

New England First Amendment Institute

Curriculum 2012

Day One: *The Value of Transparency*

3:15 **Welcome**
Walter Robinson, director, Initiative for Investigative Reporting,
Northeastern University School of Journalism
Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

3:30- 4:00 **Key note address**
Michael Oreskes, senior managing editor for U.S. News, The
Associated Press

4:00-6:00 **Panel: 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

Panelists: [Matt Apuzzo]
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**

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**

Moderator: Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC

Panelists:

Maggie Mulvihill, co-director, New England Center for Investigative Reporting

Sean Murphy, investigative reporter, The Boston Globe

Anna Schechter, investigative producer, NBC's Rock Center with Brian Williams

9:45- 10:45 Collaborative Litigation in the FOI Context

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

William L. Chapman, partner, Orr & Reno

Judy Alexander, partner, Judy Alexander Law

Peter J. Caruso, managing partner, Caruso & Caruso

Sigmund D. Schutz, partner, PretiFlaherty

Joseph V. Cavanagh Jr., managing partner, Blish & Cavanagh

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 through collaborative litigation?

Break out sessions A: 10:45 – 12:30

Connecticut -- Mitchell Pearlman, lecturer University of Connecticut, and Lynne DeLucia, editor, Connecticut Health Investigative Team

New Hampshire -- Gregory Sullivan and William Chapman

Massachusetts -- Peter Caruso 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

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.

12:30- 1:30 Beat Lunches

- 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

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

1:30 - 3:00 Using Social Media and the Internet to Further Investigations,

IRE Presentation, Mark Horvit, executive director, IRE

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.

3:00- 3:30 Federal Freedom of Information Act overview

Speaker: Elizabeth Ritvo, partner, Brown Rudnick
Overview of the FOIA.

3:30- 4:30 Panel: Using Federal Freedom of Information Act to Further Investigations

Moderator: Jonathan Albano

Panelists: 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 for Dateline NBC

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.

4:30 – 6:00 Break out sessions B

Anatomy of a Story - Tim White, investigative reporter and executive producer,

“Newsmakers,” 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 -- Richard 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

Panel-- The Leak

9:00- 10:30

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

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

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

12:30-1:00 Lunch Break

1:00-3:00 Securities Exchange Commission Documents - Todd Wallack, reporter, The Boston Globe

3:00-4:00 NEFAI Fellows Panel

Moderator: Michael Donoghue, reporter, The Burlington Free Press

Panelists: Alexandra Sanders, reporter, New Haven Register

Karen Lee Ziner, reporter, The Providence Journal

Anne Galloway, editor, Vermont Digger

Lyle Moran, reporter, The Lowell (MA) Sun

4:00 Concluding Address: Mary Jane Wilkinson, president, NEFAC