

*New England First Amendment Coalition  
Sixth Annual First Amendment Awards Luncheon*

February 19, 2016  
Park Plaza Hotel — Boston, Mass.

*Featuring*



**Patrick Leahy**

*United States Senator from Vermont*

**Stephen Hamblett**  
**First Amendment Award**

*Also Honoring*

**Jenifer Mckim**  
*Journalist, New England Center  
for Investigative Reporting*  
**Freedom of Information Award**

**Michael A. Champa**  
*Philanthropist, Open Government Advocate*  
**Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award**

 **@FiveFreedoms #NEFAA2016**

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*The New England First Amendment Coalition defends, promotes and expands freedom of information and public access to the government and the work it does. NEFAC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.  
Learn more about NEFAC at [www.nefirstamendment.org](http://www.nefirstamendment.org).*

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## CONTRIBUTORS AND PATRON SUPPORTERS

Thomas Fiedler

Janet Wu

Mary Jane Wilkinson

The Keene Sentinel

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<b>Luncheon Begins</b>	<b>12:30</b>
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	<b>12:40</b>
Thomas Fiedler, NEFAC president and dean of the Boston University College of Communication	
<b>Luncheon Served</b>	<b>12:45</b>
<b>Presentation of the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award</b>	<b>1:00</b>
Introduction by Robert A. Bertsche, Esq., NEFAC treasurer and attorney at Prince Lobel Tye, LLP	
Acceptance and remarks by 2016 Citizenship Award recipient Michael A. Champa	
<b>Presentation of the Freedom of Information Award</b>	<b>1:15</b>
Introduction by Thomas Fiedler	
Acceptance and remarks by 2016 FOI Award recipient Jenifer McKim	
<b>Presentation of the Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award</b>	<b>1:35</b>
Introduction by Michael Donoghue, NEFAC clerk and former reporter for the Burlington Free Press	
Acceptance and remarks by 2016 First Amendment Award recipient Patrick Leahy	
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	<b>2:00</b>
Thomas Fiedler	

**For drunk drivers, a habit of judicial leniency**

*When state judges hear OUI cases without a jury, they acquit the vast majority of defendants, no matter how blatant the alleged offense. It is one more way Massachusetts stands out nationally — for all the wrong reasons — on this*

**Justice.**

**Journalism that defies power to defend principle.**

Read the full investigation into systemic judicial leniency on Massachusetts drunk drivers.

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## ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION

### Mission

The goal of the New England First Amendment Coalition is to defend, promote and expand public access to government and the work it does. The coalition is a broad-based organization of people who believe in the power of transparency in a democratic society. Its members include lawyers, journalists, historians, librarians and academics, as well as private citizens and organizations whose core beliefs include the principles of the First Amendment. The coalition aspires to advance and protect the five freedoms of the First Amendment, and the principle of the public's right to know, in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. In collaboration with other like-minded advocacy organizations, NEFAC also seeks to advance understanding of the First Amendment across the nation and freedom of speech and press issues around the world.

### History

NEFAC was formed in 2006 by a group of journalists concerned that

citizens, to say nothing of reporters, are routinely denied access to the work of government: public documents, meetings, hearings. Efforts in each of the six New England states to combat this growing trend had up until this point been marginally effective. The founders saw a need for a unified, region-wide organization that would speak in one robust voice across the six New England states. We've been making strides ever since.

### What We Do

In addition to our annual investigative journalism institute and awards luncheon, NEFAC advocates for improved access laws and provides expert testimony on important legislative reform. NEFAC mentors law school students, helping them learn how to defend journalists and counsel them during their legal battles. We publish the NEFAC Report, a free monthly newsletter with original reporting from journalists and publishers within New England. We draft and join advocacy letters and amicus briefs, and write white papers on FOI and First Amendment policies.

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## ABOUT STEPHEN HAMBLETT AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

His first newspaper job was as a summer reporter at his hometown paper, the Nashua Telegraph. It must have been a rewarding experience because soon after he graduated from Harvard, he signed on at The Providence Journal. That was 1957, and Stephen Hamblett never looked back.

Steve rose from advertising department clerk to publisher in a career fueled by qualities for which he became famous — quick wit, dedication to excellence, warmth, good humor, passion for his community and deep-seated belief in the wonder of newspapers.

During his leadership, The Providence Journal prospered financially and journalistically, the two most



**Hamblett**

fundamental measures of a newspaper's success. The Journal's strong financial health drew the attention of the Belo Corporation, which acquired The Providence Journal Co. in 1997.

