WSBA CLE #27121 WEB



What Every Lawyer Should Know About the Public Records Act

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026

Approved for 5.0 CLE Law & Legal Procedure credits.
$199 - Standard
$174 - Administrative Law Section Members

Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST ONLY

DESCRIPTION

Presented in collaboration with the WSBA Administrative Law Section

Whether it's public comment on local bans for data centers, getting a business license, or paying local taxes, Washington residents and businesses interact with local governments like Cities, Counties, School Districts, and Business Improvement Areas every day. This CLE is designed for attorneys who do not practice municipal law but want to better serve their clients who interact with local governments; including understanding what counts as a public record that must be disclosed to anyone who asks, how to most effectively obtain records from local governments, and how to protect your client's proprietary or privacy interests.

CHAIR
Jessica Leiser – *City of Seattle, Seattle*

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

SCHEDULE

9:10 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

9:25 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions by Program Chair
- **Jessica Leiser** – *City of Seattle, Seattle*

9:30 a.m. > Public Records Act Fundamentals: From What Counts as a Public Record to How Local Governments Provide Records to Requesters
90 minutes, 1.5 credits L&LP
Washington's Public Records Act (PRA) is one of the strongest protections of government transparency in the Country. It covers everything from government-awarded contracts for millions of dollars to individual employee emails. This CLE explores the extent of what constitutes a public record, including private records that wind up in the hands of local governments, and the steps agencies take to properly respond to a request for public records.
- **Eric Stahl** – *Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Seattle*
- **Jessica Leiser** – *City of Seattle, Seattle*

11:00 a.m. > BREAK

11:15 a.m. > Disclosure in the Digital Age: How the PRA Intersects with ESI and AI
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
As modern technology transforms how public agencies create, store, search, and produce records, the intersection of the Public Records Act, ESI, and AI presents new and complex challenges. This session will explore how ESI workflows and emerging AI technologies overlap with PRA obligations, paying particular attention to the practical and legal considerations facing public agencies and the attorneys who advise them. Topics will include the Electronic Discovery Reference Model (EDRM), metadata, redactions, tools for handling requests, and how AI is, and will continue to, change the PRA landscape.
- **Rebecca Garland** – *Pacifica Law Group, Seattle*

12:15 p.m. > LUNCH on Your Own

CONTINUED >

WSBA CLE #27121 WEB

DESCRIPTION

Presented in collaboration with the WSBA Administrative Law Section

Whether it's public comment on local bans for data centers, getting a business license, or paying local taxes, Washington residents and businesses interact with local governments like Cities, Counties, School Districts, and Business Improvement Areas every day. This CLE is designed for attorneys who do not practice municipal law but want to better serve their clients who interact with local governments; including understanding what counts as a public record that must be disclosed to anyone who asks, how to most effectively obtain records from local governments, and how to protect your client's proprietary or privacy interests.

CHAIR
Jessica Leiser – *City of Seattle, Seattle*

SCHEDULE

1:15 p.m. > Making Effective Use of Public Records Requests
30 minutes, 0.5 credits L&LP
Public Records requests can be an incredibly powerful tool for gathering information, investigating a client's claims against an agency or other party, and maintaining government accountability. But all too often records requests get bogged down by asking for too much, using vague or ambiguous language, or not communicating specific needs to the public records officer. This CLE explores the mechanics behind multi-installment responses provided by agencies when records requests are overbroad, vague, or complex, and offers practical tips for crafting records requests that receive faster responses and pair more effectively with other tools, like civil discovery or public advocacy.

- **Jessica Leiser** – *City of Seattle, Seattle*

1:45 p.m. > Third Party Notice, Contractual Provisions, and Injunction Actions
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

- **Kathy George** – *Johnston George LLP, Seattle*
- **Bob Sterbank** – *Foster Garvey, Seattle*

2:45 p.m. > BREAK

3:00 p.m. > PRA Exemptions
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
The Public Records Act broadly applies to all public records. But the law also contains exemptions. When an exemption applies, specific information can be withheld from production to a requestor. Exemptions, however, are limited and narrowly construed. This session will explore some of the more common exemptions, including addressing how and when "privacy" concerns qualify under the law.

- **Greg Wong** – *Pacifica Law Group, Seattle*

4:00 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

What Every Lawyer Should Know About the Public Records Act

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 • #27121 WEB

REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the **registration page**. Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to Washington sales tax law.

If special accommodations are needed, please email **cle@wsba.org** or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ *Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.*

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#27121 WEB, attend via webcast, 12/9/26**

- ◯ $199 - Standard
- ◯ $174 - Administrative Law Section Members (discount applied at checkout)

Seminar Registration Transfers, Refunds and Cancellations

In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less $25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less $25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email cle@wsba.org with any requests or questions.

ONLINE > Go to **www.wsbacle.org** and enter **27121** in the search box. Payment by credit card.

PHONE > Call **800-945-9722** or **206-443-9722** with credit card and registration/order form in hand. Our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.