

“Democracy dies behind closed doors”

The Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the “Sunshine Law”, hasn’t been updated since it went into effect in 1975. The advancement of new technologies has raised questions not envisioned when the Legislature adopted the measure three decades ago.

Sen. Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, is proposing to revamp the law, which regulates how governments hold public meetings. Weinberg said her proposals will “bring open public meetings into the 21st century and will make sure they are uniformly conducted across the state.”

This seminar will be a productive five hours for everyone interested in open government meetings and transparency. Panel discussions will feature legislators, government officials, attorneys and citizen activists and will cover advances in technology (use of cell phones, texting, e-mails, etc.) and current challenges to the enforcement of the law and the changes needed to bring New Jersey’s Open Public Meetings Act into the 21st century.

REGISTER TODAY!

SPACE IS LIMITED

Only \$10 per person
Includes lunch & parking.
(Free for NJ FOG members.)

Questions?

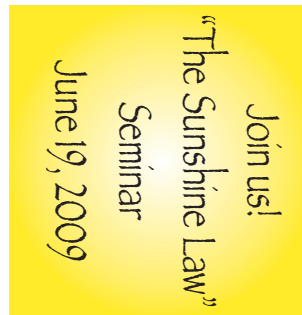
Contact NJ FOG at 908-418-5586

or

Email: info@njfog.org

NJ Foundation for Open Government

P.O. Box 32488, Newark, NJ 07102



NEW JERSEY FOUNDATION
FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT

P.O. Box 32488
Newark, NJ 07102



A seminar on New Jersey’s Open Public Meetings Act “The Sunshine Law”

Friday, June 19, 2009

9:00am - 2:15 pm

Rutgers Center
for Law and Justice
Newark, NJ

Who is this for?

Legislators, Citizen Activists,
Elected & Appointed
Local Officials, Attorneys,
Prosecutors, Judges,
Editors & Reporters

Sponsored by

New Jersey Foundation for Open Government.

*Funding for this program was provided by
the Rutgers School of Law-Newark*

Pratt Bequest Fund.

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New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act
"The Sunshine Law"**

Sponsored by New Jersey Foundation
for Open Government

June 19, 2009

Registration 9:15 am (Program begins 9:45 sharp)
concludes 2:15 pm

Rutgers Center for Law and Justice

Rutgers The State University of New Jersey: School of Law
123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ, Room 010

9:15 am: Registration

**9:45 am: Opening: Ron Miskoff,
President NJFOG**

10:00 – 10:30 am: Presentation:

Overview of the Sunshine Law in NJ

Presenter - Deborah Mohammed-Spigner, Ph.D -
Common Cause New Jersey

Dr. Spigner has written her dissertation on open government focusing on Connecticut and New Jersey's model of open government laws. She currently serves on the faculties of Rutgers, Newark and Kean University. She is part of the executive committee of the New Jersey Political Science Association that promotes open government and has chaired a panel on New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPRA) at NJPSA annual seminar at Eagleton, New Brunswick. Dr. Spigner serves on the boards of the Foundation for Open Government (NJFOG), Metuchen-Edison YMCA and Community Access Unlimited (CAU).

10:30 – 11:00 am:

**Bringing OPMA into the 21st Century -
Changing the law**

State Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen)
Key Sponsor of Bill S1548.

11:00 – 12:00 pm:

Legal and government representatives:

Discussion of challenges to enforcing the law and current challenges to open meetings not envisioned 30 years ago (use of cell phones, texting, e-mails etc.)

Moderator: Walter Luers, Esq., NJFOG Board Member
Panelists:

- William Kearns, Esq – General Council, League of Municipalities
- Bob Napoli, former council member Borough of Interlaken and plaintiff in Napoli v. Interlaken

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS Seminar - Friday, June 19, 2009
Rutgers The State University of New Jersey: School of Law
123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ, Room 10

Please register the following people for this seminar: Only \$10 per person – Lunch & parking included.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Number of People: _____ (\$10 per person)

Payment Options (check one): Visa MasterCard

(Make checks payable to New Jersey Foundation for Open Government)

Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Email: _____

Contract Phone: _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

American Express Check Enclosed

CV Code* _____ Exp. Date: _____

*Card Verification Value Code:

For Visa or MasterCard, the 3-digit number on the back of the card.

For American Express, the 4-digit number on the front of the card.

Fax this form to: Registration 908-709-9209

Mail: New Jersey Foundation for Open Government, P.O. Box 32488, Newark, NJ 07102. Email: info@njfog.org

- Peter Jost, President of the NJ Institute of Local Government Attorneys

12:00 – 1:00 pm:

Lunch will be served.

**1:15 – 2:15 pm: Open government
groups and activists:**

What are the implications of open meetings and open government to groups and individuals (anecdotes). Changes needed, enforcement mechanisms, costs of challenging government officials, etc.

Moderator: Walter Luers, Esq.,
NJFOG Board Member

Panelists:

- Thomas Cafferty, Esq. – Chair Media Law Group
- Bobby Conner, Esq. – American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
- Elizabeth Mason – Councilwoman
City of Hoboken, former president of NJFOG
- John Paff – Chairman, NJ Libertarian Party
Open Government Task Force

Directions:

Rutgers The State University of New Jersey:
School of Law

Rutgers School of Law–Newark is located in the Center for Law and Justice (CLJ) on the Newark campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Address 123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ
For driving and mass transportation directions please visit: <http://law.newark.rutgers.edu/about-school/visiting-us>

Parking directions:

Parking will be provided on Deck 1 located at 200 University Avenue. Please inform the attendant that you are attending the NJFOG seminar and will give him a coupon for payment on your departure. Signs in the garage will direct you to 123 Washington Street, the Seminar will be in Room 10.

