

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

MAY 14-15, 2025

EMBASSY SUITES CONFERENCE CENTER, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

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

SPEAKER – LAURA MUELLER

The Speaker for this course is Laura Mueller, City Attorney for the City of Dripping Springs.

Laura was named the first full time City Attorney for Dripping Springs in January 2020. Prior to her appointment to City Attorney, she served as an Associate Attorney at the Bojorquez Law Firm of Austin, Texas. Prior to her service at the Bojorquez Law Firm Laura worked at the Texas Municipal League for nine years, with the final six of those years as an Assistant General Counsel.

Laura received her Doctorate of Jurisprudence at the University of Texas School of Law. She has 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
- Annexation

While with TML, Laura participated in over 100 speaking engagements and has instructed this course for Bannon & Associates since 2016.

Driver's License and Motor Vehicle Records
Social Security Numbers and Credit Card Information
NCIC and TCIC Records
Body Worn Cameras
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

NEW NEW NEW

Due to popular demand, Bannon & Associates is now offering a two-hour Open Records Basics class prior to the actual seminar. The basics seminar will take place from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, May 14 for the nominal cost of \$50.00 per participant. Our speaker, Laura Mueller, will be available to answer your individual questions and help you understand the whys and wherefores of the job. She will also discuss the history of the Open Records Act to give you some framework as to how we got to where we are today. The Basics class will take place at the same location as the seminar.

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

The seminar will start at 1:00 p.m. on MAY 14, 2025 and end at 5:00 p.m. The seminar will start on MAY 15, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

Cost of the seminar is \$300.00 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 **EMBASSY SUITES SAN MARCOS** at the government rate of **\$165.00**. **This price includes a FULL hot breakfast for all attendees each morning AND a COMPLIMENTARY welcome happy hour each evening.** The Embassy Suites San Marcos is located at 1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666. 512.392.6450. The Embassy Suites is also located adjacent to the Tanger Outlet Centers. There is a booking link on our website:

bannonandassociates.com. **GOVERNMENT RATE IS GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL APRIL 30, 2025 PLEASE MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS EARLY!!! ROOMS SOLD OUT LAST TIME!** 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)

8.5 HOURS OF CLE CREDIT IS AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE ATTENDEES.

Registration fees are non-refundable.

If you must cancel you may send someone in your place or move your attendance to any future Bannon & Associates class.

REGISTRATION FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE CLASS OR ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS. Purchase orders ARE acceptable.

If you have a special circumstance please contact Kathleen Bannon directly.

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.

www.bannonandassociates.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following persons for the Texas Public Information Act seminar on MAY 14-15, 2025 in San Marcos, Texas:

AGENCY: _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHECK ONE: _____ \$300 SEMINAR ONLY _____ \$350 SEMINAR + INTRO CLASS

Return with registration fees or billing instructions to:

**BANNON & ASSOCIATES
2720 RIVER PATH COURT
BURLESON, TX 76028
254.694.2404 (OFC)**

214.228.5782 (CELL)

Bannon.assoc@sbcglobal.net

Bannon.assoc@gmail.com

Bannonandassociates.com

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2720 RIVER PATH COURT
BURLESON, TX 76028**

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