What is NEFAI?
Now in its eighth year, the New England First Amendment Institute provides intensive training for 25 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 and acquire knowledge designed to enhance their watchdog journalism skills. The 2018 Institute will be held Sept. 16-18 at Northeastern University in Boston.

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 do you learn?
Though our curriculum is often changed to reflect the evolving needs of journalists, each Institute typically includes lectures and workshops that focus on the following:

- State public records and open meetings laws
- The federal Freedom of Information Act
- Database reporting skills
- How to respond to FOI request denials and rejections
- Inspiring stories from award-winning journalists

What does it cost?
The 25 fellows selected for this year’s Institute will attend at no cost. Light refreshments and meals are provided during the times the Institute is in session. Fellows, however, are responsible for their own travel and hotel accommodations, if needed. Local hotel rooms and shuttles will be available.

Supporters
Primary support for our Institute is generously provided by the Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund and Northeastern University.

Northeastern University

Sponsors of NEFAC in 2018 include:

Barr Foundation
The Boston Globe
The Robertson Foundation

What are theScholarships?
Applicants are welcome to apply for a scholarship to cover all or part of their travel and hotel accommodations. Please note that scholarships are limited in number, are given based on individual need and, with the exception of the James W. Foley Scholarship (see below), are not guaranteed to be available each year.

James W. Foley Scholarship
A seasoned war correspondent for Boston-based GlobalPost, New Hampshire native James Foley committed himself to the truth and, in his words, “exposing untold stories.” While working in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, Foley reported on the lives of those disadvantaged and suffering. His barbaric death in 2014 reminded the nation of the dangers of his craft and the threats against freedom of information.

In honor of Foley, NEFAC established the James W. Foley Scholarship to provide funding for one fellow to attend the Institute without travel or lodging expenses.

Stay Connected
Please stay updated on NEFAI news — including speaker announcements and faculty additions — by referencing the following hashtag: #NEFAI2018. You can also connect with NEFAC in the following ways:

@FiveFreedoms
www.tinyurl.com/nefaclinkedin
www.facebook.com/nefac

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive news alerts and the monthly NEFAC Report, featuring original reporting and a comprehensive round-up of First Amendment and FOI news from across the region: www.tinyurl.com/nefacsubscribe.
Former Fellows

CONNECTICUT

2017
Stephen Busemeyer
Harford Courant
Jill Konopka
WVTI-Hartford
Kaitlyn Krasselt
Norwalk Hour
Martha Shanahan
The Day

2016
Susan Cover
Maine Today
Emily Guerin
The Forecaster
Jesse Nankin
Watchdog
New England
Eric Russell
Bangor Daily News
Will Graff
The Forecaster
Lindsay Tice
Sun Journal
Matthew Curren
WGME
David Harry
The Forecaster
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
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

2014
Abigail Adams
Lincoln County News
Charles Eichacker
Kennebec Journal
Callie Ferguson
The Forecaster

2013
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
Alex Bloom
The Enterprise
George Brennan
Cape Cod Times
Deirdre Fernandes
The Boston Globe
David Eisenstadler
The Transcript
Sarah Favot
Lowell Sun
Martine Powers
The Boston Globe
Patrick Ronan
Patriot Ledger
Shawn Sunter
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Ryan Walsh
WWLP
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
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
Samantha Allen
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Jonathan Dame
GateHouse Media
Nicole Dungan
The Boston Globe

2017
Jenna Fisher
GateHouse Media
Allison Manning
Beacon.com
Jordan Mayblum
Wellesley Townsman
Jan Ransomp
The Boston Globe
Zeninor Emwemeka
WBUR
Jordon Fries
Boston Herald
Phil Marcelo
Associated Press
Tom Relihan
The Recorder
Susan Spencer
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Gerry Tuoti
Gatehouse Media
Brad Petrishen
Telegram & Gazette
Greg Ryan
Boston Business Journal

MAINE

2015
Alexander Goldstein
The Day
Kevin Litten
Republican-American
Erin Logan
WTNH
Francine Silverman
Heard Newspapers
Lisa Backus
The Bristol Press
Jenna Carlesso
Harford Courant
Tina Detelj
WTNH
Jessica Glenza
The Register Citizen
Maggie Gordon
Heard Newspapers
David Iversen
WTNH
Alec Johnson
Republican-American
Viktoria Sundqvist
The Middletown Press

2014
Jason Bagley
TruthInAdvertising.org
Kelly Catalfamo
The Day
Jennifer Swift
New Haven Register
Tess Townsend
The Day

2015
Lindsay Boyle
The Day
Suzanne Carlson
Harford 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
Harford Courant

MASSACHUSETTS

2017
Peter McGuire
Forecaster Newspapers
Kerry Miller
Eagle Times
Jeremy Blackman
Concord Monitor
Megan Doyle
Concord Monitor
Rob Wolfe
Valley News
Peter Biello
NH Public Radio
Tim Camerato
Valley News
Meghan Foley
The Keene Sentinel
Allie Morris
Concord Monitor
Caitlin Andrews
Concord Monitor
Allison DeAngelis
Eagle-Tribune
Casey McDermott
NHPR

RHODE ISLAND

2011
Amiya Milkomvos
Providence Journal
David Scharfenberg
Providence Phoenix
Karen Ziner
Providence Journal
Lynn Arditi
Providence Journal
Bulldog
Ri Public Radio
Kathleen Mulvaney
Providence Journal

2013
Bill Malinowski
Providence Journal
Mark Reynolds
Providence Journal

2014
Randal Edgar
Providence Journal
Paul Grimaldi
Providence Journal
Caitlin Andrews
Providence Journal

2015
Jennifer Bogdan
Providence Journal

2017
Alicia Freese
Seven Days

VERMONT

2011
John Briggs
Burlington Free Press
Anne Galloway
Vermont Digger
Shay Totten
Seven Days

2012
Dan D’Ambrosio
Burlington Free Press
Jennifer Cleveland
Caledonian-Record
Andrew Stein
Vermont Digger

2013
Nathan Burgess
Stowe Reporter
Olga Peters
The Commons
Jennifer Reading
WCAX

2014
Taylor Dobbs
Vermont Public Radio

2015
Abbey Leduc
Milton Independent
Allison Teague
The Commons

2016
April Burbank
Burlington Free Press
Lola Duffort
Lurton Herald
Lesley Engle
Fox44/ABC22

2017
Alicia Freese
Seven Days
Tommy Gardner
Stowe Reporter
Hilary Niles
Independent

Susan Campbell
WPRI-Providence
Derek Gomes
Newport Daily News
Diana Pinzon
WPRI-Providence

Vermont Digger

2011
The Associated Press

2012
The Boston Globe

2013
The Associated Press

2014
The Associated Press

2015
The Associated Press

2016
The Associated Press

2017
The Associated Press
The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — including editors, reporters and producers — to attend a three-day intensive training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques from Sept. 16-18 at Northeastern University in Boston. 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, however, applicants should 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.

Please fully answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper, restating the question.

(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) 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 Attachments

(1) Resume

(2) Recommendation from a current editor/supervisor or, if self-employed, a former or current editor of your freelance work. Please use the Recommendation Form included in this application.

(3) Portfolio of your three best investigative stories. If you have not done investigative work, please attach three news-based stories that represent your best effort.

Please submit your application, resume, portfolio and recommendation via email by August 1, 2018, to mail@nefirstamendment.org. If there is no acknowledgment from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.
New England First Amendment Institute
Fellowship Application
Deadline August 1, 2018

Applicant Name
Applicant Position
Your Name
Your 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 spread the knowledge gained through this fellowship?

(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