

# SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

Bannon & Associates is pleased to announce their annual seminar on the:

## TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT (FORMERLY THE TEXAS OPEN RECORDS ACT)

**MAY 13-14, 2015**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS  
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL**

Requests for information from public agencies under provisions of the Texas Public Information Act continue to escalate from year to year. These growing requests coupled with the increasing number of opinions regarding the Act from the Attorney General's office only add to the confusion felt by many in determining what information is subject to release and what information falls within the exceptions to the Act. Also, requesters are becoming increasingly innovative and resourceful in their open records requests.

This seminar is designed to provide you and your staff with definitive answers to your questions regarding open records. It is stressed that this course is NOT a recitation of legal requirements, but a practical guide to those officials required to deal with open records requests. While the legal aspects of the act will be covered, they will be taught in a manner which provides step-by-step guidance in interpreting the act along with instruction in drafting requests for opinions from the Attorney General's office.

Topics to be covered in this seminar are:

- History and Development of the Concept of Open Records in Texas
- Provisions Covered by the Texas Public Information Act
- Requesting Opinions under the Public Information Act
  - What to ask
  - When to ask
  - How to ask
  - Pitfalls of the request process
  - Knowing when to be reasonable
  - Protecting your interests

Status of the Act Regarding:

- Litigation exception
- Open criminal case exception
- Copyright problems
- Opinions, evaluations and recommendations
- Land transactions
- Purchasing documents

Personnel records  
Peace officer pictures and addresses  
Special Right of Access for Individuals  
Comparison to the Federal Freedom of Information and Federal Privacy Acts  
Sanctions Under the Act and Impact of Failure to Comply  
→ **Expected Changes in the RECENT 2015 legislative session**  
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA)

Time will be set aside in the seminar for questions and answers.

**INSTRUCTOR:** The course will be taught by Mr. John C. West, Jr., J.D. Mr. West is currently on the General Council for the Office of the Inspector General of the Texas the Dept. of Criminal Justice. He was formerly the Chief of Legal Services for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Prior to his appointment as Chief, Mr. West served as General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel for D.P.S. Mr. West has been involved with Public Information Act since it was passed in 1973. Mr. West was licensed to practice law in 1969.

**Because of the increasing complexity of the Texas Public Information Act and to provide adequate time for proper explanation of the most recent changes, this course has been lengthened from eight to twelve hours. The seminar will start at 1:00 p.m. on May 13, 2015 and end at 5:00 p.m. The seminar will start on May 14 , 2015 at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.**

Cost of the seminar is \$250.00 per participant and includes all handout materials relative to the act and pertinent opinions from the office of the Attorney General.

Seminar registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Early registration is encouraged as it is anticipated that the course will be filled very quickly and enrollment is limited. Accommodations may be reserved at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the **lower than government rate of \$108.00. This price includes a continental breakfast for all attendees the morning of May 14, 2015.** The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 6121 North IH-35, Austin, Tx 78752. Phone: 512.323.5466. **GOVERNMENT RATE IS GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL APRIL 24, 2015! PLEASE MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS EARLY!!!** Registrations may be made by returning the attached registration form with registration fees, by telephone, FAX, or e-mail with billing instructions to: Registrations for the seminar and lodging may be made online by credit card at [www.bannonandassociates.com](http://www.bannonandassociates.com) (Click on upcoming events)

**Payment at the door is acceptable.**

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Twelve (12) hours TCOLE credit will be given to all LE attendees.

Registered participants may be replaced with alternates at any time prior to the seminar. If it is determined that an alternate will be sent in place of a registered participant please notify Bannon & Associates of the change in advance, if possible, in order that name tags and certificates may be corrected.

Registration fees are refundable if cancellations are received no later than the close of business on May 1, 2015.

**Cancellations after such time will be subject to a \$40.00 administration fee.**

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REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following persons for the Texas Public Information Act seminar on May 13-14, 2015 in Austin, Texas:

AGENCY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return with registration fees or billing instructions to:

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