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But Can You Dance to It?: A Greatest Hits Mixtape of Legal Websites

Wendy Moore
University of Georgia School of Law Library, wemoore@uga.edu

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A Greatest Hits Mix-tape of Legal Websites

Wendy E. Moore, M.S. in L.S.
Acquisitions Librarian
The University of Georgia School of Law
Law Library
Athens, GA
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Introduction

While searching the Internet often yields useful results, when conducting legal research, it is helpful to be knowledgeable of a pool of websites, which one can draw upon for fast and authoritative information. Just like a homemade mix-tape from a previous era, this paper contains a carefully selected group of websites that continue to stand the test of time. The 34 websites are grouped into the following categories: ‘Free Law,’ ‘Legal News,’ ‘Legal Practice Blogs,’ ‘Business Information,’ ‘Federal Government Information,’ and ‘One Hit Wonders.’ These websites are not a definitive list of the best legal websites available, but they a good starting place to help one stay informed about legal issues and make conducting legal research more effective.

The Sites

Free Law

A good mix-tape always has a few solid standards to get things rolling. There are several freely-available options for tracking down primary law and case law on the Internet. The following websites, offering various coverage levels, are probably the best resources for conducting legal research in statutes and case law at no charge. While these resources do not replace the use of commercial resources, such as Fastcase, Lexis, or Westlaw, these resources can be useful starting points to identify laws and cases of interest, saving the user time and money.
**Justia**

http://www.justia.com/

Run by the original co-founders of *FindLaw*, *Justia* is a legal information portal committed to making primary legal materials freely available for the benefit of society. They also partner with educational, public interest, and like-minded organizations to provide legal and consumer information to legal professionals and the public. The website has a simple directory style layout, with the two major sections divided into ‘Legal Practice Areas’ and ‘Legal Research & Law Practice.’ There are also free daily opinion newsletters one can sign-up for, documents for cases in the news, and access to Latin American law. *Justia* has a “Lawyer Directory” and a “Legal Answers” section that allows the public to ask lawyers questions for free. The website also maintains an excellent law blog directory called *BlawgSearch* <http://blawgsearch.justia.com/> which in addition to arranging legal blogs into categories and listing the most popular blogs it also has a directory of legal professionals on Twitter called *LegalBirds*.

**Public Library of Law - PLoL**

http://www.plol.org/

Created by *Fastcase*, the *Public Library of Law – PLoL* is a resource for searching freely available law on the Internet. It provides a searchable interface to a large collection of primary law at both the state and Federal levels. *PLoL* features cases from the U.S. Supreme Court (1754-present), U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal (generally 1951-present, with a few exceptions), and state cases (1997-present), as well as codes from all 50
states, regulations, court rules, and constitutions. Clicking on the ‘Advanced Options’ search allows one to limit by court and by date. There are also helpful video tutorials and guides to learn more about searching for cases and statutes on the site. PLoL requires registration and login before materials can be accessed, however they note that they never give registration information to third-parties. It also offers links to information on Fastcase which can be accessed through the State Bar of Georgia agreement with Fastcase.

**LII – Legal Information Institute**

http://www.law.cornell.edu/

*LII* is a legal information portal maintained by the *Legal Information Institute* at the Cornell Law School. The website is a collection of links to case law, statutes, state constitutions, as well as the entire Uniform Commercial Code, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Bankruptcy Procedure, and Evidence, and the American Legal Ethics Library. The ‘State Law Resources’ section is useful with state-by-state links to legislative and court resources, administrative codes, agency information, state bar associations, and ethics information. There is also their legal encyclopedia called Wex and a ‘Table of Popular Names’ which can be helpful. The *Legal Information Institute* is a non-profit and dedicated to the concept of free legal content on the web.

