Secrecy. Censorship. Speech Restrictions.

These are what stand in the way of the First Amendment and the public’s right to know. Too often the scale tips in favor of these interests. The New England First Amendment Coalition is here to minimize their effects on your freedom. Our coalition serves as a counterweight by providing: Education. Advocacy. Defense. For 12 years, our broad-based, non-profit coalition has been the leading regional voice for protecting press freedoms and the public’s right to know about its government.

Here’s just a sampling of what we did in your state...

VERMONT
2017 NEFAC Board Members Michael Donoghue, Vice President Vermont Press Association | Lia Ernst American Civil Liberties Union | Todd Smith Caledonian Record

Highlights
Testified in support of protections for student journalists. Helped end policy limiting access to judicial records. Argued against loophole in public records law. Opposed policy restricting public’s ability to record in state court.

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

CONNECTICUT

Highlights
Argued for right to record police in Second Circuit. Provided educational programming for Connecticut journalists.

MAINE
2017 NEFAC Board Members Dieter Bradbury Portland Press Herald | Naomi Schalit Maine Center for Public Interest Reporting | Sigmund Schutz Preti Flaherty

Highlights
Opposed legislation requiring advance payment of record request costs. Called for preservation of State House Committee meeting recordings. Argued for expansion of public access to online judicial records. Opposed ban of unsolicited newspaper deliveries in Biddeford. Testified against plan to limit public access to court documents.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Highlights
Voiced concern over drone legislation that lacked First Amendment protections. Provided Sunshine Week panel discussions in Manchester and Nashua. Sponsored educational programming for New Hampshire reporters and editors.

MASSACHUSETTS

Highlights
Hosted program on new public records law. Argued for media protection in anti-SLAPP case. Sponsored legal hotline for journalists. Called on Boston officials to provide First Amendment protections during protests. Demanded journalist access to rallies on Boston Common. Sponsored journalism discussion on sexual assaults.

RHODE ISLAND

Highlights
Opposed ban on unsolicited newspaper deliveries in Providence. Called for release of 38 Studios grand jury records. Asked Governor Raimondo to support changes in open meeting law. Supported protections for student journalists. Called for transparency within state police department. Objected to proposed rules for Department of Administration public records.

nefac.org | 1
Just as the First Amendment protects us, we must return the framers’ great favor and protect it.

Margaret Sullivan | The Washington Post
2017 Hamblett First Amendment Award Recipient

Here are some ways we made an impact in 2017...

01.04.17 NEFAC, ACLU, RI Press Association Oppose Proposal to Ban Unsolicited Newspaper Deliveries in Providence

“While well-intended, this type of ordinance has been ruled unconstitutional in municipalities across the country, and Providence need look no further than other cities in Rhode Island for examples of more reasonable alternatives.”

01.09.17 NEFAC, Media Organizations Argue for Release of Mugshots Under Freedom of Information Act

01.25.17 NEFAC Opposes Maine Probate Court Proposal That Would Limit Public’s Understanding, Oversight of Judicial System

“Put simply, a judicial system operating in secrecy is to the detriment of democracy. Citizens must be informed about what their government is doing — or not doing — on their behalf.”

02.02.17 NEFAC, Society of Professional Journalists New England Host Program on New Massachusetts Public Records Law

02.10.17 NEFAC, Media Organizations Voice Concern Over N.H. Drone Legislation, Lack of First Amendment Protections

02.21.17 NEFAC Joins Amicus Brief in Mass. Anti-SLAPP Case, Argues for ‘Increasingly Important’ Media Protection

02.24.17 NEFAC Provides Panels on Newsroom Ethics, Student Journalism at NENPA Conference

03.03.17 NEFAC, Press Groups Call President’s Attacks on the Media a Threat to Democracy

“Discrediting the work of our press corps with hollow accusations of ‘fake news’ and petty grievances with coverage is an affront to our democracy.”

