Social Media a Legal and Ethical Perspective

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LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI NEW YORK OHIO TEXAS

New Legal Problems

"The internet has opened new channels of communication and self-expression...Countless individuals use message boards, date matching sites, interactive social networks, blog hosting services and video sharing websites to make themselves and their ideas viable to the world. While such intermediaries enable the user driven digital age, they also create new legal problems."

Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roomates.com, LLC, 489 F.3d 921, 924 (9th Cir. 2007)

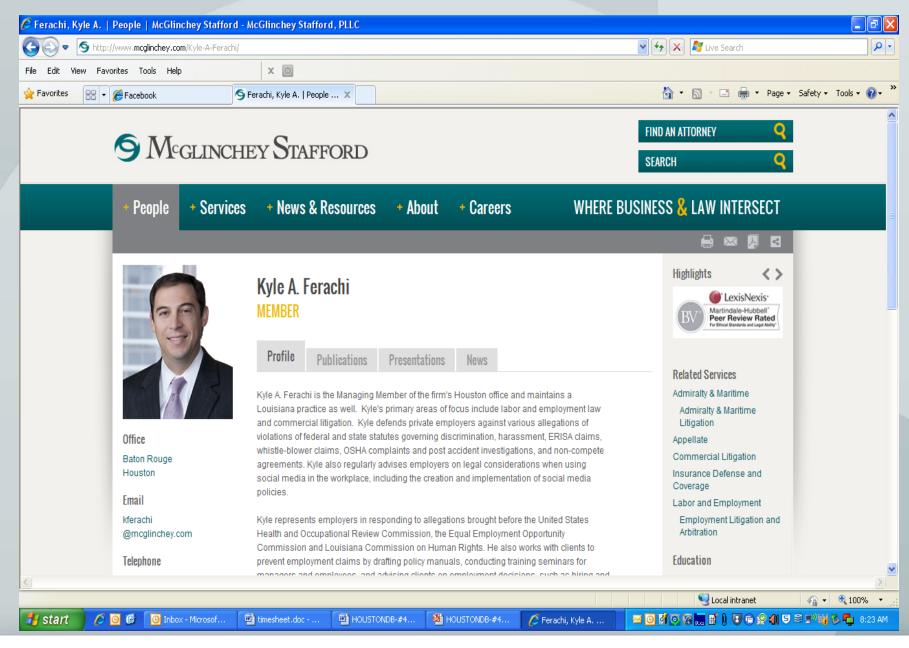


Are we Ready?

 [I]t should now be a matter of professional competence for attorneys to take the time to investigate social networking sites.

Griffin v. State, 192 Md. App. 518, 535 (2010),

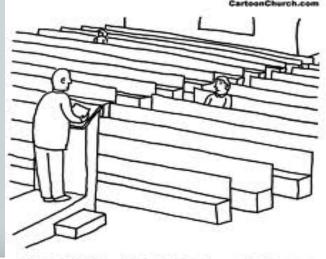




By the Numbers

- 1.06
- 2
- 230,000/95,000/80,000/ 65,000
- 65%/38%
- 6h2m59s
- 19/275,000,000

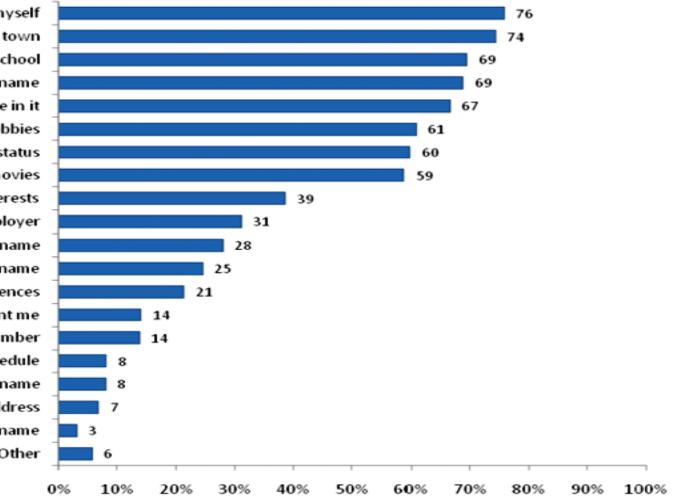
- 3+ billion
- 30%/835,000,000
- 24/6/5/4
- 21.6/19/16.2/15.6/14.7million



