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Newsroom: Field on Public Records Access

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Field on Public Records Access

RWU Law Board of Directors member Michael Field, head of the attorney general’s Open Government Unit, addresses confusion over transparency law.

From the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: “Access to public records narrows: Confusion over open-records law, in many cases, means less information is released” by Tracy Breton, Jornal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE, June 16, 2013 — Last September, at least on paper, Rhode Island was supposed to become a more transparent state.

Before adjourning in 2012, the General Assembly overhauled the state’s Access to Public Records Act (APRA), making revisions that [RWU Law Board of Directors member] Michael W. Field, the head of the attorney general’s Open Government Unit, said were “intended to open up new records.”

But there seems to be confusion over the interpretation of the law among police departments and state agencies, which in many instances are releasing less rather than more information. [...]