

New England First Amendment Institute 2012

DAY ONE: THE VALUE OF TRANSPARENCY

3:15

WELCOME

Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC
Walter Robinson, director, Initiative for Investigative Reporting, Northeastern University School of Journalism

3:30 – 4:00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Michael Oreskes, senior managing editor for U.S. news, The Associated Press

4:00 – 6:00

TALES FROM THE TRENCHES

Panelists will share their practical experience in investigative work through painstaking interviewing and use of freedom of information laws to unearth corruption and bring truth to light.

Moderator: Michael Oreskes

Matt Apuzzo, investigative reporter, The Associated Press
Sara Ganim, crime reporter, The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Penn.
Susan Snyder, education reporter, The Philadelphia Inquirer
Joe Bergantino, co-director, New England Center for Investigative Reporting

6:00 – 6:30

ICEBREAKER

Rosanna Cavanagh, executive director, NEFAC

6:30

DINNER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

New England First Amendment Institute is a collaboration between New England First Amendment Coalition (NEFAC) and the Initiative for Investigative Reporting at Northeastern University School of Journalism. Our program is sponsored by a grant from the McLean Contributionship on behalf of The Telegraph of Nashua (N.H.). This effort is only possible through their generosity and the generosity of many wonderful panelists, presenters and NEFAC Board Members, who have given selflessly of their time and energy. We are also grateful to New England Newspaper and Press Association for their hospitality in opening their doors to us. Thank you to everyone for all that you do to be a leader in the fight for freedom of information.

DAY TWO: HOW DO WE HARNESS FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAWS AND PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATA TO FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS?

8:45 – 9:45

COMMON PITFALLS IN ACCESSING DOCUMENTS THROUGH FOI REQUESTS AND HOW TO RESPOND

You have filed your FOI request and the waiting game begins. You can tell the agency does not want to cooperate and your calls go unreturned. What can you do to call attention to your request and to get what is rightfully yours?

Moderator: Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

Maggie Mulvihill, co-director, NE Center for Investigative Reporting
Sean Murphy, investigative reporter, The Boston Globe
Anna Schecter, investigative producer, NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams

9:45 – 10:45

COLLABORATIVE LITIGATION IN THE FOI CONTEXT

So you've done your best to call attention to your FOI request and get what is rightfully yours, but the stonewalling continues. How do you know when you need an attorney? How do you marshal resources for legal assistance? In what circumstances might collaborative litigation be appropriate?

Moderator: Gregory V. Sullivan, Esq., partner and president, Malloy & Sullivan

William L. Chapman, partner, Orr & Reno
Judy Alexander, Judy Alexander Law
Peter J. Caruso Sr., managing partner, Caruso & Caruso
Sigmund D. Schutz, partner, PretiFlaherty
Joseph V. Cavanagh Jr., managing partner, Blish & Cavanagh

10:45 – 12:30

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS A

The specifics of each state's laws and exemptions will be discussed and hands-on cases will be reviewed in break out sessions with knowledgeable attorneys and journalists from each state.

Connecticut: Mitchell Pearlman, lecturer University of Connecticut, and Lynne DeLucia, editor, Connecticut Health Investigative Team
New Hampshire: Gregory Sullivan and William Chapman
Massachusetts: Peter J. Caruso Sr. and Ebony Reed, assistant bureau chief for New England, The Associated Press
Maine: Sigmund Schutz
Rhode Island: Joseph V. Cavanagh Jr. and Laura Crimaldi, producer, Boston.com
Vermont: Dan Barrett, staff attorney, ACLU Vermont, and Tom Kearney, managing editor, Stowe Reporter

12:30 – 1:30

BEAT LUNCHES

An informal discussion on a passion topic with other Fellows and a NEFAC board member.

Politics: Thomas Fiedler, dean, Boston University College of Communication
Health care: Lynne DeLucia, editor, Connecticut Health Investigative Team
The resume: Walter Robinson, professor, Northeastern University School of Journalism
Broadcast: Tim White, investigative reporter and executive producer, WPRI
Courts: Jonathan Albano, partner, Bingham McCutchen and Laura Crimaldi, producer, Boston.com

1:30 – 3:00 USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET TO FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS
From better search techniques to the invisible Web and social media: How to find reliable information on deadline and for enterprise stories. Tips on more effective Web searches.

Mark Horvit, executive director, IRE

3:00 – 4:30 USING FEDERAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS
How do you put the federal information law to use in pursuit of local stories? How do you win federal Freedom of Information Act battles? Examples of vital information made public via the federal Freedom of Information Act. What to do when the data you get doesn't tell the whole story.

Moderator: Jonathan Albano

Jeff Donn, reporter, The Associated Press
Robert Bertsche, partner, Prince Lobel Tye
Elizabeth Ritvo, partner, Brown Rudnick
Lea Thompson, IRE board member, formerly chief correspondent, Dateline NBC

4:30 – 6:00 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS B
ANATOMY OF A STORY

Tim White, investigative reporter and executive producer, WPRI
Ted Nesi, political and economic reporter for WPRI.com, panelist on WPRI 12's "Newsmakers," host of "Executive Suite" on sister station MyRITV

WRITING WORKSHOP/NARRATIVE FLOW

Dick Lehr, author and professor of journalism, Boston University College of Communication, formerly member of Spotlight Team, The Boston Globe

6:00 DINNER

6:30 DINNER ADDRESS

Daniel Golden, editor-at-large, Bloomberg News

DAY THREE: DIGGING DEEPLY AND LISTENING CAREFULLY

9:00 – 10:30 THE ART OF THE LEAK

When your FOI request languishes your reporting continues. Developing sources, encouraging leaks, knowing how to evaluate what you get.

Moderator: Thomas Fiedler, dean, Boston University College of Communication

Barbara Laker, investigative reporter, The Philadelphia Daily News

Walter Robinson, director, Initiative for Investigative Reporting at Northeastern University School of Journalism

Matt Hongoltz-Hetling, reporter, Morning Sentinel, Waterville, Maine

10:30 – 12:30 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS C

Using database technology to analyze publicly available or FOI-request-won data to understand societal, financial and economic trends is an important tool for the seasoned reporter.

Basic Database Analysis: Matt Carroll, reporter, The Boston Globe

Advanced Database Analysis: Matthew Kauffman, reporter, The Hartford Courant

12:30 – 1:30 LUNCH

1:30 – 3:30 SEARCHING FOR GOLD IN SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION FILINGS

Thanks to the SEC's robust disclosure requirements, public companies are required by law to share information that can be of crucial importance to investigative journalists. Todd Wallack demystifies 10K's and 8Q's, the alpha-numeric gold mine of SEC documents. He tells what's in them and offers tips on how to use them. He also wades through a sampling of other key documents to track businesses: FDIC data on banks, corporate filings with Secretaries of State, nonprofit tax forms filed with IRS, federal contracting data kept by the US government and union filings with the Department of Labor.

Todd Wallack, reporter, The Boston Globe

3:30 – 4:30 NEFAI FELLOWS PANEL

Four of last year's New England First Amendment Institute Fellows discuss their investigations since attending the Institute.

Moderator: Michael Donoghue, reporter, The Burlington Free Press

Alexandra Sanders, reporter, New Haven Register

Karen Lee Ziner, reporter, The Providence Journal

Anne Galloway, editor, Vermont Digger

Lyle Moran, reporter, The Sun of Lowell, Mass.

4:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Terrence Williams, publisher, The Telegraph of Nashua, N.H.

Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC