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# How "Open" are Open Meetings Laws?

Live Webinar October 28, 2015 • 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET



Save yourself and your organization from disciplinary action. Gain a complete understanding of open meeting laws.

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Open meetings laws are designed to ensure that the actions and deliberations in the operation of public business are conducted openly. Yet there are times when the government best protects the interests of the public and personal information of individuals by meeting outside of the public eye. Although the principle of open meetings is beyond question, open meetings laws can be difficult in application. This topic helps practitioners and government employees to identify when open meetings laws are applicable, and where open meetings may lawfully take place. Also review common reasons for holding closed meetings. Without an understanding of the nuances of open meeting laws, government employees and legal practitioners risk bad media publicity or possibly could face penalties or disciplinary action. This topic is critical for government employees and practitioners of state and local government law in order for them to implement open meetings laws effectively.

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## Agenda

### Who Is Subject to Open Meetings Laws (OML)?

- Governmental Bodies
- Private Bodies and Increasing Privatization of Government Functions

### What Is a Meeting?

- Types of Meetings
- Number Needed to Convene a Meeting
- Purpose of Convening the Meeting
- Technology and Meetings

### Meeting Place: Notice, Location, Size, Recordings

- Notice
- Location and Size
- Recordings or Broadcasts

### Exceptions to OML: Closed Meetings

- Mandatory or Discretionary Nature?
- Purpose and Notice
- Action Allowed?
- Minutes for Closed Meetings

### Public's Right to Speak

- Mandatory, Permissive, or Silent
- Government-Sponsored Forum and the First Amendment

### Violations of OML

- Enforcement
- Disciplinary Actions
- Cures
- Penalties
- Jail?
- Attorney Fees

## Faculty

### Maryam Judar

- Executive director and a community lawyer at the Citizen Advocacy Center in Elmhurst, Illinois
- Practices in the arena of sunshine laws, laws supporting public participation including the First Amendment, ballot access, campaign finance, redistricting, and civic education
- Publications include: 2010 Illinois Civic Health Index, National Conference on Citizenship; The Challenges to Ballot Access and the Challenges Therein, published in the DePaul Journal for Social Justice (2013); and The Goals of Democracy and Those of Economic Development: Bridging the Two While Valuing Public Participation, published in the Journal of the DuPage County Bar Association 2011)
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