03.28.17 NEFAC, Media Groups Argue for Right to Record Police in Second Circuit

04.04.17 U.S. Supreme Court Declines ‘Ballot Selfie’ Case; NEFAC Argued for Right to Photograph

04.18.17 NEFAC Testifies in Support of Protections for Vermont Student Journalists

“We want our students to be curious. To ask tough questions. Not to accept everything as truth without some confirmation.”

04.25.17 NEFAC Opposes Maine Legislation Requiring Advance Payment of Record Request Costs

04.25.17 NEFAC Applauds Vermont Decision to Make Lawsuit Filings Immediately Available to Public

04.26.17 NEFAC, Open Government Advocates Call for Release of 38 Studios Grand Jury Records

04.29.17 NEFAC, MFOIC, Maine News Groups Call for Preservation of State House Committee Recordings

05.13.17 NEFAC Calls for Protection of Press Rights in Rhode Island ‘Revenge Porn’ Legislation

05.16.17 NEFAC, Media Groups Argue Against Possible Loophole in Vermont Public Records Act

“Simply put, if a document is produced in the course of agency business, it is a public record, regardless of how it is created, how it is communicated, or where it is stored.”

2017 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 the institute Fellows — 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.
Media organizations should consider any restriction on press freedom with the utmost scrutiny and never take access for granted.

After Boston Common Protest, NEFAC Calls on City to Better Balance First Amendment Rights with Security Needs

09.26.17 NEFAC: Indiscriminate Record Sealing Undermines First Amendment, Right to Know
09.29.17 NEFAC: Maine Should Expand Public Access to Online Judicial Records
10.16.17 NEFAC: Banning Unsolicited Newspapers in Biddeford, Maine, Raises Serious First Amendment Concerns
“Biddeford does a disservice to newspapers, donor-supported charities, and community organizations in equating all freely delivered printed or written material with unsightly debris that ought to be promptly discarded.”
10.17.17 NEFAC Calls for Immediate Access to Civil Court Documents in Ninth Circuit
10.24.17 NEFAC, First Amendment Advocates Demand City of Boston Increase Press Access to Demonstrations on Common
11.13.17 NEFAC: Providence Police Dept. Deserves Praise for Releasing Body Camera Video of Recent Shooting
“When a citizen is killed by police, there is no excuse for secrecy. We hope state police will follow Providence’s lead and provide the transparency Rhode Island residents need.”
11.14.17 NEFAC, R.I. Transparency Advocates Ask East Greenwich to Cancel Meeting After Open Meeting Act Violations
11.16.17 NEFAC, First Amendment Advocates Ask Court to Require Media Access at Boston Common Rallies
“Journalists have a right to cover events on the Common and to inform us all about what’s happening in our city.”
11.16.17 NEFAC, R.I. Transparency Advocates Express Concern Over Dept. of Administration’s Proposed Rules for Public Records
12.04.17 NEFAC Co-Sponsors Panel Discussion on Covering Sexual Assaults
12.21.14 NEFAC Testifies Against Plan Limiting Public Access to Maine Judicial Records, Defends Right to Know

NEFAC joined open government advocates March 12-18 to celebrate the 13th annual Sunshine Week. The national campaign promotes dialogue about the importance of transparency and freedom of information. NEFAC sponsored events and published daily blog posts to address transparency issues in each New England state. NEFAC and the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications hosted a panel discussion titled “The Right to Know in New Hampshire in Theory and Practice” on March 13 in Manchester. On March 16, NEFAC, IndepthNH.org and The Telegraph of Nashua presented an open forum on the New Hampshire Right to Know Law in Nashua. “Confronted by a presidential administration that regularly attacks the news media and labels the Fourth Estate an ‘enemy of the American people,’ Sunshine Week has special significance this year,” said Justin Silverman, NEFAC’s executive director. “The truth is often obtained through public documents and open meetings. These are essential portals into the work of our government.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Range</th>
<th>Contributors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$20,000+</td>
<td>The Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000 - $1,999</td>
<td>Robert A. Bertsche, Edward Cafasso, William L. Chapman, Mary Jane Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250 - $499</td>
<td>Karen Bordeleau, Phil Camp, Peter Caruso, Sr., Lynne Delucia, Gary Farrugia, Richard Gagliuso, Josh Gerstein, Peter Mancusi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New England First Amendment Coalition**