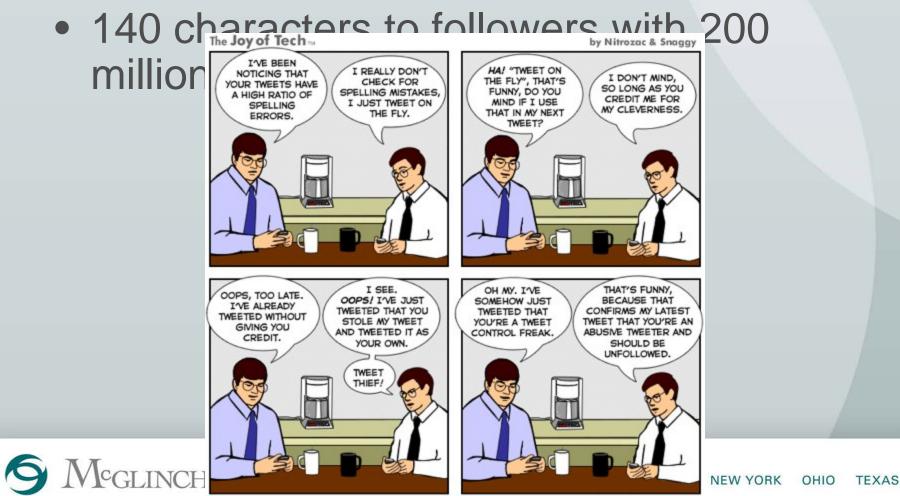
IT IS NOT ABOUT THE NUMBERS

facebook

A portrait photo of myself My home town My high school My full real name A group photo that includes me in it My interests/hobbies My relationship status My favourite music, books or movies My dating interests My employer Only part of my real name My relationship partner's name My political preferences A joke/fake photo to represent me My telephone number My class schedule Only my nickname My full address Only a fake/joke name Other