**FindLaw**

http://lp.findlaw.com/

*FindLaw for Legal Professionals* is a version of the FindLaw website
<http://www.findlaw.com/> designed for use by practicing attorneys. Searching for a case or browsing other legal research materials is easily accessed directly from the homepage. *FindLaw* offers case law from the U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal, as well as several state supreme courts. There are also news feeds, blog posts, expert witness information, legal forms, and career information in *FindLaw for Legal Professionals*.

**Google Scholar**


In addition to scholarly articles and patent information, *Google Scholar* offers an extensive database of state and federal cases. First select the ‘Legal documents’ button, then refine one's search by clicking on the ‘Select courts’ link, then input search terms or enter a citation into the search box. Advance Search options can be accessed by clicking on the downward-pointing arrow in the search box, which lets one search for a phrase, exclude certain terms, or limit by date. One can also narrow search results using the facets on the left side of the screen. For example, if one clicks on the ‘Select courts’ button in the facet list, one can limit the results to specific jurisdictions.

**Legal News**

It is important to stay in touch with news and developments in the wider legal community and beyond. There are so many news feeds and resources potentially to follow that reading news daily can take up too much time. The best approach is to
choose one or two legal news sources to monitor, using the platform one finds the easiest to use, such as Twitter, Facebook, email, or RSS feed. This section highlights several legal news resources, each of which is well-respected, but offers a slightly different focus and headlines.

Bloomberg

http://www.bloomberg.com/

Bloomberg.com offers news and market analysis from this major financial information service provider. Under their News section drop down at the top of the page, one can select the subject category for ‘Law’ to access current headlines concerning cases and litigation related to business. There is also an ‘Exclusive’ category containing news found only at Bloomberg.com, which is interesting to read when so much news available on the Internet is pulling from the same wire service stories. Their ‘Market Snapshot’ section at the very top of the website is a way to get current market information quickly in an easy to navigate interface. Under the ‘TV,’ ‘Video,’ and ‘Radio’ sections, there are links to Bloomberg schedules, live feeds, archived video, and podcasts. The affiliated BusinessWeek magazine <http://www.businessweek.com/> can be accessed from Bloomberg.com. One can also access an information webpage about Bloomberg Law <http://about.bloomberglaw.com/>, and find legal news headlines under the Bloomberg Law ‘News & Analysis’ tab, or follow Bloomberg Law on Twitter at @BloombergLaw. However one will need a premium account to get anything beyond the “Legal News,” “Law Reports,” “Podcasts,” and “Practitioner Contributions” sections they make freely available.
**Wall Street Journal Law Blog**

http://blogs.wsj.com/law

The *Wall Street Journal Law Blog* focuses on legal news about court decisions, trends, and people that are of interested to the business community. It is a good source for breaking news about big law firms and developments in business litigation. Written by *Wall Street Journal* reporters, only some of the posts can be read in their entirety for free. Posts marked with a “key” icon next to the title require a *Wall Street Journal* subscription to read. Even with this limitation there is still much information one can gain from following the *Law Blog* headlines.

**Jurist**

http://www.jurist.org/

*JURIST* is the only law school-based comprehensive legal news and research service. It is run by a mostly-volunteer team of over 30 part-time law student reporters, editors and web developers at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. *JURIST* covers legal news stories based on their substantive importance rather than on their mass-market or commercial appeal. It is an excellent source for both the latest legal information and for researching legal topics in its vast legal news archive. The news is divided into the following subheadings: ‘Paper Chase,’ ‘US Legal News,’ ‘World Legal News,’ ‘News Archive,’ and ‘This Day at Law’ which focuses on an event each day in legal history. Beyond the news sections, there is a ‘Commentary’ section with op-ed pieces written by law school faculty from around the country and a ‘Features’ section with in depth
coverage of important issues in the news. As with most legal news websites, in addition
RSS feeds, one can follow JURIST on Facebook, Twitter, or via email updates.

