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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Read All About the Latest Legal News!

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Read All About the Latest Legal
News!

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Read All About the Latest Legal News!

Keeping informed of emerging trends, late-breaking events and the most recent court decisions can be a daunting challenge. While attorneys have a duty to be well-informed about the state of the law, remaining current can be difficult.

While there will always be a need to research the details of specific issues that are presented in a client's case, there are techniques to keep yourself knowledgeable about most of what is going on in the legal world. Getting information in small doses, at regular intervals, can familiarize you with "what's out there," keeping you abreast of the changing terrain of legal information.

There are two ways to get new information: go out and get it, or have it delivered to you. This session will look at the second option. Automatic delivery saves time because you do not have to visit websites in search of the news you are looking for. It also ensures that information comes to you on a regular schedule; you don't have to remember to search the web.

I. Ways to Get Information Delivered

A. Email

Some people prefer to get their information as traditional emails. Emails can be directed to special folders using filters. The user can then browse the updates at his or her leisure.

B. RSS

RSS (“**R**eally **S**imple **S**yndication” or “**R**ich **S**ite **S**ummary”) allows you to designate multiple blogs and other information creators into a single reader. The reader visits each site to which you have subscribed, and signals you when new content is available. You will then have the option of reading the summary provided in the reader, or clicking through to the original source to get additional information.

A wide variety of readers are available, each offering its own styles and features, and are thus largely a matter of personal preference.

Popular readers include:

BLOGLINES (www.bloglines.com): Founded in 2003, and sold in 2005 to Ask.com. This is the one I use. According to this site, the key features include:

- All-in-one Blog and news feed search, online subscriptions, news reader, blog publishing and social sharing tools
- Available in 10 languages
- Mobile version optimized for handheld computers and cell phones

- Package Tracking (UPS, USPS & FedEx)
- Quick Pick Subscriptions get new users started quickly and easily
- Bookmarklet for single-click subscriptions to any source
- Notifiers for all browser types to remind you when new articles have arrived
- Bloglines Saved Searches deliver future articles matching your key words and phrases

GOOGLE READER (www.google.com/reader): Emerged from beta only in September 2007. Special features include:

- A front page that lets you see new items at a glance
- Allows sharing items with other users
- Keyboard shortcuts for main functions
- Choice between *list view* or *expanded view* for item viewing (showing either just the story title or with a description, respectively)
- Automatic marking of items as read as they are scroll past (expanded view only)
- Search in all feeds, across all updates from subscriptions

FEEDDEMON (<http://www.newsgator.com/Individuals/FeedDemon>):

While many readers such as Bloglines and Google Reader are web-based—meaning you visit it much as you do any other website), some are PC-based. Formerly a fee-based application, the now-free FeedDemon works with Windows. This reader comes highly recommended by the LawTech Guru Blog (www.lawtechguru.com), and offers useful features such as:

- A “panic button” that signals you when the number of unread items in a folder has grown very large. The system will give you the option of marking all or part of the backlog as read
- Offline reading support, including redesigned “prefetching” of feeds to allow reading without being logged on, which can be convenient when traveling

A comprehensive listing of available readers can be found at

<http://www.newsonfeeds.com/faq/aggregators>.

II. Ways to Identify Information to be Delivered

You have your email account and an RSS reader. Now you want to find resources to direct to your inboxes. Where to look? The next section suggests some likely specific sites that legal specialists are likely to find interesting. This section takes a more general approach, giving hints about wants to plumb the universe of what is “out there.”

BLAWG (www.blawg.com): Blawg has been tracking legal blogs, podcasts, and newsfeeds since 2002. It current is tracking over eleven hundred active blogs. It conveniently groups these by useful subject areas, making it very easy to find just the resource you would like to follow.

BLOGCATALOG (<http://www.blogcatalog.com/directory/law-legal>):

Currently listing 715 blogs in its legal category, this listing is notable for giving the viewer a snapshot of the blog itself, as well as including a significant number of non-English language offerings.

III. Popular Legal News Sources

A. Email Only

FEDERAL REGISTER TABLE OF CONTENTS

(<http://listserv.access.gpo.gov/archives/fedregtoc-l.html>): this page allows you to register for an email alert that will deliver each day's table of contents directly to your inbox. Follow the links to subscribe to the [FEDREGTOC-L](#) listserv.

GOVTRACK (<http://www.govtrack.us/users/register.xpd>): GovTrack follows the status of legislation and the activities of your senators and representatives. After free registration, the user can sign up for email alerts that notify about changes in legislation of interest. For these alerts it draws its information from THOMAS and other official sites, such as the Senate and House homepages.

INTERNATIONAL LAW IN BRIEF

(<http://www.asil.org/ilib/ilibarch.htm>): Offers “Developments in international law, prepared by the Attorney-Editors of International Legal Materials, a core publication of The American Society of International Law.” Subscription link: <http://www.asil.org/resources/e-newsletters.html#lawinbrief>

LEGAL RESEARCH NETWORK [LSN/SSRN]

(www.ssrn.com): SSRN (Social Science Research Network) allows for rapid dissemination of new scholarship. These emails are free after

registration with the service. Of the over 200 alerts distributed by SSRN, only some of the subject matter journals are fee-based while those published by the law schools are all free after registration.

