NorthJersev.com



Opinion: With 'sunshine' come a few burns

AUGUST 24, 2014 LAST UPDATED: SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2014, 1:21 AM

BY PAINFUL LESSONS LEARNED AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS SINCE PASSAGE OF OPRA

THE RECORD

They've argued also that the government holds the upper hand even when it complies with an OPRA request because it can redact whatever it chooses.

As Governor Christie's public and political profile has risen and his schedule of out-of-state travel on speaking engagements, fundraising events, conferences and the like has become heavier, there has been a proportionate spike in media interest, primarily in the cost of such travels and who paid for them.

The state Attorney General's Office has also become more aggressive in litigating the records requests, seeking to convince a judge that a denial was proper and in compliance with existing law.

The tug of war between the media and government over the release of information is, of course, nothing new or peculiar to the Christie administration. It's always existed, a natural outgrowth of a government that, of necessity, engages in a fair amount of business in confidence —and properly so —and news organizations whose commitment is to provide readers, viewers, taxpayers and voters with insight into the actions of their elected leaders and the motives behind them.

Seeking transparency

The word "transparency" became a fad term in public life a few years ago and has been consistent