

Sun e-Briefs • August/September 2012

NCOGC News

SAVE THE DATE: The NCOGC fall workshop will run from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 at the Charlotte Observer. The workshop is FREE. More details about how to sign up and who will be presenting will be released in the coming days. We'll provide full event information at www.ncopengov.org when we have it.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Please follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ncopengov> and "like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sunshine-Center-of-North-Carolina-Open-Government-Coalition/10150100833975217>. We post open government news on Twitter as we receive it. Our Facebook page will be retooled and reconceived in the next couple of weeks.

NEW WEBSITE: If you haven't been to www.ncopengov.org recently, make a point to point your browser in that direction. We just redesigned the site to make it easier to navigate, particularly if you're a holder or seeker of public records. Take a look around and let us know what you think.

COMING SOON: We're working furiously to make NCOGC mobile phone apps available to both Android and iPhone users. When the apps are ready for download, you'll be the first to know.

Elon student heading to state Supreme Court

Nick Ochsner, a TV news reporter in Texas and a 2011 Elon University graduate, filed a lawsuit in 2010 against Elon University and North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, when Elon's campus police force refused to release the narrative portion of a police incident report. After a Durham County Superior Court judge ruled initially in 2011 that Elon had provided adequate information, Ochsner appealed to the state's Court of Appeals. The three-judge appellate panel unanimously sided with Elon and Cooper. But the state Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case.

Elon grad takes public record case to state Supreme Court (*Burlington Times-News*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961350>

N.C. Supreme Court agrees to review public records case brought forth by Elon alumnus (*Greensboro News & Record*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=960717>

Access to public records in North Carolina ranked among worst in country

A study by the State Integrity Investigation, which evaluates states' risk of corruption, gave North Carolina a failing grade when it comes to making public records widely accessible to its citizens. Here's a round up of the coverage:

N.C., S.C. flunk public records (*Charlotte Observer*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961351>

North Carolina trails in yet another metric (*John Locke Foundation*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961354>

It's dark – This state earns public-records access (*Fayetteville Observer*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961355>

Former UNC football coach's personal cell phone records ruled not public

North Carolina media argued that former UNC football coach Butch Davis's phone records, both for his personal phone and his personal cell phone, should be made public. A Superior Court judge handed down a mixed ruling. Here's a roundup of the coverage:

Are phone records public (*Smithfield Herald*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961356>

Davis' work-related call information not protected (*Durham Herald-Sun*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961490>

A mixed ruling on phone records (*Durham Herald-Sun*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961491>

Judge Manning's ruling: a missed opportunity (*Shelby Star*): <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961648>

Republicans, Democrats can agree on one thing: limited access to public records

Charlotte Observer: Politicians running for office often advocate for openness and transparency in government. But once they're in office, the tune typically changes.

Read more about politicians' relationship with openness: <http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961357>

County insurance carrier pays \$90K to settle claim

BlueRidgeNow.com: Henderson County's insurance carrier paid \$90,000 to settle a female deputy's claim against former sheriff Rick Davis. And the public won't know why or what happened.

Read more about the reasons why the public is left in the dark:
<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=961521>

Sun-e Briefs are a service of the Sunshine Center made possible through a grant from the Knight Foundation. This monthly news update will keep you in the open-government loop by bringing you news about access issues from across the state and updates on the Sunshine Center and North Carolina Open Government Coalition. Coming to you from Elon University, home of the Sunshine Center, we think you'll find **Sun-e Briefs** a valuable addition to your inbox. If you would like to contact us to let us know about a story or to remove your name from our list, please write ncopengov@elon.edu.

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