



1           **1.2** Between February and May 2025, Jefferson Healthcare CEO Mike Glenn and  
2 Board Chair Jill Buhler-Rienstra convened and facilitated multiple meetings, executive sessions,  
3 and serial communications among a quorum of commissioners without proper public notice,  
4 agenda posting, or lawful statutory exemption.

5           **1.3** Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, statutory penalties against the  
6 governing-body members, and such further equitable remedies as may be just.

## 7 **II. PARTIES AND JURISDICTION**

8           **2.1** Plaintiff Arthur West is “any person” within the meaning of RCW 42.30.130, and  
9 resides in Olympia, Washington.

10           **2.2** Defendant Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 (“Jefferson Healthcare”) is a public hospital district and “public agency” under RCW 42.30.020(1)(a).

11           **2.3** Defendants Jill Buhler-Rienstra, Kees Kolff, Bruce MacFarlane, Teresa Bradley,  
12 and Thomas O’Brien are elected commissioners and members of the governing body of Jefferson  
13 Healthcare, subject to RCW 42.30.

14           **2.4** Defendant Mike Glenn is the appointed Chief Executive Officer of Jefferson  
15 Healthcare. He is not a member of the governing body but is named as a non-member participant  
16 who knowingly facilitated or directed acts violating the OPMA. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and  
17 injunctive relief against him under RCW 42.30.050 and .060 but does not seek personal penalties  
18 under RCW 42.30.120.

19           **2.5** Jurisdiction and venue are proper in Jefferson County Superior Court under RCW  
20 4.12.025 and RCW 42.30.120.

## 21 **III. ALLEGATIONS**

22           **3.1** On or about February 5 2025, Jefferson Healthcare commissioners met in executive  
23 session to discuss the Peninsula Health Alliance proposal. No valid exemption under RCW  
24 42.30.110 applied, as no pending litigation, specific threatened litigation, or real-estate  
25 transaction existed.

26           **3.2** March 26 2025 Board Meeting (“Project Driftwood”)— During this meeting,  
Commissioner Matt Ready attempted to raise concerns regarding undisclosed negotiations with  
OMC. Chair Buhler-Rienstra silenced discussion and adjourned into executive session under

1 purported “legal advice” grounds. Emails later disclosed show that drafts of the merger proposal  
2 were circulated privately among a subset of commissioners and Jefferson Healthcare’s counsel  
3 Brad Berg.

4 **3.3 April 2025 Serial Meetings** — After Ready’s objections, CEO Glenn and Chair  
5 Buhler-Rienstra arranged one-on-one, unrecorded telephone meetings between consultant Karma  
6 Bass and each commissioner regarding the merger. These meetings were un-noticed,  
7 undocumented, and occurred outside public view. Such “hub-and-spoke” communications  
8 constitute unlawful serial meetings under *Wood v. Battle Ground Sch. Dist. No. 119*, 107 Wn.  
9 App. 550 (2001) and *Egan v. City of Seattle*, 173 Wn. App. 492 (2013).

10 **3.4 May 23 2025 Meetings with Legal Counsel** — An executive assistant, acting under  
11 CEO Glenn’s direction, scheduled private one-hour meetings between each commissioner and  
12 attorneys from Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC concerning the alliance. These separate, sequential  
13 interviews again constituted a prohibited serial meeting.

14 **3.5 Non-Disclosure Agreement**— Commissioners and staff represented to the public  
15 that discussions were bound by an NDA that was never approved or voted upon by the full  
16 board. Even fellow commissioners were denied access to the document. Use of such an NDA is  
17 incompatible with the fiduciary obligations of public officers and violates the public-access  
18 policy of RCW 42.30.010. Approval of the NDA by the Board appears to have been  
19 accomplished in violation of the OPMA.

20 **3.6 Independent Legal Opinion** — On May 23 2025, journalist Alison Arthur obtained  
21 an opinion from attorney Michele Earl-Hubbard of Allied Law Group, confirming that no  
22 exemption under RCW 42.30.110 authorized any executive session to discuss alliances or  
23 mergers. Her conclusion:

24 “No, the agency absolutely cannot legally use the ‘real estate’ or  
25 ‘potential litigation’ executive-session grounds to discuss creation of  
26 this new entity ... So no — they are breaking the law meeting in  
secret under either of those two exemptions.”

**3.7 Sheriff’s Investigation** — Detective Sergeant Derek Allen of the Jefferson County  
Sheriff’s Office investigated and reported:

1 “The actions likely violate the OPMA ... and may constitute official misconduct if intent is  
2 proven.” The report was transmitted to the Jefferson and Clallam County Sheriffs, the State  
Auditor, and the Washington Attorney General’s Office.

3 **3.8** Despite these findings, the board has neither rescinded the NDA nor conducted any  
4 public review of the Peninsula Health Alliance plan. Instead, the same participants have  
5 continued to confer privately with counsel and consultants.

6 **3.9** By these acts and omissions, defendants knowingly violated the OPMA by holding  
7 meetings, deliberations, and executive sessions not permitted under statute and by taking  
8 “action” or “final action” outside lawful public meetings.

9 **IV. CAUSE OF ACTION —**  
10 **OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT**

11 **4.1** Defendants Buhler-Rienstra, Kolff, MacFarlane, Bradley, and O’Brien, as members  
12 of a governing body, knowingly attended meetings and took action in violation of RCW  
13 42.30.030 and .060.

14 **4.2** Defendant Jefferson Healthcare, as the governing body’s public agency, is liable for  
its agents’ conduct.

15 **4.3** Defendant Mike Glenn, although not a governing-body member, knowingly  
16 facilitated and directed these violations and is subject to injunctive and declaratory relief under  
17 RCW 42.30.050 and .060.

18 **4.4** Each unlawful meeting constitutes a separate violation. Plaintiff is entitled to  
19 penalties, fees, and equitable relief.

20 **V. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

21 Wherefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

22 **5.1** Declare that Jefferson County Public Hospital District No. 2 and its commissioners  
23 violated the OPMA by conducting unlawful serial and executive meetings concerning the  
24 Peninsula Health Alliance.

25 **5.2** Impose civil penalties of \$500 per commissioner for each knowing violation under  
26 RCW 42.30.120.

