

ABA JOURNAL BLAWG 100

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BY MOLLY McDONOUGH AND SARAH RANDAG

WHEN WE SET OUT TO NAME THE *ABA JOURNAL*'S INAUGURAL Blawg 100, we knew we were up for a challenge. There are between 2,000 and 3,000 legal blogs—what we call blawgs. How many of those are worth a click? Turns out, quite a few.

The trick is fitting them neatly into a category. By their very nature, bloggers defy categorization. What in one week is a blog devoted to the black-letter practice of law is the next week a heartwarming chronicle of a baby's first steps or a devastating battle with cancer.

Our Blawg 100 bloggers fill their posts with chatter about work, gossip, helping hands, frustration, love, rage and pleas for justice.

There is no end to advice (lots of it useful), tips (many of them helpful) and opinion (goes without saying). And there are volumes, we repeat, volumes of cautionary tales.

GENERALLY SPEAKING

American Constitution Society Blog

Covers a wide range of legal topics and includes a handy weekly roundup of blog posts for the occasional reader.

The BLT (The Blog of Legal Times)

The latest breaking legal news from the nation's capital with original reporting from the likes of U.S. Supreme Court veteran Tony Mauro.

Blawg Review

A participatory law blog "carnival" that takes submissions and compiles a weekly list of the best ones.

Ernie the Attorney

Personal musings and legal news posts from the heart of New Orleans. The blog chronicled the author's harrowing escape in 2005 from Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters.

How Appealing

Headline legal news with an appellate focus posted at a breathless pace, with occasional breaks for oral arguments in Pennsylvania.

Jurist—Paper Chase

Comprehensive coverage of national and international legal news and developments—with links to original source materials to boot—edited by law students at the University of Pittsburgh.

Law Beat

The director of Syracuse University's legal reporting program finds endless examples of shortcomings in the mainstream media's coverage of high-profile court cases and other legal topics.

Legal Juice

This blog's beautiful design and "freshly squeezed" juicy legal tidbits belie its more serious focus on personal injury.



ForeBlawgger

DENISE HOWELL

• Bag and Baggage, Lawarithms, Between Lawyers

• Solo appellate, IP and tech lawyer, Newport Beach, Calif.

Surf the Net to the O.C.-based Bag and Baggage and you may wonder whether you're seeing a lawyer-mama site or, on another day, a blog devoted to exploring the legal implications of the latest Internet trend. Denise Howell strikes that balance like no other, switching from quick hits about her virtual baby shower to reviewing the latest legal blog in a single afternoon. A true social Net veteran, Grandblogress Howell launched Bag and Baggage in 2001 and is credited with coining the term *blawg*. Lest she get bored with one blog, however, Howell has branched out with Lawarithms, which has a more decidedly tech-law focus. And she contributes to Corante's Between Lawyers. That's clearly still not enough though, because Howell also finds time to produce podcasts: *This Week in Law* at Twit.tv and *Sound Policy* at ITConversations.com.

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May It Please the Court

A business litigator offers up regularly updated, easy-to-navigate posts featuring legal news and observations, plus a thoughtful quote of the day.

On Point

Subtitled "A New Take on Legal News," the site is well-organized with a daily regimen of legal news and information. It provides an entertaining yet useful interactive map, documents from high-profile trials and a calendar of key trial/hearing dates compiled by Courthouse News Service.

Overlawyered

The tort reform debate rages on here, with frequent posts on litigation

news, trends and issues from across the nation. Daily roundups make skimming easy.

Point of Law

Legal policy is discussed in this regularly updated blog primarily focused on the U.S. litigation system and hosted by the Manhattan Institute.

QuizLaw

Sharp, fast-paced commentary about legal and nearly legal news and events.

ALL BUSINESS

Legal Pad

Comprehensive, brainy but easy-to-read legal analysis from *Fortune* senior writer Roger Parloff.

Law Blog

A thoughtful, quick-witted blog from the mainstream media powerhouse *Wall Street Journal*. Often breaks business law news and sparks discussion.

What About Clients?

Getting and keeping clients is the focus here, with posts relating to everything from social events to billing and legal ethics.

