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Legal Research and Internet News & Information
with an Emphasis on Wisconsin

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May 15, 2006

Freed With the Help of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, Chris Ochoa Earns His Law Degree

[JS Online](#) has a nice story about University of Wisconsin law student, Chris Ochoa, who this weekend earned his law degree, becoming only the second man in America to be freed from prison by DNA evidence to do so. He was freed from prison in 2001 with the help of the Wisconsin Innocence Project at the UW Law School.

The [UW Madison News](#) also had a nice piece which reads:

Keith Findley and John Pray, co-directors of the Wisconsin Innocence Project, says Ochoa's journey through the legal system has been remarkable. Pray was Ochoa's lead lawyer.

"Spending years in prison for a crime you didn't commit is a very damaging experience. That Chris was able to get out of prison, complete his undergraduate degree and then make it through law school speaks volumes about his character," Findley says. "We are so lucky to have had Chris as a client, a student - and soon, a colleague in the profession. He has taught us a lot about the criminal justice system, about what it means to be a lawyer, and about how to handle overwhelming adversity with strength, grace and compassion."

Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 11:38 AM to Law Students | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

Blogs as Evidence

Ken Strutin, Director of Legal Information Services for the New York State Defenders Association, has compiled a nice summary of how blogs have been considered by the courts.

The article, "Blogs Raise New Questions About the Line Between Public and Private," appears in the Technology Today section (page 5) of the May 9, 2006 *New York Law Journal*. It is also available by subscription at [law.com](#) and [Westlaw](#).

Source: [New York Supreme Court Criminal Term Library Blog](#)

Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 11:26 AM to Blogs | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

Wall Street Journal & Other Factiva Content Finally Available to Law Schools via LexisNexis

Good news for law students, faculty, and staff: the *Wall Street Journal* and other

ABOUT WISBLAWG



Bonnie Shucha

[UW Law Library](#)

"I like the challenging questions - the ones that require me to dig into the information crevices that only librarians know."

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Factiva content is finally available via LexisNexis to law schools.

From the press release: Beginning May 12, your students, faculty and library staff will have access to the following Factiva sources:

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Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 11:12 AM to Databases | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

May 11, 2006

Blogs v. Intranets for Internal Staff Communication

As a follow-up to my presentation on blogs at their annual meeting last week, the *Association of Legal Administrators* invited me to participate in a forum on blogs. I'd like to share one of the questions I received:

Question: If a blog is as good as an intranet for communications with staff, why not stick to an intranet? The intranet seems to have more potential for storing information for staff like policy manuals. [In the presentation, I mentioned that blogs could be used for internal staff communication.]

My response: An Intranet is a tool for internal communication - a blog can be also. They are not mutually exclusive.

If your Intranet is serving your needs, then stick with it. But there is no reason that you couldn't incorporate a blog into your Intranet if desired. Not every firm has an Intranet. Because blogs are very easy to create/maintain, and very inexpensive, they might offer a smaller firm a nice way to create an internal communications tool.

Blogs are hot right now in the legal community. Some folks want to jump on the bandwagon while others want nothing to do with what they see as a flash-in-the-pan fad. A blog is simply one of many communication tools at your disposal.

As I mentioned in my presentation: Don't rush out to create a blog just so you can say you have a blog. BUT - conversely - don't avoid this potentially useful technology just because it's a blog.

Take a step back from the hype before evaluating whether this tool is right for you.

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Trading in Your Old Cell Phone for Cool Stuff

So you just got a cool new cell phone, but what do you do with the old one? Trade it in for something you want with these services:

- [RIPMobile](#) From their site:

You tell us what old (and not-so-old) mobile phones you have sitting in a drawer or on a shelf around the house. We calculate the value of those phones (some PDAs have value too), and tell you what they are worth (we pay you in RIPMobile points" - a "point" is worth a dollar). You then send those phones and their accessories in to us so we can inspect and test them. We can only pay you for working phones and PDAs, but we can recycle ALL mobile devices you send us, so don't throw any away just because they aren't valuable - they ALL have toxic materials in them.

Looks like they've got Circuit City & Starbucks gift cards or PayPal deposit.

- [ReCellular](#) From their site:

ReCellular Inc. is the largest recycler and reseller of used wireless phones and accessories in the wireless industry. Now you can Trade-in your old cell phone worry free! We walk you through the steps on how to trade in your old cell phone for *Best Buy* digital dollars. We also provide free shipping labels for your convenience.

I haven't tried either of these services, so I can't attest to quality. My old cell phone is a dinosaur and I doubt I'd get much if anything for it. But I may take advantage of the recycling services anyway.

UPDATE:

Here's another one:

- [Shelter Alliance](#): Recycle your cell phone and help local domestic violence and sexual assault shelters at the same time.

Thanks to Judge Daniel Anderson for the tip

Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 11:55 AM to Miscellaneous & Odd-ball | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

Podcasting Legal Guide

From [Law Dawg Blawg](#):

Colette Vogeles and Mia Garlick are the authors of Podcasting Legal Guide: Rules for the Revolution (2006) (38 p., PDF), published under a Creative Commons license. According to the Introduction, "[t]he purpose of this Guide is to provide [readers] with a general roadmap of some of the legal issues specific to podcasting." It is divided into four sections:

- * Legal Issues In Creating Your Own Podcast
- * Legal Issues Surrounding How You Distribute Your Podcast
- * Basic Background to Podcasting

Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 11:51 AM to Online Interactions | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)

May 04, 2006

Storage and Transfer of Large Files

In WSL's monthly [Tech Tip in Brief](#), Librarian Heidi Yelk offers recommendations on the *Storage and Transfer of Large Files*.

There are dozens of free services on the web that allow users to upload files and make them available for later pick up. Maximum size limits vary. While some services allow free transfers up to 2 gigabytes, the average maximum is around 50 megabytes. Generally, these sites require no registration.

Here's how it works: A user goes to the service's website; enters the email address of the person they want to send the file to; and uploads the file from their computer to the service's website via the browse feature. The service then either produces a URL for the file which can be shared with others, and/or sends an email to the recipient containing a web-enabled (i.e. clickable) URL and directions on how to access the file on the Internet. Depending on the service, the file may be saved on the remote server for up to 30 days - the average is seven days.

Heidi recommends [YouSendIt](#). Others are listed on the [Creative Guy](#) blog.

Posted by Bonnie Shucha at 10:49 AM to Online Interactions | [Permalink](#) | [Comments\(0\)](#) | [TrackBacks \(0\)](#)