**ABA Journal**

http://abajournal.com/

*ABA Journal* is an excellent source for free legal news on the Internet. The homepage
contains the its featured stories, the latest headlines, topical news stories, in depth
articles, and links to the most read/commented/emailed stories. The *ABA Journal*
homepage provides links to its well-respected *ABA Journal Blawg Directory*
<http://www.abajournal.com/blawgs/>, including their annual feature on the top legal
blogs, the *Blawg 100*. Under the ‘Stay Connected’ section there are directions on
subscribing to the *ABA Journal* RSS/Facebook/Twitter feeds, their free email
newsletters, and even, for a fee, the monthly paper magazine version.

**Law.com**

http://www.law.com/

*Law.com* is produced by ALM, the publisher of *The American Lawyer, The National
Law Journal*, and *The Daily Report*. While some of the news content is limited to
subscribers (noted with a “key” icon), there are still a significant number of articles
freely available. Under the ‘Publications’ tab, one can select ‘Publication E-Alerts’ to
sign up for any of their 36 free email newsletter alerts, including *Law.com Newswire,
Legal Times Afternoon Update*, and *The Careerist*. 
Stateline
http://stateline.org/

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit daily news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts. An excellent source for state government and political news, Stateline has an easy to navigate, feature-rich website. One can view recent news stories gathered from newspapers, wire services, and from Stateline staff writers by selecting a specific state, browsing all states, or in one of 17 issue areas. Customized RSS feeds are available for individual states and issue areas as well. The "Special Features" section includes in-depth reporting on special topics plus a Legislative Review section that looks at state services, budgets, and legislation. Stateline content is published daily at Stateline.org and can be found on LexisNexis, Factiva, and news outlets served by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Legal Practice Blogs

The amount and variety of legal practice blogs can be overwhelming. Many people just give up, dismissing all of them as “noise” and a “waste of time.” However, to do so cuts one off from new ideas and developments. Legal blogs are the old practice print newsletter and water-cooler conversation all rolled into one. Selecting a few blogs, perhaps no more than 3-5, that fit one’s specific interests and then following them using one’s preferred information platform (such as, email notices, blog readers, RSS feeds, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) keeps the flow of information manageable. The following legal practice blogs are well-respected in their specific subject areas. Check out the ABA
Journal’s annual Blawg 100 <http://www.abajournal.com/blawg100> to locate more suggestions for highly regarded legal practice blogs to follow.

**Robert Ambrogi’s LawSites**

http://lawsitesblog.com/

Named in 2012 to the ABA Journal Blawg 100 ‘Hall of Fame,’ Robert Ambrogi’s LawSites is a blog that provides thoughtful, in-depth coverage of news, websites, technology, and social media related to legal practice and management. There are thorough reviews of apps, software, and e-tools for practice needs such as document management, research, billing, and cyber-security. New and redesigned legal research and practice management products are assessed in its detailed ‘LegalTech Report’ posts. Founded in 2002, the blog’s author Robert Ambrogi is well respected in the area of legal technology, having extensive experience in both the legal and publishing professions.

**Attorney at Work**

http://www.attorneyatwork.com/

Knowing that information overload can be a problem, Attorney at Work is a blog that promises “one really good idea every day” for practicing lawyers. Its writers draw upon their expertise in practice management for their original and insightful daily blog posts. The site covers practice management topics such as developing a client base, dealing with personnel issues, incorporating technology into legal practice, and achieving one’s goals while maintaining work-life balance. One can sign up to get their “Daily Dispatch” or “Weekly Wrap” sent directly to one’s email account, or one can follow the blog via
RSS, Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter.

**iPhone J.D.**


*iPhone J.D.* describes itself as a website for lawyers using Apple’s iPhone or iPad. Started in November 2008 and maintained by New Orleans attorney Jeff Richardson, the site is not affiliated with a firm, organization, or Apple itself. Every Friday there is an “In the news” post giving one a rundown of relevant news from the week pertaining to Apple devices. There are insightful reviews of iPad and iPhone related products and apps that a practicing attorney may find useful, including recent reviews of *Westlaw Next*, *Lexis Advance*, and *Fastcase* for the iPad. The site has a very useful “Index to Prior Posts” arranged by category making it easy to access from these alphabetical lists previous reviews of apps, hardware accessories, books, movies, websites, tips, practice stories, and “classic” posts (that may now be outdated). The site was voted the Best Legal Technology blog on the *ABA Journal Blawg 100* for 2010 and 2011 and came in second in the category in 2012.