LEXOLOGY

(www.lexology.com): “an innovative, web-based service that provides company law departments and law firms with a depth of free practical know-how that would be impossible to produce internally. By collaborating with the world's leading commercial law firms, Lexology is able to deliver bespoke intelligence to the desktops of business lawyers worldwide on a daily basis.”

B. RSS Only

ROBERT AMBROGLI’S LAW SITES

(<http://www.legaline.com/lawsites.html>): “Tracking new and intriguing Web sites for the legal profession.” Robert Ambrogli is a Massachusetts lawyer, writer and media consultant. He is author of the book, THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE BEST (AND WORST) LEGAL SITES ON THE WEB. He also writes the blog Media Law, co-writes Legal Blog Watch and cohosts the legal affairs podcast Lawyer2Lawyer.

SCOTUSBLOG

(<http://www.scotusblog.com>): Unquestionably the premiere resource for up-to-the minute news from the U.S. Supreme Court. Sponsored by the law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld.

C. Both Email and RSS Available

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

(<https://www.ajc.com/>; Email registration: <http://tinyurl.com/2l58dn>): A user can subscribe to a wide variety of straight newsfeeds such as this one from the local area. Other sources include CNN (www.CNN.com) and Reuters (www.reuters.com).

BESPACIFIC

(<http://www.bespacific.com>): “beSpacific provides daily law and technology news with links to reliable primary and secondary sources on topics including: e-government, privacy, government documents, cybercrime and ID theft, the Patriot Act, freedom of information, federal legislation, legal research, KM, blogs, RSS and wikis.” Winner of the 2006 AALL/West Excellence in Marketing Award for *Best Use of Technology*.

INSIGHTS

(<http://www.asil.org/insights.htm>): ASIL *Insights* provide decision makers, the general public, and members of the legal profession around the world with brief, balanced accounts and analyses of significant legal developments and newsworthy events involving international law. Topics addressed by ASIL *Insights* may include but are not limited to the following: Development and International Law, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Institutions, International Security,

Science and Technology, Trade and Investment, and Transnational Litigation and Arbitration.

INSITE

(<http://library2.lawschool.cornell.edu/insiteasp/default.asp>): “a current awareness service of [Cornell Law Library](#), InSITE highlights selected law-related World Wide Web sites in two ways: as an annotated publication issued electronically and in print; and as a keyword-searchable database.”

INTER ALIA

(<http://www.inter-alia.net/>): An “Internet Legal Research Weekly newsletter that delivers relevant and timely legal research information, and other fun stuff, to your inbox every Sunday.” Highlights a “Blawg” of the day, which can be a convenient way to identify and sample new services in your specialty.

INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL MONITOR

(<http://www.judicialmonitor.org/current/>): Published by ASIL, the Monitor is an “international law resource for judiciaries, justice sector professionals, and the rule of law community around the world.”

JURIST

(<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/email.php>): “JURIST is the world's only law school-based comprehensive legal news and research service. Its professionally-trained staff of law faculty and law students report and research the latest legal developments in real time for members of the

legal community and the public at large. JURIST covers legal news stories based on their substantive importance rather than on their mass-market or commercial appeal. It's entirely non-commercial and ad-free.”

LAW DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

(http://lawdepartmentmanagement.typepad.com/law_department_management/): Associated with ALM (publishers of *American Lawyer* and the *Fulton County Daily Report*), this blog “comments on every aspect of how best to manage a law department, including how to manage outside counsel. Begun in Feb. 2005 by the leading consultant to law departments—Rees Morrison—in November 2007 it had more than 2,700 posts on topics of interest to general counsel and other in-house lawyers who manage legal functions.”

LEGAL EASE

(http://legalease.blogs.com/legal_ease_blog): Consultant Allison Shields uses this blog to help “lawyers and law firm managers create more productive, profitable and enjoyable practices and prevent ‘Lawyer Meltdown.’” *Lawyer Meltdown* refers to her subscription newsletter dedicated to “preventing burnout & restoring sanity to lawyers and law firms.”

LLRX

(<http://www.llrx.com>): “the premier free, independent, one person produced Web journal dedicated to providing legal, library, IT/IS,

marketing and administrative professionals with the most up-to-date information on a wide range of Internet research and technology-related issues, applications, resources and tools. With more than 130,000 unique readers each month, LLRX is now in its 11th year of continuous publication, as a solo, independent enterprise.”

MYSHINGLE

(<http://www.myshingle.com>): Geared toward the solo practitioner, *MySingle* was “the first of the now dozen or so blogs by other solo and small firm lawyers who generously offer their wisdom on a range of issues like starting a firm, working from home, maximizing use of technology and share their own personal experience of the process of going solo.”

VIRTUAL CHASE

(<http://www.virtualchase.com>): “teaching legal professionals how to do legal research.” A service of the law firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll—one of the 100 largest firms in the country—*Virtual Chase* “offers articles, guides, teaching materials, an alert service and more on Internet research strategies and resources.”