The New England First Amendment Coalition celebrated its 10th year of advocacy in 2016, a milestone for the regional non-profit organization. Because of your support during the last 10 years, NEFAC continues to be the leading defender of First Amendment freedoms and the public’s right to know in the six-state region. The coalition is working every day to educate New England communities about their First Amendment rights and to reinforce the value of a vigorous, independent press. Given the political climate that exists today, NEFAC’s work is needed now more than ever. This Annual Review is a sampling of that work and those who helped make it possible in 2016.

**NEFAC’s mission is one that can be shared by all New Englanders: protect our First Amendment freedoms and hold government accountable.**

### Vermont
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Michael Donoghue, Vice President Burlington Free Press (formerly)
- Lia Ernst American Civil Liberties Union
- Todd Smith Caledonian Record

**Highlights**
- Urged law enforcement to release body camera footage of a fatal shooting of an unarmed burglary suspect. Praised a federal court decision to provide public access to a hearing on a controversial natural gas pipeline.

### Massachusetts
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Thomas Fiedler, President Boston University
- Robert A. Bertschke, Treasurer Prince Lobel Tye
- David Rosen, Communications Chairman David Rosen Communications
- Jonathan P. Albano Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
- Edward Cafasso WinnCompanies
- Peter Caruso, Sr. Caruso & Caruso
- Linda Conway New England Newspaper & Press Association
- Maggie Mulvihill Boston University
- Jennifer Peter The Boston Globe
- Elizabeth Ritvo Brown Rudnick
- Walter V. Robinson The Boston Globe
- Emily Sweeney The Boston Globe
- Janet Wu WCVB-TV Boston

**Highlights**
- Released comments on proposed regulations governing the new Massachusetts public records law. Helped lead the effort to reform the state’s public records law, which became effective in January 2017. Called for increased access to state trial court documents. Led workshop on legal and ethical issues facing journalists.

### Rhode Island
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Karen Bordeleau Providence Journal (formerly)
- Edward Fitzpatrick Roger Williams University
- Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal Report-er, Currently at University of Connecticut
- Tim White WPRI-TV Providence

**Highlights**
- Called for release of documents related to the 38 Studios scandal. Successfully urged the veto of revenge porn legislation, citing a “breathtakingly” broad scope and chilling effect on protected speech.

### Connecticut
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Lynne DeLucia, Fundraising Chairwoman Connecticut Health I-Team
- Dan Barrett American Civil Liberties Union
- Daniel J. Klaw McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter
- James H. Smith Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information
- Yohuru Williams Fairfield University

**Highlights**
- Offered guidance and educational programming to New Haven Department of Police after arrest of journalist. Led program on state freedom of information laws and police body camera policies. Participated in journalism conference at Southern Connecticut State University.

### New Hampshire
**NEFAC Board Members**
- William Chapman Orr & Reno
- Richard Gagliuso Gagliuso & Gagliuso
- George Geers Academy of New England Journalists
- Gregory V. Sullivan Malloy & Sullivan
- Terry Williams The Keene Sentinel

**Highlights**
- Commended a New Hampshire Supreme Court decision that prevented law enforcement records from being automatically withheld from the public. Successfully argued against a law that prohibited “ballot selfies,” citing unconstitutional restrictions on political speech.

### Maine
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Dieter Bradbury Portland Press Herald
- Naomi Schalit Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting
- Sigmund Schutz Preti Flaherty

**Highlights**
- Urged the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevent to reconsider policy changes that would limit resident’s right to know about disease outbreaks. Successfully protested a state policy that prohibited public access to closed criminal cases. Made right-to-know arguments in case addressing access to evidence in judicial proceedings.

### Rhode Island
**NEFAC Board Members**
- Karen Bordeleau Providence Journal (formerly)
- Edward Fitzpatrick Roger Williams University
- Amanda Milkovits Providence Journal Reporter, Currently at University of Connecticut
- Tim White WPRI-TV Providence

**Highlights**
- Called for release of documents related to the 38 Studios scandal. Successfully urged the veto of revenge porn legislation, citing a “breathtakingly” broad scope and chilling effect on protected speech.

- Denounced state Supreme Court ruling allowing police to withhold details of an investigation involving the son of a former governor.

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WHAT WE'RE DOING AND SAYING

01.28.16 NEFAC Applauds Mass. Senate Public Records Legislation, Call it a Strong Reform

02.11.16 NEFAC Co-Sponsors First Amendment, Privacy Discussion at New England Law | Boston

02.17.16 NEFAC, Journalism and Open Government Groups Continue to Push Federal Agencies for Better Information Policies

03.23.16 NEFAC Defends Access to Government Documents During Maine Court Proceedings

NEFAC and the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition filed an amicus brief arguing that Maine’s Freedom of Access Act should not prevent parties in judicial proceedings from obtaining evidence.

