



**pennsylvania**  
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS  
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*September 3, 2015*

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# **2015: Record Level of Appeals**

## **Top 5 months:**

- Aug. 2015 – **344 appeals** filed
- June 2015 – 313
- July 2015 – 261
- Sept. 2013 – 244
- April 2015 – 241

## 2015: Requests to the OOR

OOR has received 674 RTK requests in 2015.

- 90% of requests (*not appeals*) are misdirected
- 247 filed by citizens
- 191 filed by companies
- 147 filed by inmates
- OOR directs the requesters to the appropriate agency whenever possible

# Photographing Public Records

On Aug. 14, OOR held (*Muenz v. Twp of Reserve*) that requesters can photograph public records which they asked to inspect.

- Good for requesters and agencies
- Saves requesters money
- Saves agencies time and money

# **MVRs: Dashcams & Bodycams**

In July, Commonwealth Court found (*PSP v. Grove*) that “video recordings of interaction between law enforcement officers and members of the public in a public place” are public records under the RTKL.

Senior Judge Colins: “MVRs are at the core [of] the RTKL’s purpose of enabling the public to ‘scrutinize the actions of public officials, and make public officials accountable for their actions.’”

# **Supreme Court: PSEA Case**

This case deals with home addresses of agency employees, specifically school employees.

- Court has not scheduled hearing date
- No constitutional right to privacy for home addresses; however...
  - What due process rights do employees have?
  - How about non-employees?

# **Expanding OOR Outreach**

## **Training:**

- 42 training sessions held or scheduled in 2015
- Training most often for agencies, but has been and can be for requesters
- George Spiess, Chief of Training & Outreach

# **Expanding OOR Outreach**

## **Blog:**

- Writing regularly on RTKL & transparency issues:  
<http://openrecordspa.wordpress.com>
- Court decisions
- OOR decisions
- OOR statistics
- RTKL tips

# **Expanding OOR Outreach**

## **Podcast:**

- Open Records in Pennsylvania podcast on iTunes & also at the blog:  
<http://openrecordspa.wordpress.com>
- Ep. 1: Common RTKL questions & mistakes
- Ep. 2: Interview w/ Senator Pileggi
- Eps. 3 & 4: Tips for requesters / agencies

# **Other Initiatives**

## **Regulations:**

- OOR has authority to promulgate regulations governing its process; has not yet done so

## **Mediation:**

- Can be a tremendous tool to reduce litigation

## **Hearings:**

- Time-consuming, but more would be helpful

# **Senate Bill 411**

## **Status:**

- Approved by Senate State Gov't Cmte
- Must go to Approps Cmte, then full Senate

## **Process:**

- Sen. Pileggi meeting with interested people
- Asked me to continue working with him
- Likely to be more amendments
- Numerous discussions with PNA



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**THANK YOU**

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