**  
**Deadline August 18, 2023**

**nefai** 2023

# 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 2023 Institute will be held at Northeastern University in Boston from Oct. 29 to Oct. 31.

## 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:



Northeastern University



RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION



*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: The Boston Globe, Paul and Ann Sagan, the Robertson Foundation, Hearst Connecticut Media Group, Genie Gannett for the First Amendment Museum, Linda Pizzuti Henry, the Champa Charitable Foundation Fund and Connecticut Public.*



## Testimonials

*NEFAC taught me reporting skills I never acquired when working toward a media degree in college. Since attending the Institute, I have filled out more public records requests with more confidence. NEFAC didn't just teach me core skills. It also taught me how to be a digital-savvy journalist through data analysis and web scraping. These skills are crucial for journalists.*

*There is no question that NEFAC training has allowed me to better keep an eye on the public's business and hold powerful interests to account. NEFAC trainings have given me the confidence to push back on official narratives and shown me strategies I have used to pursue public information that officials have tried to shield from view.*

*The Institute opened my eyes to different ways stories can be shared. I also gained a variety of new skills including web scraping data, how to pitch a solid climate change story, and the rights journalist have to public records. For me, attending the classes was instrumental for my growth as an investigative journalist.*

# 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 Krasselt**  
Norwalk Hour

**Martha Shanahan**  
The Day

2018

**Skyler Frazer**  
New Britain Herald

**Ben Lambert**  
New Haven Register

**Barry Lytton**  
The Stamford Advocate

**Eric Moser**  
The Day

2019

**Kimberly Drelich**  
The Day

**Meghan Friedmann**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Jo Kroeker**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Justin Papp**  
Hearst Connecticut

2020

**Tatiana Flowers**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Peter Yankowski**  
Hearst Connecticut

2021

**Verónica Del Valle**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Currie Engel**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Alex Putterman**  
Hartford Courant