The publisher's job is a tightrope act, at once community booster and — via the newsroom — community watchdog. Steve Hamblett walked that rope with skill and integrity for 12 years, from 1987 to 1999, never flinching at either responsibility.

Howard G. Sutton, who succeeded Steve in 1999, said, "Steve Hamblett ran The Providence Journal during an era of hectic change in the media business. He did so with vision, compassion, decisiveness, ingenuity, and calm, leading the firm around numerous economic shoals as it became

a truly national media company, all the while maintaining the Journal's long commitment to high-quality journalism and community improvement."

One of the many proofs of the newspaper's commitment to journalistic excellence came on Steve's watch in 1994 with the award of a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting on "pervasive corruption within the Rhode Island court system."

"The Journal newsroom held Steve in high regard," said Thomas E. Heslin, former executive editor of The Providence Journal. "He was widely respected as a great businessman, but he knew that good journalism is good business. The newsroom always knew it had his

support."

A national figure as well as a local one, he served on the board of the Associated Press, Inter-American Press Association and the Smithsonian Institution.

As single-minded and hardworking an executive as he was, he left plenty of room for his family, his friends, an occasional drink, a good cigar and a joke. His passing in December 2005 at age 71 generated obituaries from coast (the Los Angeles Times) to coast (The New York Times) and all points in between. Steve Hamblett's memory lives on in dozens of ways. Add to them The Stephen Hamblett First Amendment Award.

## PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

**2015 Nancy Gertner** | Gertner is a retired federal judge and advocate for the First Amendment and increased transparency within the judicial system.

**2014 James Risen** | Risen is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist for The New York Times who's done ground-breaking work on domestic spying and faced legal peril for refusing to disclose a source.

**2013 Philip Balboni** | Balboni co-founded GlobalPost, which has correspondents filing stories from more than 50 countries. Earlier in his career, Bal-

boni conceived and launched New England Cable News.

**2012 Martin Baron** | Baron has been executive editor of The Washington Post since 2012. He was previously editor of The Boston Globe, which won six Pulitzer Prizes under his leadership.

**2011 Anthony Lewis** | Lewis, who died in 2013, was a journalist, teacher and a long-time New York Times columnist. He won the Pulitzer Prize twice and is credited with creating the field of legal journalism.

## 2016 FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD RECIPIENT PATRICK LEAHY

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, the son of parents who owned a small private printing company in Vermont's capital, has said that he comes by his "deep appreciation of the First Amendment honestly. It's in my blood."

He is perhaps best known for his work to strengthen the federal Freedom of Information Act and efforts to improve transparency within the court system, calling for televised court proceedings.

Leahy authored the FOIA Improvement Act, which would require federal agencies to adopt a "presumption of openness" standard when considering the release of information under FOIA. The bill would also strengthen the power of the Office of Government Information Services, which acts as a FOIA ombudsman and helps resolve

disputes between record requesters and agencies. In 2009, the senator authored the OPEN FOIA Act. This act required Congress to clearly state its intentions when providing statutory exemptions to FOIA in new legislation. In 2007, Leahy authored legislation that resulted in the first significant reforms to FOIA in more than a decade.

Leahy's First Amendment bona fides also include supporting and co-sponsoring the Free Flow of Information Act, legislation that would create a qualified privilege for journalists to protect information they obtained under a promise of confidentiality; and authoring the 2010 SPEECH Act, which protects U.S. journalists, authors and publishers who are sued for libel in foreign jurisdictions with weak free speech protections.



**Leahy**

# THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

*congratulates*

the 2016 New England First Amendment Coalition's honorees for their work affirming the importance of building a society based upon the principles of open and transparent government.

The College of Communication has been educating professional communicators since 1914. Its students represent the next generation of leaders in journalism, emerging media, cinema, advertising, public relations and media studies.

## ABOUT THE FOI AWARD

The FOI Award is to be given to a New England journalist, pair of journalists or media institution for a body of work from the previous calendar year that protects or advances the public's

right to know under federal or state law. Preference is given to applicants who overcome significant official resistance.

## PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE FOI AWARD

**2015 James W. Foley (posthumously)** | A seasoned war correspondent, New Hampshire native Foley worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, reporting on the lives of the disadvantaged and suffering.

**2014 Brent Curtis** | A reporter for the Rutland (Vt.) Herald, Curtis fought for access to certain police records and

helped make Vermont police departments more transparent.

**2013 Don Stacom** | Stacom of the Hartford Courant pursued stories about police misconduct through the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission, prompting a shakeup of the New Britain, Conn., police department.

