

# Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



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## BLAWGS!

The internet now contains hundreds of blogs devoted to law and law-related information. These legal blogs are often referred to as blawgs. Authors of blawgs include law school students, law professors, law librarians, legal commentators, practitioners (solo and firm), and judges (a handful that includes Richard Posner, Judge with the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, who is a co-blogger with University of Chicago Professor Gary Becker at [www.becker-posner-blog.com](http://www.becker-posner-blog.com)). The content, function, and quality of these blawgs vary! Blawgs can function as a current awareness service for legal news, a scholarly discussion of developments in substantive areas of law, a vehicle for shameless self-promotion, advertisement by law firms of legal expertise in a particular area of law, or a resource for solo practitioners needing tips for using the latest technology in their law practice.

So how does one locate a blawg? Fortunately there are some directories for searching and/or browsing blawgs. Maintained by Bill Gratsch, *Blawg.com* at [www.blawg.com](http://www.blawg.com) promotes itself as “Your sources for legal blogs, podcasts, and news feeds.” At *Blawg.com*, one can search or browse categories of blawgs. Also provided are recent

posts, recently added blogs, and most popular blogs. There is a featured feed and a featured podcast.

For those of you who are interested in quality and not quantity, there is the *Blawg Review* at [www.blawgreview.com](http://www.blawgreview.com). This site describes itself as a blog carnival for anyone interested in law. A blog carnival is a traveling post about a topic or a theme. Each weekly issue of *Blawg Review* (current issue is #89) has a blogger host who selects the best recent law blog postings on a particular topic or theme. Currently available at the website are the *Blawg Review*'s awards for 2005 and for 2006. An award of note goes to Jeremy Blachman who picked up an award for “Persona” of the Year for Anonymous Lawyer, the blog ([anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com](http://anonymouslawyer.blogspot.com)), the book (call number is PS3602 .L23 A56 2006) and the law firm ([anonymouslawfirm.com](http://anonymouslawfirm.com))!

The *Blawg Republic* at [www.blawgpublic.com](http://www.blawgpublic.com) is a real-time search engine that monitors the legal blogging community every hour. One can read excerpts of a posting and click on the link of the title of the posting to read it in its entirety. There are thirty categories of blawgs to browse in the *Blawg*

*Republic*'s directory.

*Blawg Search* at [blawgsearch.justia.com](http://blawgsearch.justia.com) is offered by Justia.com. There are options to search or browse categories of over one thousand blawgs. Also, one can view the ten most popular blawgs for a specified time period or read recent posts.

A presentation of the Internet for Lawyers company is *The Blogs of Law* which is meant to be a comprehensive index of law-related blogs. There are numerous categories to browse at [www.theblogsoflaw.com](http://www.theblogsoflaw.com).

Not for the faint of heart is the “*myHQ blawgs*” at [www.myhq.com/public/b/l/blawgs](http://www.myhq.com/public/b/l/blawgs). It is a law blogroll meaning that blawgs are frequently being added to the website. One can search or browse by category the several hundred blawgs listed at “*myHQ blawgs*.” Categories include blawgs by author, law school, and subject matter.

For those of you who need a bit of guidance in navigating the blogosphere, Lynn Lenart, Assistant Law Librarian for Reference at the University of Akron Law Library, has come to your aid with *Law Weblogs - Blawgs: A Pathfinder* at

<http://www.uakron.edu/law/library/blawg.php>. Ms. Lenart's pathfinder offers a selective annotated listing of general blawgs, law student and faculty blawgs, and blawgs for legal research. She provides information about software to monitor weblogs, blog search engines and directories, and blog hosting websites. A glossary and links to articles about blawgs are included.



### ***Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly and Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Now on LexisNexis!***

Lawyers Weekly, Inc. has now made available on LexisNexis the legal newspapers *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* and *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. Lawyers Weekly, Inc. also publishes weekly legal newspapers for Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. These state newspapers cover news about legal issues, law firms, members of the bench and bar, activities of state and federal government entities, and summaries of appellate court decisions. These newspapers are recommended reading for those studying for the bar exam as they have provided the inspiration for many a bar examination essay! Coverage is from January, 2004 to present. Path on [www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool](http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool) is **Legal > Legal News > Legal News by Jurisdiction**.

The Law Library also receives the *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*

in print. The current issues are kept on the newspaper racks in the library. Previous issues are kept on Reserve. For further information about these and other newspapers subscribed to by the Law Library, consult *TimeSaver No. 7*. "Newspapers in the Law Library."



### **CALI (Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) Podcasts!**

In addition to the more than six hundred CALI lessons in thirty-two subject areas, an increasing number of podcasts are also available from CALI. Here are the steps to follow in order to download a podcast from CALI.

- ➊ Go to the CALI website at [www2.cali.org](http://www2.cali.org), login, and find your podcast of choice.
- ➋ Right click on the download button and select "save target as"
- ➌ Pick your directory of choice
- ➍ Once the download is complete, launch iTunes
- ➎ Highlight "Music"
- ➏ Then use "File" and "Add file to Library" to bring the Podcast MP3 file into the Music library.

Note, if you have yet to access the CALI lessons, you will need to obtain the law school's CALI authorization code from a reference librarian for individual access to the CALI lessons. If you do not have the

iTunes software on your computer, it can be downloaded for free at [www.apple.com/itunes](http://www.apple.com/itunes).



### **Library News**

A "Farewell" to Chris and a "Hello" to Heather

Chris Wolfskehl, the Acquisitions Assistant, recently submitted her resignation in order to stay home with baby "Zeke" and to continue course work for a Master of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island. Filling the position is Heather Simone. Heather has a B.S. in Communications from Eastern Connecticut State University. Prior employment includes managing events for the Rhode Island Convention Center and event planning and fund raising for the Rhode Island Zoological Society.

### **Thank You SPENT!**

Thanks to the suggestion of the Sports & Entertainment Law Society (SPENT), the Law Library now makes available the weekly publication *SportsBusiness Journal*. Sections in the journal are: breaking news, special and in-depth reports, sponsorship/marketing, research, media, E-sports, finance, facilities, international, agents/labor, coast-to-coast, and people. This publication is located in the library's periodicals stacks.

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