**Elizabeth Regan**  
The Day

2022

**Richard Chumney**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Emily DiSalvo**  
Hearst Connecticut

**Walter Smith**  
Connecticut Public

**Randolph**  
Connecticut Public

**Sten Spinella**  
The Day

## 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

**Kyle Jones**  
WMTW News

**Joshua Moore**  
Maine Center for  
Public Interest Reporting

**Marina Villeneuve**  
Associated Press

2017

**Abigail Adams**  
Lincoln County News

**Charles Eichacker**  
Kennebec Journal

**Callie Ferguson**  
The Forecaster

2018

**Anne Berleant**  
Penobscot Bay Press

**Joe Glauber**  
WMTW-Portland

**Rachel Ohm**  
Morning Sentinel

**Amanda Post**

WGME-Portland  
2019

**Sarah Craighead**  
Dedmon

Machias Valley  
News Observer

**Dan Lampariello**  
WGME-Portland

**Patty Wight**  
Maine Public Radio

2020

**Molly Shelly**  
The Morning Sentinel

**Terry Stackhouse**  
WMTW News 8

**Andrea Swiedom**  
Sun Media

2021

**Lynda Clancy**  
Penobscot Bay Pilot

2022

**Kaitlyn Budion**  
Morning Sentinel

**Joaquin Contreras**  
Sun Journal

**Emily Duggan**  
Kennebec Journal

**Sawyer Loftus**  
Bangor Daily News

**Kay Neufeld**  
Sun Media Group

**Vanessa Paoella**  
Sun Journal

## MASSACHUSETTS

2011

**Keith Eddings**  
Eagle-Tribune

**Jim Haddadin**  
Arlington Advocate

**Laura Hutchinson**  
WWLP 22News

**Lyle Moran**  
Lowell Sun

**David Riley**  
MetroWest Daily News

**Rory Schuler**  
Taunton Daily

**Matthew Stout**  
The Enterprise

2012

**Alex Bloom**  
The Enterprise

**George Brennan**  
Cape Cod Times

**Deirdre Fernandes**  
The Boston Globe

**David Eisenstadter**  
The Transcript

**Sarah Favot**

Lowell Sun

**Martine Powers**  
The Boston Globe

**Patrick Ronan**  
Patriot Ledger

**Shaun Sutner**  
Worcester

**Ryan Walsh**  
Telegram & Gazette

2013

**Doug Fraser**  
Cape Cod Times

**Wes Lowery**  
The Boston Globe

**Joshua Miller**  
The Boston Globe

**Shawn Musgrave**  
MuckRock

**Neena Pathak**  
Schuster Institute

**Neal Simpson**  
The Patriot Ledger

**Schuyler Velasco**  
Christian Science Monitor

2014

**Sean F. Driscoll**  
Cape Cod Times

**Beryl Lipton**  
MuckRock

**Priyanka McCluskey**  
The Boston Globe

**Alexa Mills**  
The Boston Globe

**Alex Ruppenthal**  
Medford Transcript

**Eli Sherman**  
Waltham News Tribune

2015

**Samantha Allen**  
Worcester

**Jonathan Dame**  
Telegram & Gazette

**Nicole Dungca**  
GateHouse Media

**Nicole Dungca**  
The Boston Globe

**Jenna Fisher**  
GateHouse Media

**Allison Manning**  
Boston.com

**Jordan Mayblum**  
Wellesley Townsman

**Jan Ransom**  
The Boston Globe

2016

**Zeninjor Enwemeka**  
WBUR

**Jordan Frias**  
Boston Herald

**Phil Marcelo**

Associated Press

**Tom Relihan**  
The Recorder

**Susan Spencer**  
Worcester

**Gerry Tuoti**  
Telegram & Gazette

**Gatehouse Media**  
2017

**Collin Binkley**  
Associated Press

**Amanda Drane**  
Berkshire Eagle

**Melissa Hanson**  
MassLive

**Brad Petrishen**  
Worcester

**Greg Ryan**  
Boston Business Journal

2018

**Sarah Betancourt**  
Boston Institute for  
Nonprofit Journalism

**Michael Bonner**  
The Standard Times

**Lisa Creamer**  
WBUR-Boston

**Dialynn Dwyer**  
Boston.com

**Jennifer Lu**  
Independent

**Angela Rowlings**  
Boston Herald

**Bridget Turcotte**  
The Daily Item

**Grant Welker**  
Worcester

**Business Journal**  
2019

**Amanda Burke**  
Fall River Herald News

**Jo C. Goode**  
Fall River Herald News

