

# SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

**APRIL October 2-3, 2024**

**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, October 2, 2024 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. 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 October 2, 2024 and end at 5:00 p.m.  
The seminar will start on October 3, 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 **\$159.00**. **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](http://bannonandassociates.com). **GOVERNMENT RATE IS GUARANTEED ONLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18, 2024! 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](http://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**

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REGISTRATION FORM

Please register the following persons for the Texas Public Information Act seminar on October 2-3, 2024 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**

**1385 MILLCREEK TRAIL**

**WHITNEY, TX 76692**

**254.694.2404 (OFC)**

**254.694.0824(FAX)**

**214.228.5782 (CELL)**

**[Bannon.assoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Bannon.assoc@sbcglobal.net)**

**[Bannon.assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Bannon.assoc@gmail.com)**

**Bannonandassociates.com**

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**1385 MILLCREEK TRL**  
**WHITNEY, TX 76692**

**TEXAS PUBLIC**  
**INFORMATION ACT**  
**SEMINAR**  
**(FORMERLY TEXAS OPEN RECORDS ACT)**