New England First Amendment Institute

Schedule

**Day One: The Value of Transparency**

3:15 Welcome
   Walter Robinson, director, Initiative for Investigative Reporting, Northeastern University School of Journalism
   Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

3:30-4:00 Keynote address
   Brian McGrory, editor, The Boston Globe

4:00-6:00 Panel: Tales from the Trenches
   Alexandra Zayas
   “In God’s Name,” Tampa Bay Times
   David Jackson
   “Empty-Desk Epidemic,” The Chicago Tribune.
   Alison Young
   “Ghost Factories,” USA Today
   Sharyl Attkisson
   “Fast and Furious,” CBS News

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.

**Moderator:** Walter Robinson

6:00-6:30 Icebreaker
   Rosanna Cavanagh, executive director, NEFAC

6:30 Dinner
Day Two: *How Do We Harness Freedom of Information Laws and Publicly Available Data to Further Investigations?*

8:45 – 9:45 Common Pitfalls in Accessing Documents Through FOI Requests and How to Respond

**Moderator:** Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

**Panelists:**
- Tim White, investigative reporter, WPRI
- Sean Murphy, investigative reporter, The Boston Globe

9:45- 10:45 Tips for Staying out of Legal Trouble: Common Issues in Defamation, Invasion of Privacy and Copyright

**Moderator:** Gregory V. Sullivan, partner, Malloy & Sullivan

**Panelists:**
- Peter Caruso, managing partner, Caruso & Caruso
- Joseph V. Cavanagh, managing partner, Blish & Cavanagh
- William Chapman, partner, Orr & Reno
- Sigmund D. Schutz, partner, PretiFlaherty

**Break out sessions A: 10:45 – 12:30**

- **Connecticut** -- [Mitchell Pearlman,] lecturer University of Connecticut, and Lynne DeLucia, editor, Connecticut Health Investigative Team
- **New Hampshire** -- Gregory Sullivan and William Chapman
- **Massachusetts** -- Peter Caruso
- **Maine** -- Sigmund Schutz
- **Rhode Island** -- Joseph V. Cavanagh Jr.
- **Vermont** -- Dan Barrett, staff attorney, ACLU Vermont and Michael Donoghue

The specifics of each state’s laws and exemptions will be discussed and hands-on cases will be reviewed in break out sessions with knowledgeable attorneys and journalists from each state.

12:30- 1:30 Beat Lunches

- Politics
- Health care
1:30- 3:30 Federal Freedom of Information Act

Speakers:  Elizabeth Ritvo, partner, Brown Rudnick  
           Robert Bertsche, partner, Prince Lobel Tye  
           TBD

How do you put the federal information law to use in pursuit of local stories? How do you win federal Freedom of Information Act battles? Examples of vital information made public via the federal Freedom of Information Act. What to do when the data you get doesn’t tell the whole story.

3:30 – 4:30 Thinking Through a Story from Hunch to Headline Using Available Databases— Walter Robinson

4:30 – 6:00 Break out sessions:

The Confrontational Interview & Transition to Video -- Tim White

Writing Workshop/Narrative Flow – [TBD]

6:00 Dinner

6:30 Dinner Address:  David Barstow, investigative reporter, The New York Times

Day Three:  Digging Deeply and Listening Carefully

Panel—Effective Sourcing

9:00- 10:30

Moderator:  Thomas Fiedler, dean, Boston University College of Communication

Barbara Laker, investigative reporter, The Philadelphia Daily News

Wendy Ruderman, investigative reporter, The Philadelphia Daily News

Anna Schecter, executive producer, NBC
When your FOI request languishes your reporting continues. Developing sources, relationships, knowing how to evaluate what you get.

10:30- 12:30   Break-out sessions C

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:** Matt Carroll, reporter, The Boston Globe
**Advanced Database Analysis:** Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica

12:30-1:00 Lunch Break

1:00-3:00   Digging for Gold in Securities and Exchange Commission Documents - Todd Wallack, reporter, The Boston Globe

3:00-4:30   Quick Hit Investigations

Maggie Mulvihill, co-Director, New England Center for Investigative Reporting

Panel discussion with former fellows regarding balancing investigative projects and short-term assignments.

4:30 Conclusion:  Rosanna Cavanagh, Executive Director, NEFAC