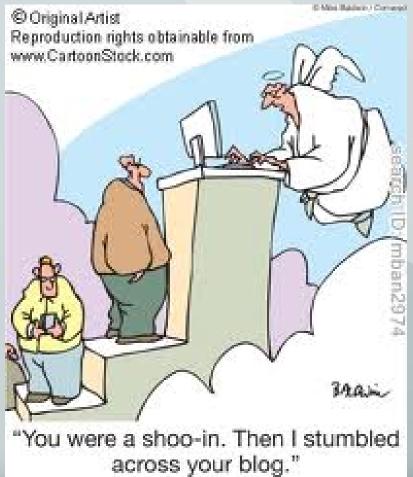


2009 Geek Culture

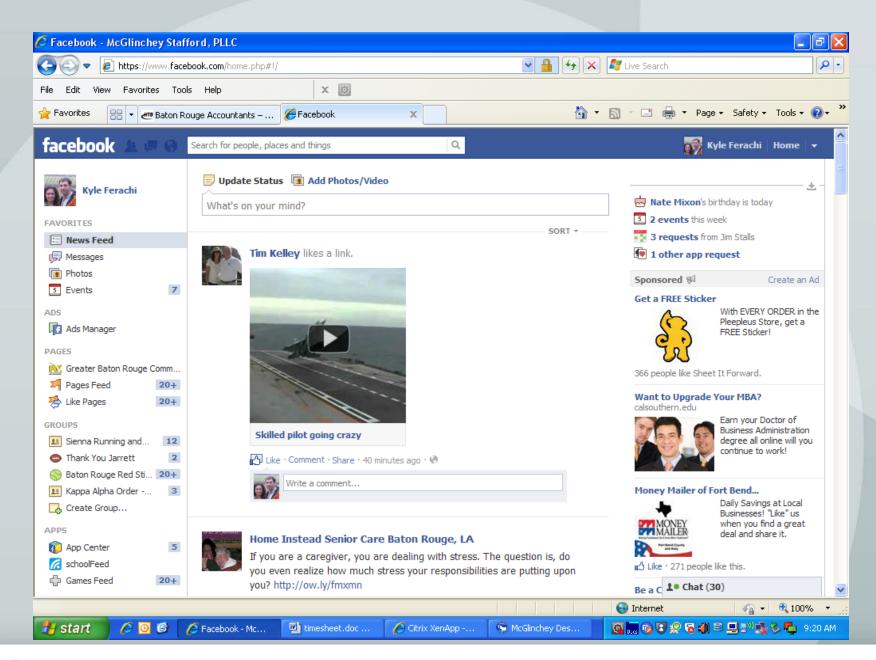
joyoftech.com

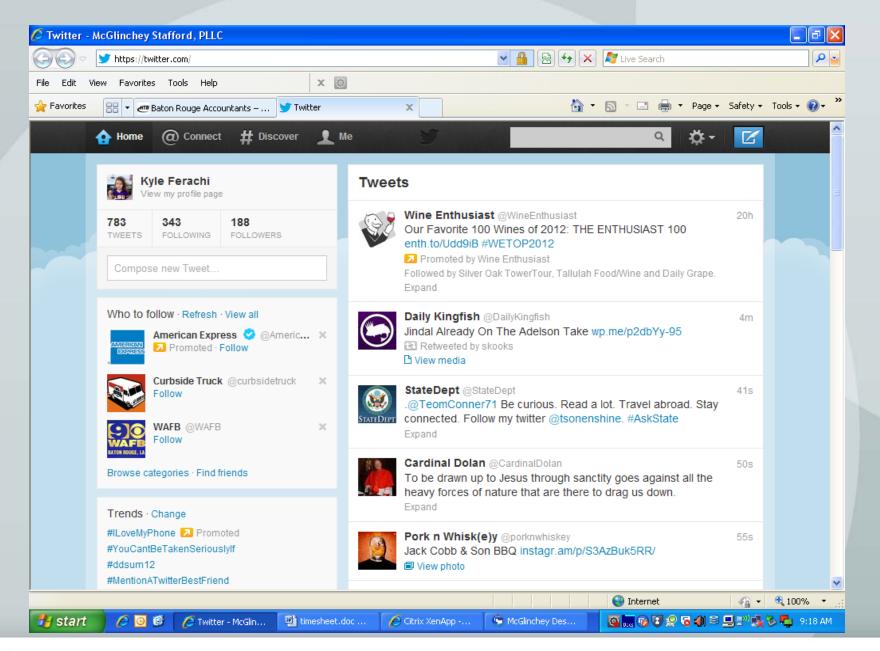
Blogs

- Personally maintained
- Allows comments

