

# Washington Coalition for Open Government

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2015 Kenneth F. Bunting award recipients, Lewis Kamb and James Neff – accepting on behalf of the Loaded with Lead reporters of The Seattle Times with WCOG President Toby Nixon and Juli Bunting, WCOG Communications Consultant.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kenneth F. Bunting Award Entries Now Being Accepted**

The Washington Coalition for Open Government is now accepting submissions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kenneth F. Bunting Award in journalism. Named for the late Seattle Post-Intelligencer Associate Publisher and WCOG Founding Board member, Ken Bunting, the award honors exceptional journalism that supports and demonstrates the importance of open government and transparency.

A team of reporters with The Seattle Times received the first annual Bunting award last year for their work on “Loaded with Lead”, a series which made extensive use of

the state's public records act to expose the fact that high levels of lead exist at gun ranges in the state and elsewhere. It was among several submissions of excellent journalism that were about or made use of the state's open meetings/public records laws in order to provide the public with information on everything ranging from an outbreak of infection at a local hospital to extensive coverage of transparency issues at the Seattle Police Department.

There are many ways for journalism to support and demonstrate the importance of open government laws, including; stories that could not have been written without use of the Public Records Act, Open Public Meetings Act or other open government laws, stories that expressly mention the use of the state transparency laws, stories about how government openness serves the public interest, stories that aggressively use open government laws to gain access to public records and meetings, stories about government withholding information the public has a right to, stories that demonstrate persistence, stories on legal action or journalists who pursue legal action against government agencies that try to withhold public information, or commentary about the importance of open government.

Entries may come from anywhere, but in order to be eligible, the work submitted must be substantially about Washington State and published during the time period of June 1, 2015 to June 1, 2016. The award can go to either the journalist(s) or organization, but preferably to named individual(s). Entrants can download the [Bunting Award Nomination Form](#) at [www.washingtocolg.org](http://www.washingtocolg.org). Along with your nomination, please submit a few pieces of journalistic work that you believe best demonstrate the importance of open government laws. The deadline for submissions is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Entries will be judged by legal experts and media professionals who sit on the WCOG Board of Directors. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kenneth F. Bunting Award will be presented in the fall at WCOG Annual Madison Andersen Awards Breakfast.

Please take a look at our [Call for Submissions](#) as well.