



nefac

New England First Amendment Coalition

nefirstamendment.org

**New England First Amendment Institute
2015 Fellowship Application Materials**

About the New England First Amendment Institute

WHAT IS NEFAI?

The New England First Amendment Institute is an intensive training course for working journalists on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques now in its fifth year. By bringing together highly acclaimed media lawyers and award-winning journalists, we offer our 25 fellows a rich and collegial training program to help them improve their watchdog journalism.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Applicants must be working journalists in print, digital or broadcast media in New England. NEFAI is designed for both 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.

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
- Security and Exchange Commission document review
- 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.

SPONSORS

Our institute is supported each year by the generosity of many individuals and organizations. Major supporters of this year's institute include:



The Boston Globe

THE ROBERTSON FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants are welcome to apply for a scholarship to cover all or part of their travel and hotel accommodations. Please note that scholarships 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 James, NEFAI 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: **#NEFAI2015**. You can also connect with NEFAI in the following ways:

 [@FiveFreedom](https://twitter.com/FiveFreedom)s

 www.tinyurl.com/nefailedin

 www.facebook.com/groups/nefirstamendment

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

Former NEFAI Fellows

2011	David Scharfenberg Providence Phoenix	Ryan Walsh WWLP	David Harry The Forecaster	Jennifer Swift New Haven Register
<u>CONNECTICUT</u>	Karen Ziner Providence Journal	<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>	<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	Tess Townsend The Day
Richard Campbell The Register Citizen	<u>VERMONT</u>	Maggie Cassidy Valley News	Doug Fraser Cape Cod Times	<u>MAINE</u>
Jenne Cho The Day	John Briggs Burlington Free Press	Maryalice Gill Nashua Telegraph	Wes Lowery The Boston Globe	Jon Chrisos CBS13/Fox23
JC Reindl The Day	Anne Galloway Vermont Digger	Meg Heckman Concord Monitor	Joshua Miller The Boston Globe	Michael Shepherd Kennebec Journal
Alexandra Sanders New Haven Register	Shay Totten Seven Days	Annmarie Timmins Concord Monitor	Shawn Musgrave MuckRock	<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>
Julie Stagis The Hartford Courant	2012	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	Neena Pathak Schuster Institute	Sean F. Driscoll Cape Cod Times
<u>MAINE</u>	<u>CONNECTICUT</u>	Lynn Arditi Providence Journal	Neal Simpson The Patriot Ledger	Beryl Lipton MuckRock
Susan Cover Maine Today	Shawn Beals Hartford Courant	Ian Donnis RI Public Radio	Schuyler Velasco Christian Science Monitor	Priyanka McCluskey The Boston Globe
Emily Guerin The Forecaster	Beau Berman WTIC-TV	Kathleen Mulvaney Providence Journal	<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>	Alexa Mills The Boston Globe
Jesse Nankin Watchdog	Alexander Goldstein The Day	<u>VERMONT</u>	Todd Bookman NH Public Radio	Alex Ruppenthal Medford Transcript
Eric Russell Bangor Daily News	Kevin Litten Republican-American	Dan D'Ambrosio Burlington Free Press	Sarah Brubeck Valley News	Eli Sherman Waltham News Tribune
<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	Erin Logan WTNH	Jennifer Cleveland Caledonian-Record/Orleans County Record	Christopher Garofolo Eagle Times	<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>
Keith Eddings Eagle-Tribune	Francine Silverman Hearst Newspapers	Andrew Stein Vermont Digger	Kathryn Marchocki NH Union Leader	Emily Corwin NH Public Radio
Jim Haddadin Arlington Advocate	<u>MAINE</u>	2013	Kaitlin Mulhere Keene Sentinel	Alyssa Dandrea The Keene Sentinel
Laura Hutchinson WWLP 22News	Will Graff The Forecaster	<u>CONNECTICUT</u>	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	Nora Doyle-Burr Valley News
Lyle Moran The Sun	Lindsay Tice Sun Journal	Lisa Backus The Bristol Press	Bill Malinowski Providence Journal	Peter McGuire Forecaster Newspapers
David Riley MetroWest Daily News	<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>	Jenna Carlesso The Courant	Mark Reynolds Providence Journal	Kerry Miller Eagle Times
Rory Schuler Taunton Daily	Alex Bloom The Enterprise	Tina Detelj WTNH	<u>VERMONT</u>	<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>
Matthew Stout The Enterprise	George Brennan Cape Cod Times	Jessica Glenza The Register Citizen	Nathan Burgess Stowe Reporter	Randal Edgar Providence Journal
<u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>	Fernandes Deirdre The Boston Globe	Maggie Gordon Hearst Newspapers	Olga Peters The Commons	Paul Grimaldi Providence Journal
Joseph Cote Nashua Telegraph	David Eisenstadter The Transcript	David Iversen WTNH	Jennifer Reading WCAX	Janine Weisman Newport Mercury
Mark Davis Valley News	Sarah Favot Lowell Sun	Alec Johnson Republican-American	2014	<u>VERMONT</u>
Maddie Hanna Concord Monitor	Martine Powers The Boston Globe	Viktoria Sundqvist The Middletown Press	<u>CONNECTICUT</u>	Taylor Dobbs Vermont Public Radio
<u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	Patrick Ronan Patriot Ledger	<u>MAINE</u>	Jason Bagley TruthInAdvertising.org	Abby Ledoux Milton Independent
Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal	Shaun Sutner Worcester Telegram & Gazette	Matthew Curren WGME	Kelly Catalfamo The Day	Allison Teague The Commons



New England First Amendment Institute

Fellowship Application

Deadline September 4, 2015

The New England First Amendment Institute will select 25 journalists — editors and reporters alike — to attend a three-day intensive training course on freedom of information laws and investigative techniques from Oct. 18-20 in Dedham, Massachusetts. 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 September 4, 2015, to mail@nefirstamendment.org. If there is no acknowledgement from NEFAC, please confirm that your application has been received.



New England First Amendment Institute
Recommendation Form
Deadline September 4, 2015

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 is the applicant capable of investigative reporting?
- (4) Do you believe the applicant is firmly committed to freedom of information and will spread the knowledge gained through this fellowship?
- (5) Is your organization willing to sponsor the applicant for the costs of attending the program (i.e. transportation plus two nights hotel stay in Dedham, Massachusetts)?

Yes

No