## 2016 FOI AWARD RECIPIENT JENIFER MCKIM

Jenifer McKim has a stellar investigative journalism record, including two recent Publick Occurrences awards by the New England Newspaper & Press Association. In 2015, she won the award for two reports on homeowner debt, which raised public awareness of growing debt problems disproportionately affecting lower income communities and the elderly. In 2014, she won the award for her stories on child fatalities in the Massachusetts welfare system.



McKim

This year's Freedom of Information Award is in recognition of her series, "Out of the Shadows," a 2015 inves-

tigation into child abuse and neglect that was first published by The Boston Globe.

Before joining NECIR in 2013, McKim worked as a social issues and business reporter at the Globe, where she earned a 2011 Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for a story on the sex trafficking of minors. She finished in second place for the same award two years later for an investigation into a global child pornography network.

McKim was a 2008 fellow at the Nieman Foundation of Journalism at Harvard University. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

## ABOUT ANTONIA ORFIELD AND THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award is given to an individual from one of the six New England states who has fought for information crucial to the public's understanding of its community or what its government is doing (or not doing) on its behalf. The candidate should have shown tenacity or bravery in the face of difficulty in obtaining information that the public has a right to know.

Orfield was an author, mother, optometrist, clinical professor and active citizen. She worked to improve the schools in the communities she lived in, serving on one of the first elected local school councils in Chicago. She also sought to advance her



**Orfield**

profession and improve the lives of her patients through the use and teaching of therapeutic non-surgical methods of vision therapy. As a researcher, she knew the importance of access to data to analyze, draw conclusions and challenge existing assumptions of screening and treatment protocols. Dr. Orfield operated a vision clinic in Mather Elementary School in Dorchester, Mass., which documented the improvement of children's grades and test scores with unconventional vision-related remedies to learning problems. The findings were published in several articles and in "Eyes for Learning," her 2007 book.

## PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE ANTONIA ORFIELD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

**2015 Harriet Cady** | A long-time open government activist whose advocacy led to several Right to Know lawsuits, Cady helped create the watchdog group Right to Know New Hampshire and frequently speaks about FOI concerns.

**2014 Kit Savage** | Savage's investigation uncovered violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,

which formed the basis of a complaint to the Connecticut Department of Education.

**2013 David Lang** | After a nine-year crusade, Lang exposed the mismanagement of health insurance premiums, resulting in a court order to refund \$53 million to New Hampshire public employees.

Northeastern University

## 2016 CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT MICHAEL A. CHAMPA

Through his own personal experience, Michael Champa uncovered systemic failures and inequities in special education services in Weston, Mass. He filed a public records lawsuit and emerged victorious after the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in his favor. His victory has leveled the playing field for all special education students and ensures that school districts across the Commonwealth are held accountable.

Champa began his career as a social studies teacher at Stoughton High School in 1974. He held numerous posts within the Stoughton Teacher's Association, serving as its president in 1978. During the past 30 years, Champa has become a successful entrepreneur and has held senior management positions in successful local communications technology companies, including Cascade Communications, where he was on the founding management team;

Omnia Communications, where he was president and CEO; and Winphoria Networks, where he served as president and CEO.

Champa has a long history of interest in education and health care. He currently serves as a trustee of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the New England Entrepreneurs Foundation.

He has formerly served on numerous private company boards, as well as the boards of the Catholic Schools Foundation, the Museum of Science and the North Cambridge Catholic High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and master's degrees in public administration and business administration from Suffolk University.

Champa is a well-known Boston philanthropist and lives with his wife Maureen and their three children in Boston.



**Champa**

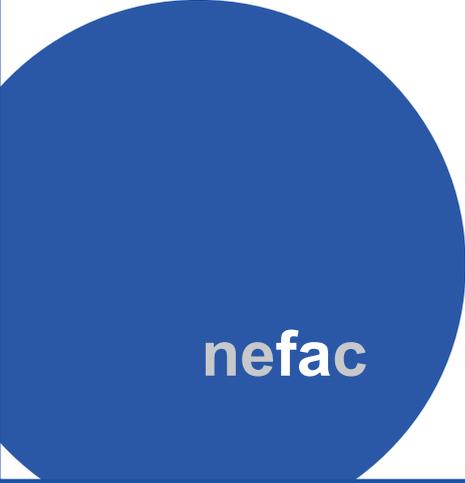
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*New England First Amendment Coalition  
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In addition to those mentioned in today's program,  
the New England First Amendment Coalition  
would like to thank the following for their  
generous support, contributions and hosting:

**Saint Michael's College**  
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