**Zoe Greenberg**  
The Boston Globe

**Gal Tziperman Lotan**  
The Boston Globe

**Haven**

**Orecchio-Egresitz**  
Berkshire Eagle

2020

**Dusty Christensen**  
Daily Hampshire Gazette

**Vernal Coleman**  
The Boston Globe

**Jessica Hill**  
Cape Cod Times

# Former Fellows Continued

<b>Jennifer Huberdeau</b> The Berkshire Eagle	<b>Christopher Garofolo</b> Eagle Times	<b>Mary McIntyre</b> New Hampshire Public Radio	2015	<b>Zane Wolfgang</b> Newport Daily News	<b>Adam Silverman</b> Burlington Free Press
<b>Lucia Maffei</b> Boston Business Journal	<b>Kathryn Marchocki</b> NH Union Leader	<b>Leah Willingham</b> Concord Monitor 2020	<b>Jennifer Bogdan</b> Providence Journal	<u>VERMONT</u> 2011	<b>Greg Sukiennik</b> New England Newspapers 2018
<b>Samantha Mercado</b> Patch.com	<b>Kaitlin Mulhere</b> The Keene Sentinel 2014	<b>Olivia Belanger</b> The Kenne Sentinel	<b>Alex Kuffner</b> Providence Journal	<b>John Briggs</b> Burlington Free Press	<b>Catherine Buni</b> Independent
<b>Dasia Moore</b> The Boston Globe	<b>Emily Corwin</b> NH Public Radio	<b>Madeline Hughes</b> The Eagle-Tribune	<b>Steph Machado</b> WPRI-Providence 2016	<b>Anne Galloway</b> Vermont Digger	<b>Staci DaSilva</b> WFFF-Burlington
<b>Shira Stoll</b> NBC 10 Boston	<b>Alyssa Dandrea</b> The Keene Sentinel	<b>Alexander LaCasse</b> Seacoast Media Group 2021	<b>Jacqueline Tempera</b> Providence Journal 2017	<b>Shay Totten</b> Seven Days 2012	<b>Xander Landen</b> VTDigger 2019
<b>Julia Taliesin</b> Somerville Journal 2021	<b>Nora Doyle-Burr</b> Valley News	<b>Julia Furukawa</b> New Hampshire Public Radio	<b>Kate Bramson</b> Providence Journal	<b>Dan D'Ambrosio</b> Burlington Free Press	<b>Liam Elder-Connors</b> Vermont Public Radio
<b>Dugan Arnett</b> The Boston Globe	<b>Peter McGuire</b> Forecaster Newspapers	<b>Amanda Gokee</b> New Hampshire Bulletin	<b>Susan Campbell</b> WPRI-Providence	<b>Jennifer Cleveland</b> Caledonian-Record	<b>Christopher Mays</b> Brattleboro Reformer
<b>Greta Jochem</b> The Berkshire Eagle	<b>Kerry Miller</b> Eagle Times 2015	<b>Cassidy Jensen</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Derek Gomes</b> Newport Daily News	<b>Andrew Stein</b> Vermont Digger 2013	<b>Alex Nuti-de Biasi</b> Journal Opinion
<b>Anastasia Lennon</b> New Bedford Light	<b>Jeremy Blackman</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Jordan Phelan</b> Eagle Times	<b>Diana Pinzon</b> WPRI-Providence 2018	<b>Nathan Burgess</b> Stowe Reporter	<b>Orrin Schonfeld</b> WPTZ-Burlington
<b>Alex Newman</b> Patch	<b>Megan Doyle</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Jack Rooney</b> Keene Sentinel 2022	<b>Brian Amaral</b> Providence Journal	<b>Olga Peters</b> The Commons	<b>Cat Viglienzoni</b> WCAX-Burlington 2020
<b>Emma Platoff</b> The Boston Globe	<b>Rob Wolfe</b> Valley News 2016	<b>Ryan Spencer</b> Keene Sentinel	<b>Parker Gavigan</b> WJAR-Cranston	<b>Jennifer Reading</b> WCAX 2014	<b>Devin Bates</b> Local 22/44
<b>Tiana Woodard</b> The Boston Globe 2022	<b>Peter Biello</b> New Hampshire Public Radio	<b>Michaela Towfighi</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Kim Kalunian</b> WPRI-Providence 2019	<b>Taylor Dobbs</b> Vermont Public Radio	<b>Tom Garriss</b> WPTZ NBC 5
<b>Marco Cartolano</b> Worcester Telegram & Gazette	<b>Tim Camerato</b> Valley News	<b>RHODE ISLAND</b> 2011	<b>Jessica Botelho</b> WJAR-Cranston	<b>Abby Ledoux</b> Milton Independent	<b>Anna Merriman</b> Valley News