**The Droid Lawyer**


As of December 2012, Android is the number one smartphone platform in the U.S., with 53.4% of subscribers, with Apple iOS in second at 36.3%. Created in February 2011 by Oklahoma City-based attorney Jeffrey Taylor, *The Droid Lawyer* offers tips and product reviews for lawyers using Android devices in their legal practice. There is a tab called
‘Apps for Lawyers’ at the top of the page that takes one to a web form to submit a favorite legal related app and a link to a list of Android apps specifically designed for attorneys, to use by attorneys. *The Droid Lawyer* was named to the 2012 *ABA Journal* *Blawg 100* in the Legal Technology category.

**PDF for Lawyers**


*PDF for Lawyers* blog focuses on issues surrounding the use of Adobe’s .pdf format in the practice of law. There is discussion about smartphone apps, security measures, relevant court cases, and new technological devices to help achieve the paperless office. Lately the blog has been documenting the user interface issues with Acrobat. *PDF for Lawyers* is maintained by practicing attorney, Ernest Svenson, who also produces the blog *Ernie the Attorney* <http://www.ernietheattorney.net/> and posts to Twitter @pdflawyer.

**My Shingle**


*My Shingle* is authored by Carolyn Elefant, an attorney in the Washington, D.C. area. She provides a voice for the solo practitioner in a profession that she sees as being too focused in terms of costs, ethical obligations, and practice management on lawyers in large firms. Posting a couple of times per week, her blog posts draw from her own experiences, ideas, and opinions. The blog is easy to navigate, with tabs across the top containing links to posts arranged by topic, an online guide on starting a law firm under
‘Resources,’ as well as a list of guides and tips from other authoritative legal resources on the web. *My Shingle* in 2012 was named to the *ABA Journal Blawg 100* ‘Hall of Fame.’

**Virtual Law Practice**

http://virtuallawpractice.org/

Can legal services be provided in a professional and ethical way from a web-based virtual law office? North Carolina-based practitioner Stephanie Kimbro does just that and uses her blog, *Virtual Law Practice*, to share her experiences with the issues surrounding lawyering without a brick and mortar office. This blog is an excellent source for articles and other information sources about virtual lawyering gathered from many websites. There are also links to downloadable ebooks and presentations by the author, including her latest free ebook, *Consumer Law Revolution: The Lawyer’s Guide to Working with Online Marketing Tools*. The ‘Topics’ section has a useful subject list making it easy for one to access information on a specific topic. The ‘Law & Tech Blogs’ section offers links to a few key blogs that might be of interest on the topic of how technology is changing legal practice. *Virtual Law Practice* was named to the 2011 *ABA Journal Blawg 100*.

**Business Information**

Knowing a handful of business information websites can be helpful when trying to research more about a business or individual on behalf of a client. These are reliable
web resources, although no information provider is without data holes, so read the coverage descriptions provided by these or any web-based database. These resources are from a mix of governmental, non-profit, and commercial providers.

**AnnualReports.com**


Claiming to have the most complete and up-to-date listing of annual reports on the Internet, *AnnualReports.com* is a database of annual reports gathered directly from participating companies. *AnnualReports.com* can be searched alphabetically, by company name, by ticker symbol, by sector, by industry, by exchange, and by index. Once a company is found, it can be viewed in either HTML or PDF format and, if available, a hardcopy can also be ordered through the website. The database is maintained by IR Solutions, which provides online corporate reporting and financial information under several different website services, which are linked to from *AnnualReports.com*.