POLITICS FOR SPORT

Bench Memos

Frequent and sometimes biting criticism of "liberal judicial activism" hosted by the *National Review Online*.

InstaPundit

A mainstay of and inspiration for conservative political blogs, University of Tennessee professor Glenn Reynolds offers news and commentary snippets primarily focused on individual liberty, terrorism and

the law and, occasionally, technology.

Hugh Hewitt

Conservative radio personality/law professor Hugh Hewitt offers news and commentary from the Townhall.com portal.

TalkLeft: The Politics of Crime

A liberal take and singular, dynamic, updated-daily focus on criminal justice issues from Denver-based criminal defense attorney Jerilyn Merritt.

Unclaimed Territory

Unyielding commentary on constitutional and civil rights issues from Glenn Greenwald, a onetime litigator who made the jump from part-time blogger to full-time pundit at Salon.com.

BENCHED

Legalities

Legal affairs news and



ForeBlawgger

THOMAS C. GOLDSTEIN

• SCOTUSblog

• Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, partner, Washington, D.C.

A Supreme Court wunderkind, Tom Goldstein made a name for himself by scouting out splits in the lower courts and pleading with the parties to let him file for cert and argue in the highest court in the land. His tally is now 17 appearances before "The Nine." In 2001, he began chronicling his boutique practice and appellate advocacy experiences at SCOTUSblog. Posting with his wife—sometimes on the marble steps via BlackBerry—SCOTUSblog became the place for the latest news and developments about the high court. Goldstein elevated the blog in mainstream media circles when he recruited Supreme Court veteran Lyle Denniston. In 2006 Goldstein took it to Akin Gump, where he heads the firm's Supreme Court practice. With commentary and analysis from a host of blog authors, SCOTUSblog remains fresh and vibrant. Recently, SCOTUSblog launched ScotusWiki, which is updated to track cases, petitions and SC stats.

analysis, with a Supreme Court bent, from ABC's Jan Crawford Greenburg.

SCOTUSblog

A first stop for need-to-know Supreme Court news, announcements, analysis and original source material thanks largely to nearly 50-year-veteran SCOTUS reporter Lyle Denniston, the only full-time blogger with permanent Supreme Court media credentials.

IVORY TOWER

Althouse

Law professor Ann Althouse has become a favorite for her arty photographs, snark about politics and pop culture, and impressive occasional coverage of legal events.

Brian Leiter's Law School Reports

The latest law school hirings, firings and other turmoil, plus research and commentary suggesting how best to run a law school.

Becker-Posner Blog

Two of the University of Chicago's finest—one being 7th Circuit Judge Richard Posner—pick policy and economic subjects and blog head-to-head.

BlackProf

Law professors blog on racially significant legal, political and sociological developments of the past and present, and spotlight black media figures.

Balkinization

Sharp essays from Yale Law School professor Jack M. Balkin and a large bullpen of law professors

who mostly take on current events, as well as the constitutionality of government policy.

Concurring Opinions

Written by (and, to some extent, for) law professors, it calls itself a general-interest legal blog. Some posts cover academia inside baseball, and others offer opinions on recent court decisions.

Conglomerate

Several posts every day about U.S. foreign policy and trade—with room for law school news, the latest lawsuits and personal musings.

Feminist Law Professors

A blog created for community-building among professors. Contributors note legal developments affecting women and ponder where to draw the lines of political correctness.

PrawfsBlawg

"Some friends" who blawg on law review articles—in particular or in general—and on legal topics in the mainstream media and blogosphere.

Mirror of Justice

Where Pope Benedict XVI is the most-cited legal authority. Canon law is interpreted, and Catholic law school news is covered in detail.

BusinessAssociationsBlog.com

Stephen Bainbridge no longer limits himself to one URL: This is the hard legal branch of his new trinity (another blog gives wine equal time). This one calls itself "a blog about corpo-



ForeBlawgger

DAVID LAT

• Above the Law, editor-in-chief

- Washington, D.C.

Q: Who knew legal gossip could be so salacious? A: A3G.