<b>Audrey Cooney</b> Fall River Herald News	<b>Meghan Foley</b> The Keene Sentinel	<b>Amanda Milkovits</b> Providence Journal	<b>Laura Damon</b> The Newport Daily News	<b>Allison Teague</b> The Commons 2015	<b>Christopher Ross</b> Addison County Independent
<b>Samantha Gross</b> The Boston Globe	<b>Allie Morris</b> Concord Monitor	<b>David Scharfenberg</b> Providence Phoenix	<b>Hannah Dickison</b> WPRI-Providence	<b>April Burbank</b> Burlington Free Press	<b>Tiffany Tan</b> Bennington Banner 2021
<b>Faith Imafidon</b> Boston Neighborhood Network Media	<b>Ella Nilsen</b> Concord Monitor 2017	<b>Karen Ziner</b> Providence Journal 2012	<b>Nadine Maya Sebai</b> The Public's Radio 2020	<b>Lola Duffort</b> Rutland Herald	<b>Dom Amato</b> WCAX-Burlington
<u>NEW</u> <u>HAMPSHIRE</u> 2011	<b>Caitlin Andrews</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Lynn Arditi</b> Providence Journal	<b>Madeleine List</b> Providence Journal 2021	<b>Lesley Engle</b> Fox44/ABC22	<b>Jack Lyons</b> VT Digger 2022
<b>Joseph Cote</b> Nashua Telegraph	<b>Allison DeAngelis</b> Eagle-Tribune	<b>Ian Donnis</b> Rhode Island Public Radio	<b>Jeremy Bernfeld</b> The Public's Radio	<b>Courtney Lamdin</b> Milton Independent 2016	<b>April Barton</b> Burlington Free Press
<b>Mark Davis</b> Valley News	<b>Casey McDermott New</b> Hampshire Public Radio	<b>Kathleen Mulvaney</b> Providence Journal 2013	<b>Lauren Clem</b> The Valley Breeze	<b>Jess Aloe</b> Burlington Free Press	<b>Kevin Gaiss</b> WCAX
<b>Maddie Hanna</b> Concord Monitor 2012	<b>Paige Sutherland</b> New Hampshire Public Radio 2018	<b>Bill Malinowski</b> Providence Journal	<b>Sarah Guernelli</b> WPRI-Providence	<b>Colin Flanders</b> The Essex Reporter and Colchester Sun	<b>Michael Hoey-Lukakis</b> WVNY/WFFF
<b>Maggie Cassidy</b> Valley News	<b>Breanna Edelstein</b> The Eagle Tribune	<b>Mark Reynolds</b> Providence Journal 2014	<b>Rachel Nunes</b> Patch	<b>Stephanie Gorin</b> NBC5-Vermont	<b>Lilly St. Angelo</b> Burlington Free Press
<b>Maryalice Gill</b> Nashua Telegraph	<b>Sierra Hubbard</b> The Keene Sentinel	<b>Randal Edgar</b> Providence Journal	<b>Amy Russo</b> Providence Journal 2022	<b>Katie Jickling</b> The Herald	<u>REGIONAL</u> 2021
<b>Meg Heckman</b> Concord Monitor	<b>Meg McIntyre</b> The Keene Sentinel 2019	<b>Paul Grimaldi</b> Providence Journal	<b>Temi-Topo Adeleye</b> WJAR	<b>Elizabeth Murray</b> Burlington Free Press	<b>Maya Ergas Shwayder</b> New England Public Media
<b>Annmarie Timmins</b> Concord Monitor 2013	<b>Hadley Barndollar</b> Portsmouth Herald	<b>Janine Weisman</b> Newport Mercury	<b>Wheeler</b> Cowperthwaite Providence Journal	<b>Alicia Freese</b> Seven Days	<b>Kyle Stucker</b> Gannett New England
<b>Todd Bookman</b> NH Public Radio	<b>Paul Cuno-Booth</b> The Keene Sentinel		<b>Jacqueline Gomersall</b> WPRI	<b>Tommy Gardner</b> Stowe Reporter	
<b>Sarah Brubeck</b> Valley News			<b>Nina Sparling</b> The Public's Radio	<b>Hilary Niles</b> Independent	



# New England First Amendment Institute Fellowship Application Deadline August 18, 2023

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. 29-31. 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 the documents listed below. Please also 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, including mailing address, phone number and preferred email address.
- (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 on or before August 18, 2023, to [justin@nefac.org](mailto: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 August 18, 2023

**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