**GuideStar**


Sometimes one needs information on a non-profit organization rather than a commercial company. *GuideStar* is a directory of non-profit organizations. *GuideStar’s* database includes information on all tax-exempt nonprofits registered with the IRS. Currently, there are more than 1.8 million organizations in the database. *GuideStar.org* itself is a non-profit, operating with the mission of providing information about the non-
profit sector that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving. It can be searched for free, but additional information can be accessed if one creates a free user account.

**EDGAR**


*EDGAR* is the Federal government database providing free access to SEC filings, including registration statements, periodic reports, and other forms. Go to the website listed above, then click on the 'Search for Company Filings' link to access the several search options for accessing *EDGAR* information. All public companies, foreign and domestic, are required to file registration statements, periodic reports, and certain other forms electronically through *EDGAR*, making it an excellent source for company information. The *EDGAR* homepage provides a link to the current SIC Code List and a tutorial for using the database. The website also provides links to written and oral statements made by members of the SEC's staff on various accounting and legal matters and links to related regulatory actions.

**ThomasNet**


*ThomasNet* is the online version of the important longtime industry directory the *Thomas Register of American Manufacturers* (aka the “Big Green Books”). The website allows one to search for information by Product/Service, Company Name, Brand, CAD Drawings, Industrial Web, and White Papers. The benefits of using *ThomasNet* over a
general search engine like Google are the specific Browse features and the more than 67,000 industry categories assigned to the entries. One can also limit searches by zipcode, state, company type, ISO certifications, minority owned status, and information available, such as product catalogs or CAD drawings.

**Georgia Secretary of State**

http://www.sos.ga.gov/

The *Georgia Secretary of State* website offers links to many of its online services right on its homepage, including searching for information about a corporation or the holder of a professional license. There is additional information under the ‘Professional Licensing Boards’ tab with tips concerning renewal, FAQs, and a tool for licensees to print copies of their licenses. The ‘Securities’ tab has information about the Georgia Uniform Securities Act of 2008 and its amendments as well as links to securities broker checks and public board orders. Under the ‘Corporations’ tab it is noted that the Corporation Division’s website is being upgraded to a new platform, so it has warnings that information may not be complete and that historical archives can be found elsewhere. Keeping that warning in mind, a user still can locate on the website information on filing annual corporation registrations, checking payment status, searching for corporations, verifying certification, ordering corporate records, and ordering certificates of existence or certified documents. The *Georgia Secretary of State* website can be useful when trying to verify information about a company or person in Georgia.
Federal Government Information

Sometimes it is easy to forget when one needs information to go directly to the source. The Federal government provides many portals, directories, and search engines to make it easy to identify and locate information needed for legal research. The following are a few key websites to begin your research at, rather than starting with a general search engine like Google.

Regulations.gov

http://www.regulations.gov/

*Regulations.gov* is a one-stop source to find and view all Federal regulations and related materials. Through *Regulations.gov*, one may also comment on proposed regulations open for comment and view closed for comment regulations. *Regulations.gov* is managed by the eRulemaking Program with assistance from partner agencies. The website offers three tabs in the upper right to help one explore regulatory information. The default tab is the "Search" tab, which provides a keyword search box to look for rules, comments, adjudications, and supporting documents. The returned search results offer a variety of facets to simplify narrowing one's results. There is also a "Browse" tab which groups regulations into ten industry-related categories, which allows one to locate recent actions of interest by subject. Finally, there is a "Learn" tab which gives a step-by-step explanation of the rule-making process and helps to fulfill the website's mission of making it easier for the public to participate directly in the regulatory process.
**Congress.gov**

http://congress.gov/

Currently in beta development, Congress.gov will eventually incorporate all of the information available at Thomas <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and will replace Thomas. Designed to be a portal for U.S. legislative information past and present, it is a free service of the Library of Congress using data from the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and the Government Printing Office. Congress.gov offers much improved searching capabilities over that of Thomas with also cleaner page displays, easier linking, and responsive design for mobile devices. Unfortunately it has not yet been populated with much past data. One can track the coverage status and compare it to Thomas at their ‘Coverage Dates for Legislative Information’ webpage <http://beta.congress.gov/help/coverage-dates/>.

