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## Have You Read A Blawg Today?

By Thomas E. Heard, Associate Director at Chase College of Law Library

Briefly defined, a "Blog", which is short for web log, is a web site intended to be updated very frequently (often several times daily or weekly) with news, comments, and links to other materials on the web. The entries are normally organized in chronological order and can be opened either through an archive of older issues or a site search engine. The existence of Blogs results from the natural human desire to comment on and respond to our ever-increasing volume of daily news and information.

Some Blogs are little more than personal diaries of thoughts and opinions, others are intended to extol or vilify some partisan position, but still others are intended to keep the reader informed on topics and issues in various professions. Over the past few years, easy to use software has made updating Blogs easier than maintaining standard web pages, thus leading to Blogs that are updated every few hours.

Blogs can be serious or funny, but a major question the legal community faces is whether they can be professionally useful. Are there law-related Blogs (referred to as "Blawgs") that are useful to lawyers?

In 2004 all Blog traffic saw a surge in popularity. According to a Pew Charitable Trust – Internet Project study, internet traffic at Blog sites increased 58% in contrast to an increase of only 6% for websites overall. This increased use is mirrored in the growing popularity legal Blogs. By June 2006, one prominent Blawg, Douglas Berman's Sentencing Law and Policy, had been cited in 21 judicial opinions. As judges take increasing note of Blawgs it is inevitable that practitioners will as well. A good place to start looking for law related Blogs is **Blawg.org**, which lists Blawgs by legal subject matter and geographic orientation.

For other Blawgs of interest to Kentucky attorneys check out some of the sites below:

- **Kentucky Law Blog:** (<http://www.kentuckylawBlog.com>) features broad-ranging Commentary on Kentucky Law, Lawyers, Decisions, Statutes, Trials, and News. The site also contains cases and news pertaining to the Federal Sixth Circuit. An archive of postings goes back to September of 2005.
- **Kentucky Cases:** (<http://www.kycases.com>) Attorney Mike Stevens' site offers fast, free posting of all the decisions from the Kentucky Supreme Court and Court of Appeals online and a digest of each case is posted soon after the initial link appears.
- **Divorce Law Journal:** (<http://louisvilledivorce.typepad.com>) This relatively new Blawg by Louisville attorney Diana L. Skaggs aims to cover developments in domestic relations law both for Kentucky and nationally. The site does offer a search feature.
- **Kentucky Employment Law Notes:** (<http://kentuckyemploymentlaw.typepad.com>) The author tracks case law and regulatory developments of interest to Kentucky employment attorneys and HR professionals. Material is archived back to December of 2005.
- **Kentucky Young Lawyers – News & Resources:** (<http://kentuckyyounglawyers.Blogspot.com/>) Michael Walker intends his Blawg to serve as a one-stop resource for young Kentucky lawyers.