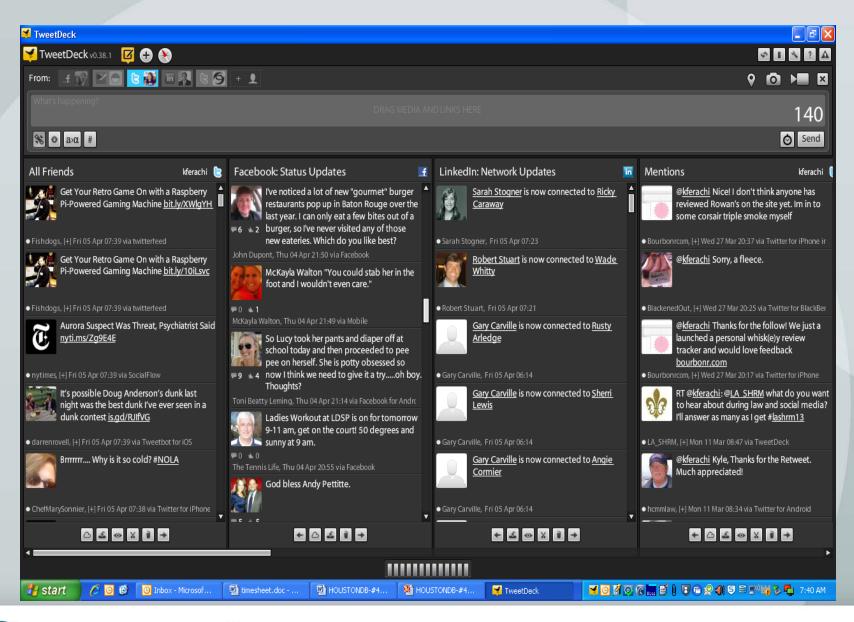












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campus on Easter

Q Search

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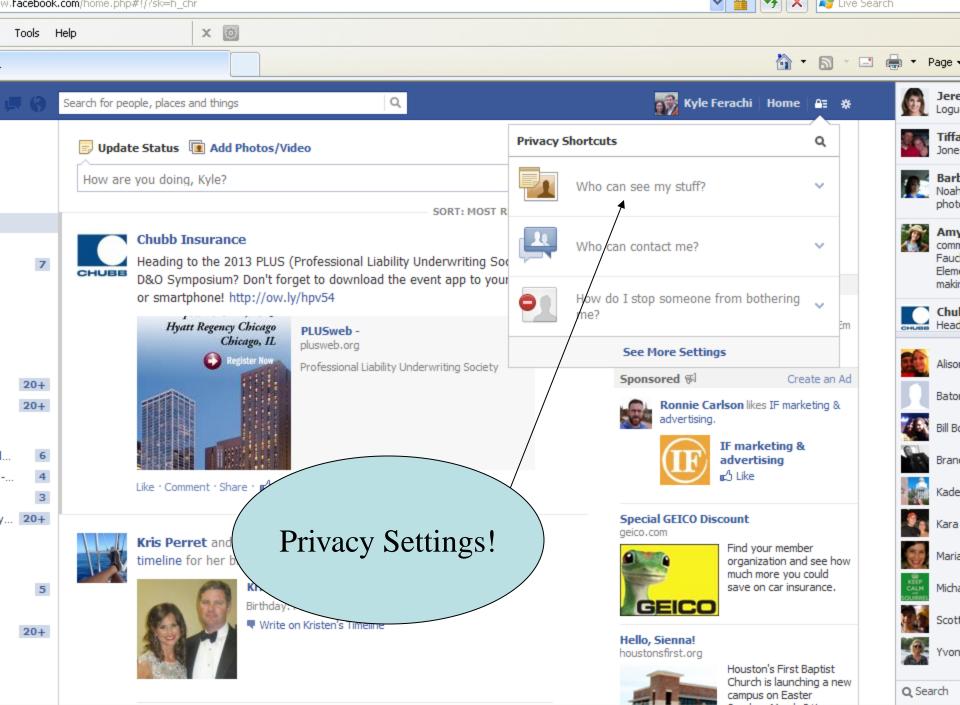
Internet