However, if one needs to research only recent legislation and information, Congress.gov is an excellent resource to start using. The website includes legislative documents from the 107th Congress (2001) through the current legislative session, with full-text bills and the Congressional Record available from the 112th Congress (2011) to present. A new feature is the Congressional Member Profiles that go back to the 80th Congress (1947). Links to video from the House and Senate floors and committees, as well as calendars and roll call votes are also available in Congress.gov just as they were in Thomas.

**USA.gov**

http://www.usa.gov/
The Federal government portal and search engine USA.gov offers a simple platform for accessing government information. While users are primarily directed towards the search box at the top of the page, there is a ‘Topics’ tab that breaks government information down into broad categories designed to meet the needs of the average citizen. Under the ‘Government Agencies’ tab there are up-to-date listings of official state, local, and tribal websites, in addition to Federal departments and agencies. The search engine at USA.gov is powered by the Bing search engine with results limited to governmental websites.

GovEngine.com

http://www.govengine.com/

GovEngine.com is an easy to navigate government resources portal with an attractive, professional appearance. With over 17,000 links to Federal, state, and local government websites, GovEngine.com states that it strives to get you to the specific website you need in three clicks. They break out ‘Federal Government,’ ‘Federal Courts,’ ‘State Government,’ ‘State Courts,’ and ‘Local Government’ into two separate sections listed on the right side of the webpage and also in the navigable U.S. map graphic. The ‘Federal Government’ section has a list of links to Boards, Commissions and Committees, in addition to the expected Department and Agencies links. In its listings for each state the website also offers links to relevant non-governmental resources, such as bar associations. The ‘Local Government’ section has separate alphabetical listings of both county and city websites.
**Browse Topics**

http://www.browsetopics.gov/

A service of the Federal Depository Library Program, through a partnership with the Government Printing Office (GPO) and Oklahoma State University, *Browse Topics* is a new take on the old format of a human-curated information directory. Maintained by volunteer librarians, the site is reviewed on a quarterly basis to keep the links up-to-date. Designed as a pathway to publicly-available government information, its goal is to make it easier for individuals to locate data, conduct research, and learn about various governmental websites. There are broad subject areas on the homepage with more specific subheading under each subject. The strength of *Browse Topics* is that the user is given a fairly brief list of possible websites to explore that have been vetted to be on point, rather than a long list of links that is generated by a search engine. However, *Browse Topics* is still being built, so there are many subject categories that have not yet been covered.

**One Hit Wonders**

What is a good mix-tape with a quirky “one hit wonder” song? The following websites do not fit neatly into the previous categories, but each offers tools and information that can be useful in the practice of law.

**OpenSecrets.org**

http://www.opensecrets.org/
Produced by the Center for Responsive Politics, OpenSecrets.org is an independent website tracking the influence of money on U.S. Federal politics, public policy, and everyday citizens. Gathering data beyond the offerings from the Federal Election Commission, OpenSecrets.org looks at lobbying, the “revolving door” phenomenon, politician’s personal finances, and congressional travel. The navigation bar allows one to access information by ‘Politicians & Elections,’ ‘Influence & Lobbying,’ and ‘News & Analysis’ on this data rich website. There is a “Get Local!” subsection that breaks contribution data down by state, by zip code, and by earmarks on what they term “money maps.” OpenSecrets.org also makes it easy to track activity by PACs, organizations, and 527s. The ‘Resources’ and ‘Take Action’ sections offer FAQs, tools, apps, and social networking opportunities for those looking to become more engaged in advocating for government transparency. Its OpenSecrets Blog is an excellent source for news about money in politics and they offer a free weekly email newsletter one can sign up for on the homepage. To locate information related to state government and politics in Georgia, one should explore the resources available through the state run portal OpenGeorgia <http://www.open.georgia.gov>. The resources linked on this site are gathered from a variety of state agency websites, where they are sometimes difficult to locate, even if one knows of their existence. While much of the information is only updated annually, OpenGeorgia is an excellent, time-saving resource for Georgia state financial-related information.

