

nefac

New England First Amendment Coalition
nefirstamendment.org

Freedom of Information Award

Nomination Deadline

January 1, 2016

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD

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ABOUT THE FOI 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 Freedom of Information 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 FOI Award is to be given to a New England journalist or team of journalists 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 will be given to applicants who overcome significant official resistance.

To apply, please submit your story or series along with a cover letter explaining the process of getting the story, why you believe it was a significant accomplishment and how it impacted the public. Works should be submitted electronically, though originals will be checked prior to notification to the awardee. Complete the attached form and email with your work to mail@nefirstamendment.org. All applications must be received by January 1, 2016. Please confirm receipt of application if not otherwise notified.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2015 James W. Foley (posthumously) | A seasoned war correspondent, New Hampshire native 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.

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.

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 Mailing Address _____

Title _____

Place of Employment
(If Self-Employed, please indicate) _____

Direct Supervisor or Editor
(If Applicable) _____

Supervisor/Editor Email _____

Supervisor/Editor Phone Number _____