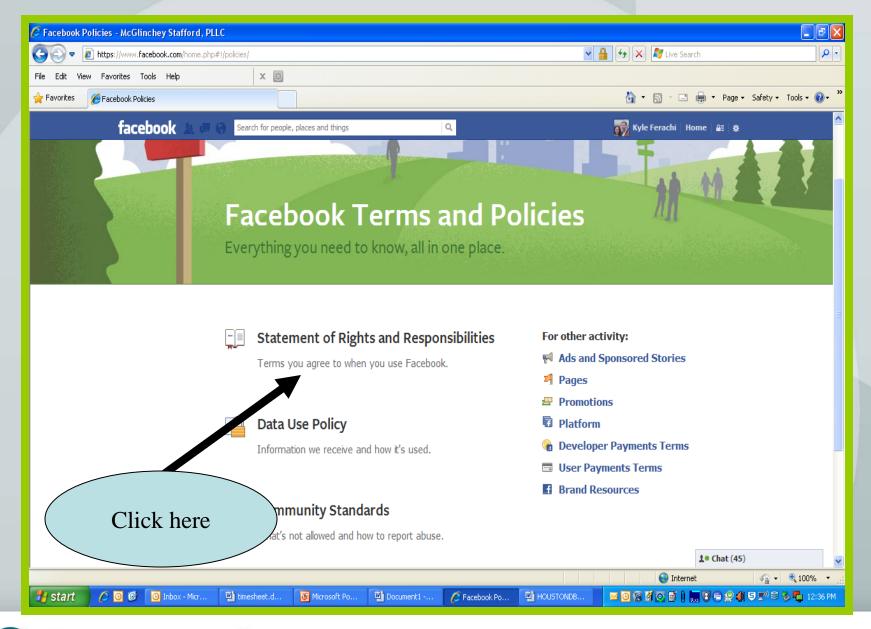
Q Search

Church is launching a new

campus on Easter







Facebook - McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC			
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This agreement was written in English (US). To the extent any translate note that Section 17 contains certain changes to the general terms for u	_	English version, the English version controls. Please	want to play video games again Aliens: Colonial Marines
Date of Last Revision: December 11, 2012.			Larry McAlpine was tagged in Aimee Ellender Stewart's photo. — with Kelly DeWeese at Manual Antonio National Park, Costa
Statement of Rights and Responsibilities			Rica. Cortney King likes Jerry Wood's status.
This Statement of Rights and Responsibilities ("Statement," "Terms," or "SRR") derives from the Facebook Principles, and is our terms of service that governs our relationship with users and others who interact with Facebook. By using or accessing Facebook, you agree to this Statement, as updated from time to time in accordance with Section 14 below. Additionally, you will find resources at the end of this document that help you understand how Facebook works.			Cortney King likes Judith Graham Breslin's photo.
 Privacy 	uns document that help you understand how	Facebook works.	Baton Rouge Uncorked
Your privacy is very important to us. We designed our Data Use Policy to collect and can use your content and information. We encourage you to		Hunter Cazes	
concer and can use your concert and minormation. We encourage you to	Jason Cline • Kelly Edwards •		
2. Sharing Your Content and Information	Leslie King •		
You own all of the content and information you post on Facebook, and yo	u can control how it is shared through your	privacy and application settings. In addition:	Marianne Sulser
1. For content that is covered by intellectual property rights, like phot	Matt Baltz		
privacy and application settings: you grant us a non-exclusive, tran	Progress Is		
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How do you get in Trouble?

- FCRA
- FSCA/FWTA
- FLSA
- Title VII (no cool acronym)



Fired for Facebook?

- NLRA protects concerted activities regarding work conditions
- All employees, not just unionized.



Top 10 for Employers

- Blended lives
- Employees use
- Embrace it
- Recruit with it
- Off duty postings

- Pay overtime
- Police SM sites
- Don't assume
- No privacy
- Consult professional



How do Lawyers Use?

- Lawyers help their clients
- No share pact
- Disengage
- Explicit terms in settlement agreement



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mind before storing or sending your archive.

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Q Search

To Protect our Clients

- Information posted is evidence
- Review sites
- Change passwords
- Discontinue use
- If continue
 - Don't use for emotional support
 - Don't vent
 - Remember the judge and your child

What about Lawyers?

- 50,000 legal professionals are already blogging both personally and professionally
- Almost 1 million people in the legal professions are using social media
- 20,000 legal professionals are using Twitter

Why Should we use Social Media?