Onetime federal clerk (and BigLaw associate, and Yale Law grad) David Lat entered the blogosphere with *Underneath Their Robes*, a gossip blog about, of all things, the federal judiciary. There he posted as "Article III Groupie," an anonymous lawyer—who claimed to be a woman in private practice in San Francisco. As the site gained notoriety, so grew interest in unmasking A3G. By the time Lat, then a federal prosecutor in Newark, N.J., revealed himself in 2005, it was a *New Yorker* scoop. The revelation of his alter ego cost him his job, though he left willingly. Lat landed squarely at the enormously popular *Wonkette* but left a few months later to helm *Above the Law*, where his exhaustive legal gossip is no longer limited to "superhottie" judges and clerks, and his voice is his own.

rate law and governance and legal education."

The Faculty Blog

University of Chicago professors take on books and papers by leading legal authorities—and sometimes invite said

authorities to guest blog.

The Volokh Conspiracy

Contributors make at least 10 timely and witty news posts daily, and fans—30 or more comments on one post is common—keep the debate fresh.

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ForeBlawgger

EUGENE VOLOKH

• The Volokh Conspiracy

- UCLA School of Law, Gary T. Schwartz Professor of Law

A child prodigy, Ukrainian-born Eugene Volokh earned his B.S. from UCLA—in math-computer science no less—when he was 15. Given his early entry into higher learning, it's no surprise this computer programming wiz decided to take on law school, earning his J.D. from UCLA, then landing prominent clerkships for 9th Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. He melded his computer interests with his legal interests on the Web with the launch of his blog. His star has only brightened as his libertarian/conservative-leaning group blog (with authors including Volokh's brainy brother Sasha) has gained international attention. Living the American dream, Volokh teaches classes on free speech and criminal and copyright law at UCLA, and he keeps an interest in a software company that sells software he wrote.

BLACK-LETTER LAW

China Law Blog

One China-based and one U.S.-based lawyer cover China business news and entertain with links to fish-out-of-water posts about being an American in China.

Electronic Discovery Blog

Summaries of and links to the latest e-discovery case law, legal journal articles and conference information. The blogger is a Maryland solo with an information systems background.

ICANN Watch

Editors cover the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers with the help of reader submissions. The underlying site contains comprehensive information regarding ICANN.

Law of the Game

This new J.D. covers legal issues surrounding online gambling and discusses intellectual property matters and content ratings of video games. And look out for *Halo* spoilers.

Legal Talk Network

Each post summarizes and links to a legal podcast that covers e-discovery, litigation, workers' compensation, torts or law practice.

Lessig Blog

Professor Larry Lessig's crusade for network neutrality and finite copyright restrictions—and against corruption (he's recently started a Corruption Required Reading list) with in the FCC and elsewhere.

Likelihood of Confusion

Ron Coleman follows copyright and trademark law and often finds humor. This is no dry IP blog limited to links to decisions—Coleman's two cents are always included.

Patent Baristas

For IP law drinkers who like to order the venti. Thorough coverage and analysis of recent case law and the USPTO's latest.

Patently-O

Distills the most vital information from recent patent case law and highlights patent law jobs found on companion site Patent Law Jobs by Patently-O.

Religion Clause

An unwavering focus on church-state legal questions—and there are always enough of these questions to warrant between five and 10 posts per day.

The Trademark Blog

Marty Schwimmer predicts the future of trademark law, and through diligent documentation of news and case law, he decides which predictions were correct.

LAWYER'S TOOLKIT

ABA Site-tation

An ABA staff-written blog that reviews new gadgets and lists their release dates and also alerts readers about tech resources available on the Web.

Adam Smith, Esq.

Bruce MacEwen's blog is all about what BigLaw is doing right and wrong—

salaries, retirement policies, e-books, you name it.

Amazing Firms, Amazing Practices

Documents trends in the profession and cautionary tales of badly managed firms. Also links to interactive quizzes that measure one's managing ability.

Bag and Baggage

Denise Howell's posts on this blog (she has two others plus a weekly podcast) sometimes drift from her first love, technology law, toward motherhood in the O.C.

Build a Solo Practice

Provides primers and near-daily advice about what every solo and very many nonsolos want to know: how to strike out on their own.

