

# **Open Government Ombudsman**

- ◆ Ombudsman Position Created by Rob McKenna
- ◆ Provides Assistance to the Public and Agencies
  - Training on Compliance with the Public Records Act and Open Public Meetings Act
  - Provides Informal Advice Letters interpreting Laws
  - Advocates for Greater Transparency and Governmental Accountability
  - Promotes Legislative Reform & serves on the Sunshine Committee

Finally a government 'source' of assistance for getting help with difficult public requests for information and other questions regarding the open public meetings act such as concerns for violations of the act. Remember, when you write to them it is best not to ask specific answers to legal questions, but rather frame your questions as to what laws control and how do those laws are related to your questions and concerns.

The AG at any level or office always makes best efforts to dodge answering regular citizens questions if they are framed in seeking legal advice. I have not yet tried this service but assume this ombudsman program run by assistant attorneys' general will also dodge direct questions if you ask for any legal advice.

Our Washington State Attorney General's Office has now established an Open Government Ombudsman Office. Here is the service and contact information.

· **Washington State AG Open Government Ombudsman Function Page**  
<https://www.atg.wa.gov/open-government-ombuds-function>

**Washington State Attorney General  
Open Government Ombudsman Contact Form**  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactFormOmbuds.aspx>

You can contact the public records ombudsman by sending an email to [AGOOmbuds@atg.wa.gov](mailto:AGOOmbuds@atg.wa.gov) or by calling (360) 570-3418.

**National Freedom of Information Coalition Page**  
<https://www.nfoic.org/>