- Referrals and Clients
- Strengthening relationships
- Jury pools
- Investigative tools
- Hiring



Stay out of Trouble

- Have it in writing nothing is private
- Don't bury the policy
- Consistently enforce rules
- Know when to say when
- Know the foul lines



Cybersmears

- Toughen Up
- Make Contact
- Set the Record Straight
- Brace for Uphill Battle
- Consider Additional Claims



Headlines and Horizon

- NJ Social Media Bill Could Prompt Flurry of Employee Suits
- Sanctions for Deleted Facebook Give Employers a Boost
- Employment Pacts in the Social Media Era
- New Facebook Notification "You've Been Served"
- SEC Support for Social Media Posts Has Attorneys Chirping

Complex Ethical Issues

- Competency
 Relevancy
 Rule 1.1
 4.4
- Diligence
 Rule 1.3
 Supervising Others
 Rules 5.1 and 5.3
- Spoliation
 - Rule 3.4

Social Media Policy for Law Firms

- Today, social media encompasses a broad sweep of online activity, all of which is track-able and traceable. These networks include not only the blogs you write and those to which you comment, but social networks such as Facebook; professional networks such as LinkedIn and Legal OnRamp; the live-blogging tool, Twitter; and social bookmarking such as Digg and Delicious. Every day, it seems, new online tools and new advances introduce new opportunities to build your virtual footprint.
- As a firm, we believe that social media can drive business and support your professional development efforts. We are also aware that social media use will not be used exclusively for business.
- Keeping that in mind, we attempt here to provide reasonable guidelines for online behavior by members of our firm when participating online on behalf of our firm. As new tools on the Web are introduced, and new challenges emerge for all of us, this document will, of necessity, evolve.



Other Concerns

- Inadvertent attorney-client relationship
- May not be able to post sufficient disclaimers on social media sites
- Appearance of impropriety by being "friends" with judges



What is everyone else doing?

- Pennsylvania
- New York City Bar Association
- South Carolina
- Florida
- Ohio
- Kentucky

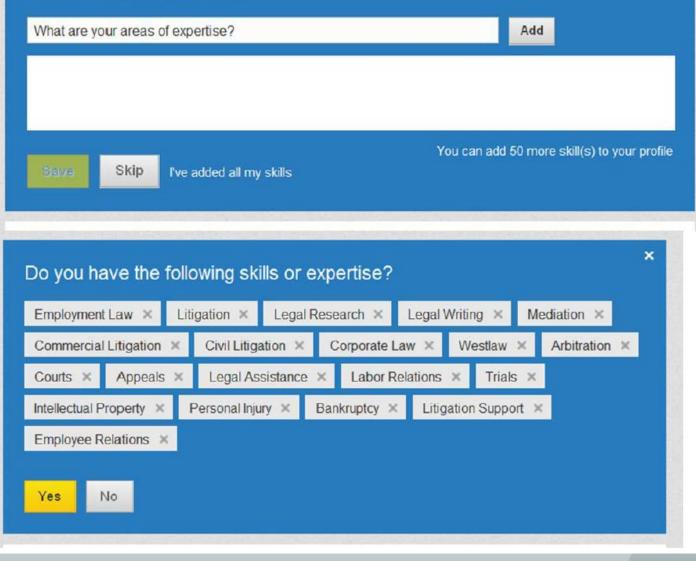


Can we Get in Trouble?

- Advertising Rules
- Practicing law without a license
- Lying to the court
- Ex parte communications
- Lack of Professionalism
- Improperly holding oneself out as an expert

LinkedIn Skills Endorsement Page: Does it violate Rule 7.2(c)(5)?







×

Disabling Skill Endorsement Feature

Main Menu – Select Profile

Edit Profile

Scroll down to Skills & Expertise section, and click the pencil icon display in blue

From drop-down menu under "Display your Endorsements," select "No, do not show my endorsements."



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Å	SKILLS & EXF	PERTISE				2 t
Add	& Remove Man	age Endorsements		and the second	ur endorsement	
What are your areas of expertise?				100, 011011	my endorsemen	1000
Wh	at are your areas of e	xpertise?				
	at are your areas of e an still add: 30	xpertise?			show my endors	
			: Financial ×	No, do not		
You o	an still add: 30			No, do not	ent Advisory ×	

General Guidelines for Lawyers

- Website maintenance
- Know your reach
- Avoid unethical postings
- Avoid active pursuit of potential client online
- Refrain from on-line legal advice
- Express disclaimers
- Do no hold yourself out as an expert in fields in which you are not properly board certified

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