Counsel to Counsel

It's all about careers: Legal recruiters post networking tips and salary studies, and they highlight both the struggles of lawyers just starting out and BigLaw excesses.

Deliberations

Cuts to the heart of what juries want to know and what they think is important in cases from across the country.

DennisKennedy.com

Covers mostly legal technology—e-discovery, podcasting, conferences. But this newly minted *ABA Journal* monthly columnist makes room for other talked-about law topics and personal notes.

Jim Calloway's Law Practice Tips

Links to new legal blogs, ABA and Oklahoma Bar

Association handbooks, technology conferences and news articles—some written by Calloway.

Home Office Lawyer

In 2005, Grant Griffiths set up shop in his basement and never looked back. He blogs about how technology helps him—and could help you—pull this off.

Inter Alia

Tom Mighell could probably compile a Blawg 100 in his sleep: His site features a "Blawg of the Day" seven days a week. Posts also cover legal technology.

Larry Bodine's LawMarketing Blog

This former editor and publisher of the *ABA Journal* stays on top of what law firms in the U.S. and Canada are doing marketing-wise, and he also serves up a plateful of advice and anecdotes.

LawBiz Blog

Ed Poll finds plenty to post about from his speaking schedule alone. He writes about outsourcing and the cold-hard-cash facts of starting—or ending—a law practice.

Legal Process Outsourcing

Rahul Jindal hails from just outside of New Delhi. He documents the outsourcing phenomenon both "from the ground" and from combing the blogosphere.

The [Non]billable Hour

Matt Homann stumbles on ideas far outside of the legal realm (can tips on getting a date help a lawyer seeking clients?) to advise on productivity, networking and technology.

Wayne Schiess's Legal-Writing Blog

A law professor posts about the latest court rules regarding word limits and page limits, as well as the use of cites, footnotes and dates. He even entertains debate about the serial comma.

More Partner Income

The voice inside law partners' heads, reminding them of the hard choices they have to make—complete with graphs and links to additional articles.

My Shingle

Longtime blawgger Carolyn Elefant contrasts solo life and BigLaw and dispenses career strategy and marketing advice to those on her side of the fence.

Robert Ambrogio's LawSites

Directs readers to panel discussions, URLs, podcasts, TV specials and other legal info that might slip under the radar.

CAUTION: GOSSIP, RUMOR & INNUENDO AHEAD

Above the Law

Irresistible gossip and fly-on-the-wall scuttlebutt from the once anonymous A3G; former prosecutor David Lat makes this site a supermarket tabloid lover's necessity.

California Civil Litigation Quote of the Week

These snippets from actual Golden State case files will either elicit chuckles or make heads spin.

From the Desk of Patrick J. Fitzgerald

We're pretty sure this isn't the real U.S. attorney in Chicago, but the frequency of the posts relating to the prosecutor's many high-profile cases makes this a go-to for all things Fitz.

Law and Magic

This blog is there for when the long arm of the law touches magicians; it also features lawyers who use

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ForeBlawgger

RICHARD A. POSNER

The Becker-Posner Blog

- 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago

Posner is the nation's most prominent judicial blogger. He's been on the 7th Circuit since 1981, but the work of the court

cannot contain his intellectual curiosity. He's written more than 15 books and countless articles since taking the bench, and in 2004 began blogging. The Becker-Posner Blog—co-written with Nobel laureate economist Gary Becker from the University of Chicago, where Posner was a founder of the law and economics movement—takes on some pretty deep topics like the First Amendment, the future of unions and globalization. And it's daily proof that judges can blog without violating ethical rules.



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magic in their practice. A new paranormal TV show might merit a post, too.

“That’s What She Said”

It helps, but there’s no need to be a huge fan of the TV sitcom *The Office* to enjoy the serial posts based on the labor and employment issues raised in the show. Julie Elgar adeptly identifies the potential legal action in each episode and adds a litigation value.

Legal Antics

Lawyer jokes, cartoons, humorous snippets, etc., are posted regularly for a daily dose of humor.

