



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN
PINNACLE

Public Records, Open Meetings Update 2025

Monday, January 26, 2026



4 CLE

**Program dates start September 3.
Register today!**

Public Records, Open Meetings Update 2025



*Co-produced with the Government Lawyers Division
of the State Bar of Wisconsin*

Any requests?

Public Records, Open Meetings Update 2025 tackles the complex questions attorneys face at the intersection of transparency and privacy, from redacting sensitive information in records to convening legally sound meetings. Receive practical guidance for handling, disclosing, and safeguarding employee records in compliance with state and federal law, and learn where public bodies and employers commonly go wrong. Attorneys of all experience levels will sharpen their understanding of when transparency is required—and when discretion is essential. **Register now!**

HOW YOU'LL BENEFIT

- Learn how to help clients avoid common procedural missteps in closed meetings
- Understand what personnel records must be shared and what can be protected from disclosure
- Break down the overlap between FOIA and state law requirements for handling employment information
- Recognize when counsel should get involved in the records request process
- Gain practical context for how journalists use public records laws
- Unpack the year's most impactful public records and open meetings decisions

SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM Case Law Updates

Peter J. Block, Paul M. Ferguson

9:35 AM Closed Session/Open Meetings

- Standards and procedures for properly convening a closed session, including notice, motion, and permissible purposes
- Peter J. Block, Scott F. Brown, Paul M. Ferguson*

10:05 AM Break

10:20 AM Requesting Records Outside of Public Records Law

- How personnel records intersect with public records requests
 - FOIA
 - What rights do employees have under Wis. Stat. §§ 103.13 and 111.70?
 - What information must be disclosed—and what can be withheld?
 - Common issues and compliance challenges for employers
 - When legal counsel gets involved
- Tamara B. Packard, Benjamin J. Roovers, Benjamin A. Sparks*

11:15 AM The Public Records Law's Role in Journalism

- Why the public records law is used
- What are common issues?
- What happens when records are received?
- Fact checking and journalist standards
- In what instances is legal counsel consulted?

Moderator: *Scott F. Brown*

Panelists: *Pari Apostolakos, Ashley Luthern, Jim Malewitz*

12:10 PM Program Concludes

Following start time, schedule will vary slightly from above. All times are Central Time Zone.

Be in-the-know

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STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN



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Jim Malewitz, Wisconsin Watch, Madison, Madison

Tamara B. Packard, Pines Bach LLP, Madison

Benjamin J. Roovers, Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison

Benjamin A. Sparks, American Oversight, Milwaukee

DATES & LOCATION

IN-PERSON SEMINAR — MADISON

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

State Bar Center

5302 Eastpark Blvd., Madison, WI
(608) 257-3838

LIVE WEBCAST

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

WEBCAST REPLAYS

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Friday, September 19, 2025

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Monday, October 6, 2025

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Monday, January 26, 2026

CREDITS

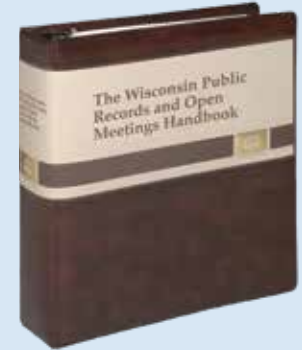
CREDIT HOURS: This program will be submitted to the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners for **4 CLE credits**. It does not qualify for EPR credit.

BOOK BONUS!

The Wisconsin Public Records and Open Meetings Handbook

SAVE 15% on *The Wisconsin Public Records and Open Meetings Handbook*.* Whether you represent a governmental entity, the media, or a private citizen, the *Handbook* offers practical guidance on public records law applications and the requirements for open meetings in Wisconsin. Use **discount code CA3800** when you order online or by calling (800) 728-7788.

PRINT BOOK: AK0199 | **BOOKS UNBOUND:** AE0199_SUB



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TUITION

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State Bar Member	\$229	\$259
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REGISTRATION & GENERAL INFO

ONLINE: wisbar.org/seminars

PHONE: (800) 728-7788

MAIL/FAX: Visit wisbar.org/regform
for registration form



PINNACLE PASSBOOK REGISTRATIONS: PINNACLE Passbook certificates must be received by the State Bar at least one business day prior to the event. For in-person seminars, walk-in registrations using Passbook certificates are also welcome.

COURSE MATERIALS: Course materials are provided to seminar attendees in PDF format and are downloadable from myStateBar on wisbar.org up to two days prior to and 90 days after your seminar.

CANCELLATIONS: Please visit wisbar.org/cancellations for information on PINNACLE registration cancellation policies.

ACCOMMODATIONS: If you need special accommodations, please contact us at (800) 728-7788, ext. 6142 at least three weeks prior to the program date so we can make appropriate arrangements.

NOTICE: By attending this State Bar event, you understand and agree that you may be photographed and/or electronically recorded during the event and you hereby grant to the State Bar the right to use and distribute your name and likeness for promotional or educational purposes without monetary compensation. The State Bar assumes no liability for such use.

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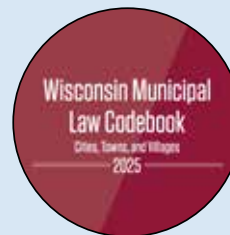
ADDITIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Public Records, Open Meetings Update 2024

Conflicting court rulings, redaction responsibilities, and evolving technology can make applying Wisconsin's public records and open meetings laws a real challenge. Receive practical guidance on deciphering recent case law, electronic communication best practices, and how to handle records requests and redactions.



CREDITS: 4 CLE | **CLE ONDEMAND:** CA3671D



Wisconsin Municipal Law Codebook: Cities, Towns, and Villages 2025

The *Municipal Law Codebook* compiles the Wisconsin statutes and administrative code provisions most relevant to municipal practice. Designed with input from experienced municipal lawyers, the *Codebook* covers a wide range of topics, including governance, land use, employment, taxation, and public safety.

PRINT BOOK: AK0427E25

Civil Litigation Forms Library

The *Civil Litigation Forms Library* gives you instant access to a comprehensive collection of customizable attorney-drafted forms for every stage of a civil case. Fully searchable and regularly updated, this online resource helps you save time, reduce errors, and meet statutory requirements with confidence.



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