

The Right to Know
A Guide to Public Access and Media Law
Second Edition

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Access to Meetings	7
Updated by Nikki Moore	
Part I: Overview	8
Part II: Local Government – The Ralph M. Brown Act	9
Part III: State Government – The Bagley-Keene Act	49
Part IV: Other State Open Meeting Laws	56
Part V: Federal Government Meetings	60
Part VI: Private Organizations and Associations	62
Chapter 2: Access to Public Records	64
Updated by Karl Olson, Aaron Field and Tenaya Rodewald	
Part I: Overview of the Law	64
Part II: The California Public Records Act	65
Part III: Proposition 59	101
Part IV: Legislative Open Records Act	102
Part V: The Federal Freedom of Information Act	105
Chapter 3: Proposition 59: A Constitutional Right of Access	115
Updated by Nikki Moore and Thomas R. Burke	
Part I: Introduction	115
Part II: Main Provisions of the Sunshine Amendment	115
Part III: Impact of the Sunshine Amendment	117
Part IV: Conclusion	119
Chapter 4: Government Treatment of the Media: Discrimination and Accreditation	120
Updated by Kevin Vick	
Part I: Introduction	120
Part II: Discrimination Among News Outlets or Reporters	121
Part III: Media Accreditation	127
Chapter 5: Public Access to Criminal Court Proceedings	132
Updated by Duffy Carolan	
Part I: Introduction	132
Part II: Defining the Constitutional Standard	134

Part III: Closure Rationales – The First and the Sixth Amendments	137
Part IV: Access to Bench Proceedings	138
Part V: Juvenile Court Proceedings – Limited Right of Access	138
Part VI: Access to Military Proceedings	144
Part VII: How to Protect Your Right to Access Court Proceedings	146
Chapter 6: Gag Orders and Prior Restraints	148
Updated by Jean-Paul (JP) Jassy	
Part I: Gag Orders – Limiting Discussion and Coverage of Court Cases	148
Part II: Prior Restraints	154
Chapter 7: Public Access to Civil Court Proceedings	161
Updated by Roger Myers	
Part I: Introduction	161
Part II: Right of Access	162
Part III: Access to Particular Kinds of Proceedings	163
Part IV: Access to Mediations, Arbitrations, and Proceedings By Privately Paid Temporary Judges.....	167
Part V: Camera Access to Court Proceedings	168
Chapter 8: Access to Jurors and Jury Information	172
Updated by Duffy Carolan	
Part I: Access to Jury Selection	172
Part II: Access to Juror Questionnaires	175
Part III: Access to Transcripts of Jury Selection	177
Part IV: Access to Juror Names and Anonymous Juries	177
Part V: Access to Jurors During Trial	181
Part VI: Photographing and Sketching Jurors During Trial	182
Part VII: Access to Jurors After Trial	183
Part VIII: Access to Grand Juries	184
Chapter 9: The California Shield Law and the Reporter’s Privilege	189
Updated by Thomas R. Burke	
Part I: Introduction	189
Part II: The California Shield Law	190
Part III: Protection Under Federal Law – The Reporter’s Privilege	199
Part IV: Protection From Search Warrants	208
Chapter 10: Access to Judicial Records	211
Updated by Roger Myers	
Part I: General Rules of Access	211

Part II: Records of Criminal Proceedings	213
Part III: Civil Case Records	218
Part IV: Statutory Confidentiality	224
Part V: Records of Court Administration	229
Chapter 11: Access to Public and Private Areas and to Government	
Officials	231
Updated by Dan Laidman	
Part I: Introduction	231
Part II: Access to Disaster Sites, Crime Scenes and Military Areas	232
Part III: Public School Grounds	236
Part IV: State Prisons, Jails and Parole Board Hearings	239
Part V: Private Property	241
Part VI: Access to Government Officials	245
Chapter 12: Legal Perils in Newsgathering	237
Updated by Nikki Moore	
Part I: Introduction	247
Part II: Confidential Information and Documents	247
Part III: Legal Limits on Newsgathering	250
Part IV: Special Considerations for Electronic Newsgathering	260
Chapter 13: The Student Press and Student Speech	272
Updated by James W. Ewert	
Part I: Constitutional Background	272
Part II: California Laws Regarding Student Press and Speech	278
Part III: Underground Student Newspapers and Other Materials	282
Part IV: Regulation of Student Speech by Private Schools	283
Part V: Mass Theft of Student Publications	284
Appendix A: California Public Records Act Request Sample Letter	285
Appendix B: Brown Act Cure and Correct Sample Letter	287
Appendix C: California Public Records Act Request Sample Letter: Police Personnel Record	289
Appendix D: California Public Records Act Request Sample Letter: Recordings of Critical Incidents	291
Appendix E: Sample Freedom of Information Act Request Letter	293
Appendix F: Sample Freedom of Information Act Appeal Letter	294
Appendix G: Biographies of Authors and Editors	295