Opinionistas

A once wildly popular law firm insider blog by the then-anonymous Melissa Lafsky, the site trudges on when Lafsky’s not busy writing for other publications and editing the *NYT*’s Freakonomics Blog.

Skadden Insider

The Insider doesn’t often speak, but when he/she does, it’s worth paying attention, especially for those who crave law firm gossip and a voyeur’s peek at one of the largest firms in the world.

The Chicago Syndicate

The Syndicate blog has made our hit list as a go-to site for courtroom mafia news. Syndicate is a histor-

ical repository for a list of infamous made men—plus, recently, marathon coverage of Chicago’s Family Secrets trial.

YOUR SO-CALLED LIFE

A Year in the Life

“Babymama08,” aka Michelle, purports to be a South Dakota public defender chronicling her professional life and—here’s the intrigue—her experiences as a surrogate. Last we checked, she was pregnant with twins and hoping for a good medical report so she could buy maternity clothes.

Biker Law Blog

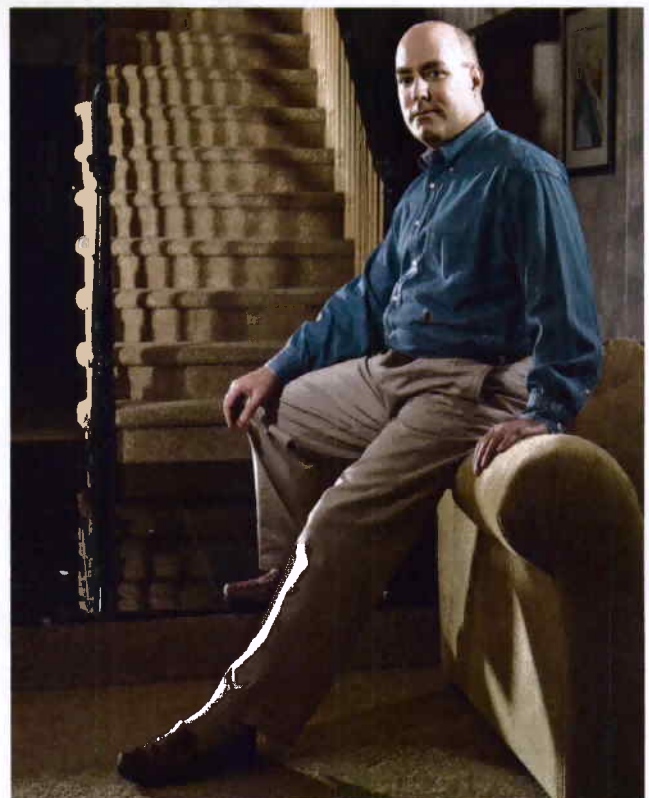
Harley-Davidson enthusiast Norman Gregory Fernandez marries his personal injury/family law practice to his passion for biking, using his blog to offer tips to potential clients and chronicling his scenic travels.

The Inspired Solo

Coastal South Carolina solo Sheryl Sisk Schelin offers advice and moral support for the solo practitioner, as well as those who want to strike out on their own to improve their quality of life.

JD Bliss Blog

With guest bloggers, testimonials and legal career trends, JD Bliss highlights ways in which lawyers can achieve career satisfaction



ForeBlawgger

HOWARD BASHMAN

• How Appealing

- Law Offices of Howard J. Bashman, Willow Grove, Pa.

Described by a fellow blogger as the “Energizer Bunny” of legal blogging, appellate lawyer Howard Bashman got into the legal-blogging game relatively early—in 2002—and found himself catapulted to pundit status. But he insisted in a 2003 *ABA Journal* article that How Appealing is a labor of love: “If I wanted to drum up business, there are better things I could spend my time on. World domination is not the goal.” He’s been an appellate lawyer for 15 years, but was able to go solo in 2004. He writes a monthly column for the *Legal Intelligencer*; writes On Appeal, a weekly Law.com column; and mans How Appealing seven days a week, often writing a whopping 30 posts per day.

and strike a healthy work-life balance.

Ms. JD

Founded by a group of law students from various schools in 2006, Ms. JD tackles work-life balance issues, gender inequalities

and hurdles in the legal profession. Member bloggers share their experiences in practice settings while featured bloggers—from law school deans to trailblazing practitioners—offer their take on these issues.