04.07.16 NEFAC, Media and Open Government Groups Continue to Argue for Immediate Access to Civil Court Documents

NEFAC joined 12 other open government and media organizations in the filing of an amicus brief supporting the need for same-day access to civil court documents.

04.08.16 NEFAC Hosts Panel Discussion on Connecticut FOI Law, Police Body Cameras

04.12.16 NEFAC Denounces Chafee Public Records Ruling, Calls on Rhode Island Legislature to Help Protect Public’s Right to Know

NEFAC denounced a Rhode Island Supreme Court ruling allowing police to withhold details of an investigation into a 2012 underage-drinking incident at the home of former Gov. Lincoln Chafee that involved his son, Caleb.

04.22.16 NEFAC Files Amicus in New Hampshire ‘Ballot Selfie’ Case, Defends Right of Public to Monitor Government

NEFAC filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit arguing that a New Hampshire law prohibiting “ballot selfies” is an unconstitutional restriction on political speech and could impede the public’s ability to monitor its government.

05.07.16 NEFAC Continues to Suggest Improvements to Mass. Trial Court Public Record Rules

NEFAC called for increased access to Massachusetts trial court documents, submitting comments to a state committee tasked with writing new rules on where and how electronic copies of judicial records can be obtained.

05.27.16 Maine SJC Rules in Favor of Access to Government Records; NEFAC Filed Amicus Brief in FOAA Case

06.03.16 A Victory for Transparency: Mass. Public Records Reform Bill Signed into Law

NEFAC, a steering member of the Massachusetts Freedom of Information Alliance, has been a leader in the effort to reform the state’s current public records statute, a law not significantly updated in more than 40 years and widely considered to be one of the worst in the nation.

06.10.16 Efforts By NEFAC, Media and FOI Groups Result in Suspension of Maine Policy Prohibiting Access to Closed Criminal Cases

06.16.16 NEFAC, ACLU and Rhode Island Press Association Urge Gov. Raimondo to Veto Revenge Porn Bill Citing ‘Breathtakingly’ Broad Scope and Chilling Effect on Protected Speech

[If you guarantee the freedoms of religion and speech, you guarantee diversity. And if you guarantee diversity, you protect democracy.

Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senator from Vermont

Learn more at www.nefirstamendment.org/awards-luncheon-2016/]

April 20 Op/Ed by NEFAC’s Karen Bordeleau, Tim White and Justin Silverman
addressed. But this isn’t the solution,“ said Justin Silverman, NEFAC’s executive director. “Privacy needs to be protected in a way that does not deter journalists from reporting stories that are in the public’s interest.”

**06.21.16** NEFAC, Media Groups Applaud R.I. Governor’s Veto of Overbroad ‘Revenge Porn’ Bill

The groups had requested the governor to veto the legislation, stating that the bill was so broadly worded that it could make criminals of people involved in neither revenge porn nor porn, and would have a direct impact on the First Amendment rights of the media.

**07.25.16** NEFAC Cautions Maine CDC on Dangers of Proposed Health Data Disclosure Restrictions

NEFAC urged the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention today to reconsider proposed policy changes that would severely curtail the right of Maine residents to know the location of disease outbreaks in their communities.

**08.02.16** NEFAC, R.I. Open Government Groups Call for Release of 38 Studios Documents

Highlighting the “extraordinarily strong public interest” in the 38 Studios scandal and calling “less than compelling” the arguments offered for keeping the investigatory records secret, NEFAC and fellow open government groups called on Attorney General Peter Kilmartin and State Police Superintendent Steven O’Donnell to release those documents to the public.

**08.03.16** NEFAC Praises Court Decision Requiring Public Access to Controversial Vermont Public Service Board Hearing

The federal court decision required public access to a hearing on a controversial natural gas pipeline expansion project, calling the ruling a strong endorsement of the public’s right to know.

**08.22.16** NEFAC, Media Groups Defend Journalists’ Right to Protect Unpublished Interviews, Receive Due Process in Civilian Court

**08.24.16** NEFAC Commends New Hampshire Supreme Court Ruling


**WHAT WE’RE DOING AND SAYING**

**NEW ENGLAND FIRST AMENDMENT INSTITUTE**

Our institute is an annual, three-day, intensive training program on freedom of information law and investigative reporting techniques for 25 working New England journalists. It provides — at no cost to those chosen to attend — the support and training necessary to become accomplished investigative journalists, well versed in the access laws that govern today’s difficult reporting landscape. Many exceptional, award-winning journalists and outstanding First Amendment attorneys give their time to make the institute an extraordinary learning experience. Our sixth annual institute featured Bill Keller, former executive editor at The New York Times and current editor-in-chief of the Marshall Project; Jodi Upton of Syracuse University; Gene Policinski of the Newseum; Don Van Natta, Jr., of ESPN; Andrea K. McDaniels of the Baltimore Sun; among many others. Learn more about our institute and apply to the 2017 New England First Amendment Institute at www.nefirstamendment.org/new-england-first-amendment-institute.
New England First Amendment Coalition

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION