



February 26, 2013

Melissa Bevan Melewsky, Esq. (via mail and e-mail)  
Media Law Counsel  
Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association  
3899 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

**Re: Advisory Opinion Request regarding the allegations of the  
unauthorized practice of law by a reporter**

Dear Attorney Melewsky:

Thank you for writing to the Office of Open Records (“OOR”) with your February 20, 2013 request for an Advisory Opinion pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.*, (“RTKL”).

You asked the OOR to advise as to whether “non-lawyer news organization employees (journalists) conducting appeals on their own behalf and on behalf of their employers ... constitutes the unauthorized practice of law before the Office of Open Records.” You also mentioned that this question has arisen in the context of a case currently pending before the OOR: *Spatz v. City of Reading Charter Board*, OOR Dkt. AP 2013-0210.

Please be advised that the OOR has decided not to grant this request for an Advisory Opinion. We are declining to accept this request because the question is currently before the OOR in the *Spatz* case and an Advisory Opinion would be moot. However, the OOR welcomes your input and legal analysis on this important matter. Thus, to the extent that the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association would like to offer input and analysis on the issue in *Spatz*, you may seek leave to do so by contacting Appeals Officer Angela Eveler pursuant to 65 P.S. § 67.1101(c).

Please be advised that given the extraordinarily tight time frames involved, if you wish to participate please contact the Appeals Officer immediately. Please be sure to copy all parties.

Thank you for your inquiry. We will reflect this response on the OOR website.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Mutchler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "M".

Terry Mutchler  
Executive Director

cc: Eric Smith, Esq. (via mail and e-mail)