PT-LawMom

Musings and work-life posts come from an anonymous part-time law student and would-be immigration attorney.

CRIME TIME

Blonde Justice

A pretty-in-pink anonymous take on life as a pink-suited public defender in an unnamed city, with some details fudged to keep identities private.

Capital Defense Weekly

Nothing fancy, but a solid source of death penalty news, litigation updates and case information published on the blog as they are found, then shipped direct in a weekly e-mail.

Clews, the Historic True Crime Blog

Proof positive that truth is stranger than fiction, Clews draws in true-crime enthusiasts with stories from the horrifying to the surreal.

Crime and Consequences

Takes a prosecutorial, victim's-rights view of the criminal justice system and is hosted by the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

Crime Scene KC

All the crime that's fit to print in Kansas City. The cops' beat is updated throughout the day and organized by dozens of criminal justice categories.

Grits for Breakfast

Covers criminal justice news and events, with a healthy dose of Texas-size politics.

Meeting the Sin Laws

Like the blog says, nothing generates more controver-

sy (except maybe when a Wal-Mart comes to town) than when a strip, er, gentlemen's club opens up. Covers a range of so-called vice industry laws and legal developments.

Sentencing Law and Policy

Highly respected and oft-cited, Professor Doug Berman's scholarship and avant-garde commentary is open for discussion.

Simple Justice

Entertainingly jaded take on criminal justice news and issues within and sometimes beyond New York City's borders.

J.D.s IN TRAINING

Nuts & Boalts

"Boalties" from Berkeley post on news and gossip about their school and its donors, handicap U.S. Supreme Court cases and mull over which Democrat should be president.

Overheard in Law School

Editors take e-mailed submissions from all over and compile amusing exchanges between law students, as well as funny or inappropriate statements by lecturing professors.

There's No Competition in Law School

Anonymous students who collectively identify themselves as "The Lawbitches" eschew political commentary in favor of complaining about aspects of their daily lives.

The Frugal Law Student

This 3L is careful with how he spends his time as well as his money: Look here for tips on being productive in law school—and reducing your grocery bill.

Transnational Law Blog

Two Hastings 3Ls and two recent Hastings grads post about international law, politics and economics. The bloggers are particularly interested in China and Iran.

LAWYERS BEHAVING BADLY

Durham-in-Wonderland

A fascinating one-topic blog delving into the legal, ethical and human implications of the Duke University lacrosse rape prosecution debacle.

f/k/a

f/k/a, aka "formerly known as," combines haiku poetry with commentary on lawyers and legal ethics along with musings about politics and current events.

mcdonough@staff.abanet.org; randags@staff.abanet.org

Legalethics.com

At the intersection of legal ethics and use of technology, examples vary as widely as the Web, with posts about everything from disclaimers and e-discovery to fee sharing and lawyer referral services.

Legal Ethics Forum

This group blog features commentary and news posts from law professors exploring legal ethics issues ripped from the headlines.

Legal Profession Blog

There's nearly always a fresh legal ethics example or cautionary tale here, where law professors summarize legal ethics opinions and train a studied eye on real-life case studies. ■

ForeBlawgger

GLENN GREENWALD

Unclaimed Territory

- Salon Magazine columnist, New York City

Glenn Greenwald cut his teeth on BigLaw litigation, then with a small firm pursued con-law cases, especially those championing the First

Amendment. He represented white supremacist Matt Hale in a trademark dispute over the name World Church of the Creator.

Greenwald hit the blogosphere by storm in 2005, picking apart the leak investigation of the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame. But he earned his Net stripes with constitutional analysis of the National Security Agency surveillance controversy and other Bush administration strategies and legal policies. In 2006 he published *How Would a Patriot Act? Defending American Values from a President Run Amok* and in 2007 came out with *A Tragic Legacy: How a Good v. Evil Mentality Destroyed the Bush Presidency*. And Greenwald's done what so many bloggers and unhappy lawyers dream about—he made the leap from full-time law practice to full-time blogging.