Phone 508.983.6006 Fax 617.860.2559 Web nefac.org

Mailing Address 111 Milk Street, Westborough MA 01581

@Five Freedoms www.tinyurl.com/nefaclinkedin /nefac.org /knownewengland

**2017 Major Supporters**

The Providence Journal Charitable Legacy Fund

The Robertson Foundation

The Boston Globe Lois Howe McClure

**Other Contributors Include**

- Antonio Pyle
- Gregory V. Sullivan
- Mike Stanton
- Janet Wu
- Bob Abrams
- Philip Balboni
- Harriet Bertsche
- Daniel Billin
- Dieter Bradbury
- Kathleen Chase
- Ellen Clegg
- Benjamin Conery
- Linda Conway
- Joseph Curtin
- Jane Demeo
- Lia Ernst
- John Faddoul
- Sean Fair
- James Fleming
- Edward Fitzpatrick
- Gail Guarino
- Thomas and Patricia Heslin
- Matthew Kauffman
- William Ketter
- John Kittross
- Stephen Kurkjian
- Jill Konopka
- Mark Leccese
- Natalya MacWilliams
- Kathryn Marchocki
- Lincoln McKenzie
- James McManus
- Mary Murphy
- North of Boston Media Group
- Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications
- Susan Ovans
- Jennifer Peter
- Donna Plouffe
- Prince Lobel Tye LLP
- Jeff Pyle
- Greg Popa
- Michael Rezendez
- David Rosen
- Julia and Brett Rosequist
- Fae Saulenas
- Nancy and Nat Silverman
- Rachel Silverman
- James and Jacqueline Smith
- Stephanie Smith
- David and Virginia Spencer
- Margaret Sullivan
- Annette Taylor
- Robert Turner
- Tim White
- Bernard Wideman
- and Mary Clark
- Terry Williams
- Samantha Allen
- and Jim Haddadin
- Judith Arigo
- David and Laurie Arsenault
- Daniel Barrett
- Eric Bass
- Paul Batlan
- Peter Biello
- Nora Doyle-Burr
- Lesley Engle-Cannon
- Charles Eichacker
- David Farmer
- and Joseph Centauro
- Tina Detelj
- George Donnelly
- Katherine Farrish
- Alan Geismer
- Brian Gilmore
- Michele Glyne
- David Harry
- Jeremy Katz
- Emily Kulkus
- Morris Mehlsak
- Amanda Milkovits
- Michael Moris
- Erica Moser
- Suella Nadler
- David Olsen
- Kristopher Olson
- Michael Pezza
- Gregory Reibman
- Bruce Reisman
- Andrzej Resiak
- William Rogers, Jr.
- Joseph Rosenbloom
- Amy Rubin
- R.D. Sahl
- Naomi Schalit and Jon Christie
- Mary Schwind
- Harvey Silverglate
- Justin and Danielle Silverman
- Michael Silverman
- Susan Spencer
- Bea Stratter
- David Tarbet
- Sheldon Toplitt
- Jean Trounstone
- Janine Weisman
- Danielle Woods
- Frank Yette
- Carol Young

**Event Sponsors, Hosts and In-Kind Donors**

- Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society
- Boston University
- Central Connecticut State University
- Emerson College
- Thomas Fiedler
- Boston-25 News
- The Buffalo News
- Mark’s Moving & Storage, Inc.
- Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications
- New England Newspaper & Press Association
- Northeastern University
- Prince Lobel Tye LLP
- Roger Williams University
- Saint Michael’s College
- University of Connecticut
- University of Massachusetts
- Amherst
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Rhode Island
- The Vermont Cynic
- WBUR-Boston
- WCVB-Boston
- WGBH-Boston
- Mary Jane Wilkinson
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution