

nefac

New England First Amendment Coalition
nefirstamendment.org

Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award

Nomination Deadline

January 1, 2016

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ABOUT ANTONIA ORFIELD



Antonia 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 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.

ABOUT THE CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The New England First Amendment Coalition honors each year individuals who have promoted and defended the First Amendment throughout the region. During its annual luncheon, the coalition presents several awards, including the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award.

NEFAC's First Amendment Awards Luncheon

February 19, 2015 | 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Boston Park Plaza

50 Park Plaza at Arlington Street

Boston, Massachusetts

The Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award is given to an individual from one of the six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont) 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.

To nominate a candidate, please complete the attached form and email it to mail@nefirstamendment.org or fax to 617.860.2559. You may also mail the form to New England First Amendment Coalition, 111 Milk Street, Westborough, MA 01581. All nominations must be received by January 1, 2016. Please confirm receipt of application if not otherwise notified.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2015 Harriet Cady | Cady is a long-time open government activist, frequently speaking on freedom of information concerns and recently helping to create the watchdog group Right to Know New Hampshire.

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.

ABOUT NEFAC

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 academicians, 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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Your Name _____

Your Email _____

Your Phone Number _____

Your Address _____

Name of Nominee _____

Address of Nominee _____

Email of Nominee _____

Please answer the questions below and attach your answers to this cover sheet.

(1) Why are you nominating the above named person for the Antonia Orfield Citizenship Award? (200 words max.)

(2) What has the above named nominee done to bring to the public's attention important information? Please be specific. (400 words max.)

(3) How did the above named person go about finding this information and sharing it with the public? (200 words max.)