Court Listener

http://www.courtlistener.com/
Court Listener provides a free and timely way to get alerts of cases at the Federal court level. After creating an account, one can create alerts based on search queries. Even without creating an account one can use the site to search across the Federal courts for court opinions. There are daily uploads of information concerning all precedential opinions issued by the 13 Federal Circuit Courts and the Supreme Court of the United States. There are also uploaded each day non-precedential opinions from all of the Federal Circuit Courts except for the D.C. Circuit. They have used data from Resource.org and from court websites to build a large back-file of opinions. The site is very forthcoming about privacy issues, clearly stating what site use they track and why, with their stated goal to making the site as secure and private as possible. Court Listener is an ongoing academic open source project originally created by Michael Lissner as part of his Master’s thesis at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Information under his advisor Assistant Professor Brian Carver. In 2011-2012, Professor Carver advised Masters students Rowyn McDonald and Karen Rustad on the creation of a legal citator built on the Court Listener database.

HBS Elevator Pitch Builder

http://www.alumni.hbs.edu/careers/pitch/

HBS Elevator Pitch Builder is an interactive tool offered by the Harvard Business School to help users craft succinct statements and explanations for their projects. The user follows a step-by-step process which helps them create each sentence of their pitch, focusing on defining who they are, what they do, why they are unique, and the goal they are trying to obtain. It coaches you with suggested questions to ask yourself and words
to use. In the end, it assembles these sentences together to make your created pitch, which you can edit, email, or print. It provides some hints and tips as well as a breakdown of word count, repeated words, and the estimated time it would take to deliver the pitch to someone. Not a lot of added value over a word-processing document, but it does help to focus the user’s thoughts to crafting a specific statement.

**FCC Small Biz Cyber Planner 2.0**


Re-launched in October 2012, the *FCC Small Biz Cyber Planner 2.0* is an interactive tool to help small companies secure themselves against cyber-crime. The tool walks users through a series of questions to determine what cyber-security strategies should be included in the planning guide, and generates a customized PDF that serves as a cyber-security strategy template. In addition the website contains information about cyber insurance, best practices on spyware, and recommendations to install new software systems that enable remote cleaning and tracking of laptops and mobile devices in the case of theft. There is also an updated one page ‘Cybersecurity Tip Sheet.’ The *FCC Small Biz Cyber Planner 2.0* is of particular value for businesses that lack the resources to hire dedicated IT staff members.

**Law Practice Magazine**


The American Bar Association makes most of its magazine *Law Practice* and its archive of back issues freely available on their website. The magazine features short, but
engaging, articles on contemporary issues in law practice management and marketing. The most recent March/April 2013 issue focused on technology related issues with articles on how to use Twitter in practice, essential Android apps, and growing one’s client base.

**Zamzar**

http://www.zamzar.com/

*Zamzar* provides conversion of uploaded files into other file formats. For example, one can convert old WordPerfect files into MSWord documents. It includes a wide range of file formats to choose from, including older image, music, and video formats which can be difficult to convert. They have a wide array of proprietary ebook formats that can be converted to open source formats, thus extending their compatibility with newer devices. *Zamzar* is a free service with a maximum file size of 100MB. They do offer a couple of levels of paid accounts with larger file sizes and additional services. When the file has been converted, a link to the new file is sent to the user via email. *Zamzar* was established in 2006 and is considered a trusted website, which makes their Terms of Service and Privacy statements readily available to users.

**Conclusion**

These websites are just a sample of what is available on the Internet to assist one in staying informed about legal news, application of technology, and conducting legal
research. When one knows some ‘go-to’ websites that provide helpful and convenient information, then using the Internet for legal research becomes a straightforward and successful experience.