
LETTER TO DAVID PITCHER, PUBLIC RECORDS COUNSEL, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO David Pitcher, Public Records Counsel, Oregon Department of Justice

CC Benjamin Gutman, Deputy Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice; Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission; Governor Tina Kotek; Phyllis Nelson, Oregon Department of Justice; Shevaun M. Gutridge, Public Records Coordinator, Oregon Department of Justice; Todd Albert, Public Records Advocate

FROM Robert Samuel White, P.O. Box 334, Reedsport, Oregon 97467

DATE October 16, 2026

RE Your role and your function

TESTIMONY [v1.11](#)

AI DISCLOSURE [How this record is made.](#)

Mr. Pitcher,

I have read everything you have put your name to in my matter, and the one thing you did not.

Your title is Public Records Counsel. The man who holds it is trusted to tell Oregon the truth about its records law, to apply that law to his own department as he would to any other, and to put his name to what he decides. You were a criminal prosecutor for eleven years and handled the Washington County District Attorney's public records for five. You were introduced to the Oregon Sunshine Committee as the Department of Justice's counsel on records.¹ At the Attorney General's Public Law Conference, you are the one at the front of the room teaching Oregon's public bodies how to answer a records request.²

Those three trusts are the whole of the role.

You were trusted to tell Oregon the truth about its records law. On October 15, 2026, you told it that the file your department keeps on a citizen's letters to his government is his private interest.⁵

You were trusted to apply that law to your own department as you would to any other. You answered for the Attorney General's orders on a citizen's petitions against other agencies, and then priced your own department's file on him at \$599.^{3, 4, 5}

You were trusted to put your name to what you decide. Your explanations carry your name, with no title beneath it.^{3, 4} Your denial of my fee waiver on October 15, 2026 carries no name at all.⁵ The orders went out over another man's signature, with the initials "DEP:pjn" at the foot.^{6, 7} The more a document decides, the less of you is on it.

The archive of this matter keeps a page for every official who acted in it, with two lines beside each name: the role the title promises, and the function the record shows. Yours is there, and the second line reads: "Guards his department's file on the volunteer from both sides of the records law."⁸

If either line is wrong, you are the one person in this matter who can correct it, in a letter you sign.

Respectfully,

Robert Samuel White

Sources

1. [Oregon Sunshine Committee, minutes of January 15, 2025](#). The guest list and the third agenda item.
2. [Attorney General's Public Law Conference, Oregon Department of Justice](#). "Introduction to Public Records Law and Processing Public Records Requests."
3. [Email from David Pitcher, Oregon Department of Justice, July 30, 2026](#).
4. [Email from David Pitcher, Oregon Department of Justice, October 9, 2026](#).
5. [Email from David Pitcher, Oregon Department of Justice, October 15, 2026](#).
6. [Attorney General order, DOJ File No. 257001-GA0140-26, July 29, 2026](#).
7. [Attorney General order on the second petition, October 1, 2026](#).
8. [Key Individuals: Public Records Counsel](#).