

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

APRIL 23-24, 2019

AUSTIN, TEXAS | CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

The Texas Public Information Act (“TPIA”) is the vehicle through which members of the public and media access information in the hands of governmental bodies in Texas. State and local governments are the repository of a wide variety of information, and requests for copies of or access to that information are ever increasing. Whether a particular item of information can, may, or must be released or withheld can sometimes vary depending on the circumstances, and there are a myriad of rules, exceptions, presumptions and timelines which may apply. TPIA also contains civil and criminal penalties for violation of its provisions, so it is important that the officials responsible for processing of public information requests be familiar with the applicable TPIA provisions. This seminar is designed to provide instruction to law enforcement and administrative personnel on the operative provisions and requirements of TPIA, as well as practical guidance on how to prepare responses to frequently requested information, including the preparation of requests for open records opinions of the Texas Attorney General.

Seminar Topics will include:

- Historical overview of the origin and development of TPIA

- Fundamental Concepts:

 - Who is subject to TPIA?

 - What is public information?

 - What constitutes a public information request?

 - Who is responsible for responding?

 - Presumption of openness

- Permissible Communications with the Requestor

- Timelines for gathering information and responding

- Option for Responding

- Exceptions to General Obligation to Disclose

 - Mandatory vs. Discretionary Exceptions

- Discussion of Various Types of Information and Topics, including:

 - Requestor’s Special Right of Access to Certain Information

 - Information Protected by Rights of Privacy

 - Law-enforcement record relating to pending investigations

Presented by:

Laura Mueller,

Associate Attorney, Bojoquez Law Firm, PC

Laura worked at the Texas Municipal League for the past nine years, serving the last six as Assistant General Counsel. She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law. She authored amicus curiae briefs on the following subjects: Billboard Regulation, Reserved Powers Doctrine, Civil Service, Elections, Unions, Takings, Open Meetings, Public Official Liability, Land Use, and Annexation. While with TML, Laura participated in over 100 speaking engagements.

Erin Higgenbotham,

Bojoquez Law Firm, PC

Erin has seven years of experience working on PIA requests. She’s appealed Attorney General rulings to district and appellate courts, including arguing a case before the Third Court of Appeals in Austin. Erin earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary’s University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Texas. She clerked for Judge W. Royal Furguson with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas and also served as briefing attorney to the Honorable Sandee Bryan Marion. Erin is an accomplished legal writer and advocate with experience in municipal and appellate court.

Driver's License and Motor Vehicle Records
Social Security Numbers and Credit Card Information
NCIC and TCIC Records
Photos of Police Officers
Juvenile Records
Public Employee Personnel Records
Records relating to litigation
Minutes/tapes of certain meetings
Contracts and Purchasing Documents
Homeland Security and Critical Infrastructure
Medical Records
Emails
Economic Development Information
Requesting an Attorney General opinion
When it is necessary
What must it include
Notifying the requestor
Challenging an opinion of the Attorney General
Charging for Public Information
Penalties for non-compliance of TPIA

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

The seminar will start at 1:00 p.m. on April 23, 2019 and end at 5:00 p.m. The seminar will start on April 24, 2019 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 government rate of \$135.00. **This price includes a continental breakfast for all attendees the morning of April 24, 2019.** 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 9, 2019!** **BOOKING LINK: BAA**

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 Bannon & Associates. Registrations for the seminar may be made online by credit card at www.bannonandassociates.com (Click on upcoming events)

THIS TRAINING HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS TO FULFILL THE STATE MANDATED PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS.

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 **APRIL 9, 2019.**

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

www.bannonandassociates.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following persons for the Texas Public Information Act seminar on April 23-24, 2019 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:

**BANNON & ASSOCIATES
PO BOX 82648
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