

# Sun-e Briefs • September 2010

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**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](mailto:ncopengov@elon.edu).

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## In this edition ...

- **Sunshine Center explores open government in Asheville**
  - **Elon Law symposium examines online transparency, secrecy**
  - **City settles public records suit over stimulus money**
  - **Local laws enhance ethics, limit access to e-mail addresses**
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## Sunshine Center in Action

### **West Carolina workshop to explore new laws, regional issues, public records audit**

- The free public workshop will be held Oct. 14 at UNC-Asheville

New laws in North Carolina promise increased transparency and more effective means to settle public records disputes, including mediation and financial incentives. The Sunshine Center will explore these new laws and more with its regional workshop 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in Karpen Hall 038 at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The event is free and for a wide audience, including the general public, media, public servants, civic organizations, legal professionals, students, educators — anyone with a stake in open government.

The workshop begins with an overview of the N.C. Government Ethics and Campaign Reform Act of 2010, which provides for increased transparency in state personnel records and includes other significant sunshine statutes. The second session explores best practices for public records requests among city and town clerks in the region. And in the final segment, Campbell University professors present their findings from a public records audit.

Register now by sending an e-mail titled "Workshop Registration" to [ncopengov@elon.edu](mailto:ncopengov@elon.edu). In your e-mail, please include your:

1. Full name
2. Mailing address
3. Phone number
4. Affiliation (name of business, organization, government agency, university, etc.)

For a detailed schedule of the sessions, please see:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947990>

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## **Coalition News**

### **Elon University Law School to hold symposium on transparency, secrecy and the 'Net**

- Intellectual property experts to gather in Greensboro

Several of the nation's top scholars in Intellectual Property law, technology, and the Internet will gather Oct. 29 at Elon University School of Law to explore how the 'Net impacts public access to information and how society balances the desire for increased access to information with the need for secrecy, privacy, and control. The event will be held 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in room 207 at Elon Law in Greensboro. There is no admission cost for this event. To attend, please contact the Symposium Editor of the Elon Law Review at [lawreviewsymposium@elon.edu](mailto:lawreviewsymposium@elon.edu). For more details on the symposium, please see:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947779>

### **NCOGC November Board meeting set, Sunshine Day planning underway**

- Statewide Sunshine Day slated for March 17, 2011

Planning is underway for Sunshine Day 2011 in North Carolina, which is set for March 17. The North Carolina Open Government Coalition Board of Directors will meet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 17 at Elon University to discuss details of the annual event and other coalition business. The NCOGC sets aside a day each year to celebrate and promote the benefits of open government statewide. Sunshine Day coincides with national Sunshine Week, March 13 through 19, 2011. For further information on Sunshine Week, see:

<http://www.sunshineweek.org>

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## **Access Update: News**

### **Wilson settles costly public records case over stimulus package**

The Wilson Times reports that the city of Wilson paid \$25,000 to settle a public records dispute arising over access to the city's application for federal stimulus money. See more on the newspaper's report at:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947790>

### **Apex adopts ethics policy promoting compliance with state sunshine laws**

According to The Cary News, in response to state legislation requiring municipal codes of ethics throughout the state, the city of Apex has adopted ethics rules requiring ethics training for new public servants and strict adherence to the state's Public Records and Open Meetings Laws. For more on the report by The Cary News, please see:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947805>

## **Morrisville makes moves to limit access to citizens' e-mail addresses**

The Morrisville Town Council is expected to vote this week on ways to limit access to the e-mail addresses of the town's citizens, reports The Cary News. The fact that these public records can be used for commercial purposes has made local governments wary about easy access. Follow this link for more on the article in The Cary News:

<http://www.elon.edu/e-net/Note.aspx?id=947946>

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