

Laura Prather in The Texas Tribune: ‘Texas Agencies Resist Releasing Public Records that Could Help Clarify Response to Uvalde School Shooting’

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PRACTICES Intellectual Property, Intellectual Property Litigation, Media and Entertainment Litigation

[Laura Prather](#), partner and head of Haynes Boone’s Media Law practice group, was quoted in an article in *The Texas Tribune* titled “Texas Agencies Resist Releasing Public Records that Could Help Clarify Response to Uvalde School Shooting.” Read an excerpt below:

In the past week, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has joined the growing list of state and local officials fighting the release of records that could help bring clarity to how the emergency response unfolded during last month’s deadly shooting in Uvalde.

The governor’s office strayed from that broader opposition Monday, granting a request under the Texas Public Information Act from a Houston television station that sought the handwritten notes he used when he first spoke publicly about the shooting. The notes appear to support Abbott’s claim that he was misled when he initially praised law enforcement efforts during the mass shooting that resulted in the deaths of 19 children and two educators and left many more injured. ...

Laura Prather, a First Amendment attorney in Texas, said the reason the state allows agencies to withhold information when it is part of an ongoing investigation is to protect someone who was accused of a crime but didn’t ultimately get convicted, “not to protect law enforcement for their actions in circumstances like this, where the shooter is dead.”

“The public has the right to know what happened that day, and right now they can only act on rumors and conflicting information,” said Prather, who is representing ProPublica in an unrelated defamation lawsuit. She said law enforcement must be transparent in order to earn the public’s trust, but agencies are instead using their discretionary powers “to thwart the public from getting information that they are rightly entitled to.”

To read the full article from *The Texas Tribune*, click [here](#).