

Public Records & Open Meeting Law

What you need to know about the public's right to know

Open government is a cornerstone of our democracy—and is advanced at the state and local levels by the provisions of the Open Meeting Law and the Public Records Law. The level of openness these laws require—and the mechanisms which enforce public access—are important to the governmental officials, counsel for governmental bodies, and members of the public and media who wish to monitor meetings and actions. The expert panel addresses the current state of the Public Records Law and the Open Meeting Law individually, as well as their interaction in the context of local and state government.

Join us online as our expert panel discusses recent as well as evolving Public Records Law trends and issues. Highlights include recent changes to exemption language as well as changes to the Public Records Law regulations. The faculty discuss emerging topics and best practices including exemption claims, identifying and separating large requests from harassing requests, and strategies for responding to both. Additionally, the panel discusses relevant and important updates within the Open Meeting Law, such as what constitutes deliberation, the requirements for meeting notices and other deadlines, whether remote access to the public is required, and whether there are differences for executive meetings. Also learn what issues continue to emerge with the use of new technologies and their effects on government function and public access in the scope of both laws and especially during the pandemic and beyond.

Agenda

- What Type of Information Is Exempt from Disclosure Under the Public Records Law?
- The Dos and Don'ts of Handling Public Record Requests
- Current Issues in Public Records and Open Meeting Law
- Role and Challenges of Counseling Public Bodies in Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law Issues
- Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide
- Secretary of the Commonwealth's Updated Guide to Massachusetts Public Records Law
- Freedom of Information and Public Records Law
- "Ask the Experts" Q&A Session

Faculty

Angela M. Puccini, Esq., *Compliance Supervisor/Senior Attorney, Public Records Division, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chair*

Janelle M. Austin, Esq., *KP Law, PC, Boston*

Carrie Benedon, Esq., *Director, Division of Open Government, Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Emiliano Falcon-Morano, Esq., *Technology for Liberty Policy Counsel, ACLU of Massachusetts, Boston*



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Dates & Location

Register at www.mcle.org

LIVE WEBCAST

Wednesday, October 18, 2023
9:30 am–12:30 pm
Program # 2240074WBC

REBROADCAST

Thursday, November 2, 2023
2:00 pm–5:00 pm
Program # 2240074RB1

REBROADCAST

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
9:00 am–12:00 pm
Program # 2240074RB2

ON DEMAND WEBCAST

View after Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Program # 2240074WBA

Tuition *(includes written materials)*

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- Transcript & videorecording emailed 2 weeks post-program

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