

Practical Tips on Washington's Public Records and Open Public Meeting Acts

Seasoned journalists will give practical tips on the use of Washington's Public Records and Open Public Meeting Acts in investigative reporting based on their experience as reporters and editors illustrated with stories from their careers in journalism in this moderated panel discussion presented by the Washington Coalition for Open Government. A Question and Answer session will follow their brief presentations.

TOBY NIXON, MODERATOR

Former State Representative, 45th District (2002-2007); served as ranking member of the State Government Operations and Accountability Committee, which, among other topics, had responsibility for overseeing Washington's open government and election laws. Member of the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board. 2006 recipient of the "Freedom's Light Award" from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, in recognition of his work to protect and advance First Amendment interests in Washington. Standards program manager in the Windows group at Microsoft, focusing on networked devices and "smart home" technology, with particular interest in security and privacy issues. Has worked in the computer field for over 30 years, and holds five patents related to computer communications technology.

FRANK GARRED

Frank Garred is former editor/publisher of the Port Townsend Jefferson County (WA) Leader; former publisher of the Sequim (WA) Gazette and Forks (WA) Forum ; past president of Washington Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Association, International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors; graduate of the University of Washington with a journalism degree (1958); served seven years on the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications; was interim founding-executive director of the Washington Coalition for Open Government; serves on the Washington State Public Records Exemptions Accountability Committee as the governor's appointee, and worked many years as a reporter and editor for daily and community newspapers. Over the past six years he has been a Journalism instructor at Western Washington University and Peninsula College.

BILL WILL

Bill Will is the General Manager of Washington Newspaper Publisher Associations. He has worked for Washington Newspaper Publishers Association since 1997, where he helps reporters and editors with access and legal questions and monitors First Amendment issues in the Legislature and the courts. Will has more than 20 years of experience in the newspaper business.

After graduating from the University of Idaho in 1982, he worked as a reporter at the Newport Miner and worked briefly as sports editor of the Columbia Basin Herald in Moses Lake, Washington. From 1984-88 he was a reporter, copy editor, and later assistant managing editor at The Daily Idahonian/Pullman Daily News (now the Moscow-Pullman Daily News). In 1988-89, he was managing editor of The Sparks

Tribune in Sparks, Nev. and helped convert the newspaper from twice-weekly to daily publication. From 1989-1995 he worked as a copy editor at Outdoor Empire Publishing Company in Seattle. He worked as a contract employee at Microsoft Corp. for two years on the launch of Microsoft Network News and MSNBC on the Internet before joining WNPA.

DAVID SEAGO

Retiring in July as editorial page editor for The News Tribune, David Seago ended a 40-year career with the newspaper. He began with the TNT as an office boy, fetching mail and filling paste pots, then graduated to a reporting job during summers while attending Stanford University. He earned a masters degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism, then began working full-time as a reporter in 1972. After beat reporting on consumer affairs and education, he filled several newsroom editing positions, including city editor, before becoming an editorial writer in 1983. He was named editorial page editor in 1995. The editorial page under Seago consistently supported the cause of open government and the disclosure of public records in particular.

Seago, 59, continues to serve on the boards of two nonprofit groups that tutor elementary students in reading and provide services for the disabled, respectively. He also serves on an advisory committee promoting education in ethics at Tacoma Community College.

SCOTT WILSON

- BA and MA from University of Washington School of Communications.
- Everett Herald Business & Labor reporter
- Tacoma News Tribune Political reporter, Olympia Bureau Chief
- Editor and Publisher, Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader
- Past president, Washington Newspaper Publishers Association
- Past president, Washington Coalition for Open Government
- Current President, WNPA Foundation