

New England First Amendment Institute 2012

September 30– October 2

Day 1: The Value of Transparency

Keynote Address: "The Importance of Access to Information For Maintaining our Basic Freedoms," Michael Oreskes, Senior Managing Editor of The Associated Press and supervisor of the team that won this year's Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting on police spying in New York mosques

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.

Susan Snyder, Philadelphia Inquirer, 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner for Public Service for "Assault on Learning violence" series on violence Philadelphia schools

Sara Ganim, Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Penn., 2012 Pulitzer Prize winner for Local Reporting on Sandusky scandal

Joe Bergantino, director and senior investigative reporter of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting, New England Emmy Award winner, former I-Team Reporter for WBZ-TV in Boston and previously correspondent for ABC News

Reporter [TBD] from AP's 2012 Pulitzer Prize winning team for Investigative Reporting

Day 2: How Do We Harness Freedom of Information Laws and Publicly Available Data to Further Investigations?

Session One: Common Pitfalls in Accessing Documents Through FOI Requests & How to Respond

Panelists will discuss how to flex your muscle as a reporter to get the information to which you are entitled by law.

Sean Murphy, investigative reporter for The Boston Globe

Maggie Mulvihill, co-Director of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting and clinical professor of journalism at Boston University

Session Two: Break-out sessions on state Public Records and Open Meetings Laws

The specifics of each state's laws and exemptions will be discussed and hands on cases will be reviewed with opportunities for role playing.

Connecticut: **Mitchell Pearlman** (former FOIC Chairman, lecturer University of Connecticut) & **Lynne De Lucia** (editor, Connecticut Health Investigative team)

Maine: **Sigmund D. Schutz** (Partner, PretiFlaherty)

Massachusetts: **Peter J. Caruso** (Managing Partner, Caruso & Caruso) & **Ebony Reed** (Assistant Bureau Chief New England, The Associated Press)

New Hampshire: **Gregory V. Sullivan** (Partner and President, Malloy & Sullivan) & **William L. Chapman** (Partner, Orr & Reno)

Rhode Island: **Joseph V. Cavanagh, Jr.** (Managing Partner, Blish & Cavanagh) & **Laura Crimaldi** (reporter, The Associated Press, Providence)

Vermont: **Tom Kearney** (Managing Editor, Stowe (Vt.) Reporter)

Session Three: Overview of federal Freedom of Information Act

Elizabeth A. Ritvo (Partner, Brown Rudnick, Boston)

Session Four: Panel: How do we put federal freedom of 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 federal Freedom of Information Act. What do you do when the data you get doesn't tell the whole story?

Lea Thompson, former Dateline NBC correspondent and multiple Peabody and Emmy Award winner whose work has been responsible for three acts of Congress and numerous congressional investigations

Robert Bertsche (Partner, PrinceLobel, Boston)

Elizabeth Ritvo (above)

Session Five: Utilizing Social Media in Investigations and Bulletproofing the story

Mark Horvit, Executive Director of Investigative Reporters and Editors

Session Six: Break out sessions by Medium

Using Narrative Flow to Enhance Investigative Pieces

Dick Lehr, best-selling author, former Globe investigative reporter and current Boston University journalism professor

An Anatomy of a Story: An Investigation from Start to Finish

Tim White and **Ted Nesi** of the Emmy Award winning WPRI 12, Providence

Day 3: A Reporters' Tool Kit: Database reporting, business document analysis and developing sources

Session One: Panel: "The Leak"

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

Barbara Laker, reporter, Philadelphia Daily, 2010 Pulitzer Prize winner for investigative reporting that uncovered a corrupt police narcotics squad in Philadelphia

Matt Hongoltz-Hetling, 2011 George Polk Award co-winner for local reporting for a series on the deplorable conditions of public housing in rural western Maine

Walter Robinson, 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for clergy sexual abuse scandal, Distinguished Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University School of Journalism

Session Two: Database Reporting

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

Matthew Kauffman, Hartford Courant, Pulitzer Prize finalist for in-depth reporting of suicide rates of American servicemen and women in Iraq

Session Three: Analysis of Security and Exchange Commission documents

Todd Wallack, reporter, The Boston Globe

This session will demystify Securities and Exchange Commission filings, which can offer a treasure trove of information about corporations. A sampling of other documents will be reviewed such as FDIC data on banks, corporate filings with Secretary of States, nonprofit tax forms filed with the IRS, federal contracting data kept by the US government and union filings with the Department of Labor.

Session Four: Panel of NEFAI Fellows 2011

The Institute will conclude with a panel of last year's Fellows to discuss their work since attending the Institute last November

Alexandra Sanders, reporter, New Haven Register

Anne Galloway, founder, Vermont Digger

Lyle Moran, The Lowell (Mass.) Sun.