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Legal Beagle Blog (January 2013)

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

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Legal Beagle's Blog

Twitter for Legal Professionals

Posted by Library Blog on 01/13/2013 at 10:43 AM

For those who like to follow the latest developments in an area of law but do not have the time to read a lengthy news story or blog post, try following a Twitter account. A great resource to consult for information about law-related Twitter accounts is Justia.com's [LegalBirds](#). You can browse the LegalBirds directory of numerous categories and practice areas to find the perfect Twitter account.

Links to other useful resources from LegalBirds are:

- [Legal Tweets](#) - legal discussions on Twitter moderated by *Nicole Black.
- [LexTweet](#) - lawyers and legal professionals on twitter list and community. From LexBlog.
- [Legal Aid & Non-Profit Legal Organizations on Twitter](#) and [Lawyers and Legal Professionals on Twitter](#) - from JDSupra.
- [16 Ways Lawyers Can Use Twitter](#) by *Bob Ambrogi for [Law Technology News](#).
- [Twitter 101 for Lawyers](#) by Nicole Black.
- [Tweetdeck](#) desktop software for enhancing the Twitter experience.

*Both [Nicole Black](#) and [Bob Ambrogi](#) write extensively on legal professionals using technology in law practice. Search the Law Library's [WebCatalog](#) by their name to locate their publications in the Law Library's collection.

If you are interested in tweeting as a legal professional, check out *Twitter in One Hour for Lawyers* (Stacks, [KF320.I57 C67 2012](#)).

If you are curious as to using Twitter for job-searching in addition to other social media, take a look at *The 6Ps of the Big 3 for Job-Seeking JDs: 60+ Ways to Get Hired Using Social Networking* (Career, [KF297 . E44 2010](#)).

New Law Library Digital Resource: ebrary

Posted by Library Blog on 01/22/2013 at 01:00 PM

The Law Library now offers even more access to recently published books via the Proquest [ebrary](#). There are more than 70,000 e-books in 15 major subject areas. The law publications cover various topics in antitrust, business, environmental, immigration, international, history, litigation, and many more.

Searching **ebrary** is easy with just a few keywords or sophisticated with several ways to narrow your search such as by author, subject headings, or year. You can search within the book, copy text, print pages, and save citations to RefWorks or EndNote.

Setup your own personal ebrary account to annotate your e-books, save them to a virtual bookshelf and create folders in which to organize your research.

E-books can be downloaded using **ebrary's** app for Android or iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.

“Pleaded” vs. “Pled”

Posted by Library Blog on 01/24/2013 at 04:09 PM

John Chandler and Brian Boone, both senior litigators at top law firms, recently debated the correct past tense of “plead” in a post for Legal Technology News. In “[War of the Words: Pleaded vs. Pled](#),” Attorney Chandler states his reasons for using “pled” while Attorney Boone makes his case for the use of “pleaded.”

Attorney Chandler says that while “pleaded” is fine on paper, lawyers use “pled” while in court. According to him, “pled” sounds more pleasing to the ear. Attorney Chandler notes the results of two polls conducted by [AboveTheLaw](#) in which a majority of the respondents preferred “pled.” Also, a search of Lexis and Westlaw retrieves the occurrence of “pled” more than “pleaded.”

Attorney Boone uses “pleaded” because every legal and journalistic writing guide from the last 100 years has said that “pleaded” is the better choice.¹ He notes that a quick Westlaw search reveals that the Supreme Court has used “pleaded” in over 3,000 opinions. The Court used “pled” in only 26 opinions and in some of those 26 opinions, the Court was quoting someone else. He mentions that Judges Richard Posner and Frank Easterbrook, rock-stars of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and prolific authors, rarely use “pled.”

If you have questions about the proper use of legal terminology, consult *Garner's Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* ([Reference, KF156 .G367 2011](#)). Additional texts by Bryan Garner for improving your legal writing are: *The Redbook: a Manual on Legal Style* ([Reserve, KF250 .G3 2006](#)) and *Making Your Case: the Art of Persuading Judges* co-authored with Justice Scalia ([Reserve, KF8870 .S25 2008](#)).

1. See, e.g., *Garner's Modern American Usage* 682 (third edition, 2011) (favoring "pleaded" and collecting a number of sources that do the same); *The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage* 263 (first revised edition); *The Associated Press Stylebook*, 215 (2011).

Pro Bono and You

Posted by Library Blog on 01/30/2013 at 04:23 PM

Since its founding in 1996, the [Feinstein Institute for Legal Service](#) has provided hundreds of RWU School of Law students with varied and numerous opportunities for pro bono service that benefit people in the local communities and beyond. If you are interested in learning about others in the legal profession who are passionately committed to providing pro bono service, here is a list of recent publications in the Law Library along with other resources from the American Bar Association.

- *Careers in Animal Law: Welfare, Protection, and Advocacy* ([KF299.A55 E37 2011](#))
- *Building Your Practice with Pro Bono for Lawyers* ([Career, KF336 . M55 2012](#))
- *Legally Mom: Real Women's Stories of Balancing Motherhood & Law Practice* ([Career, KF299.W6 B76 2012](#))
- *Private Lawyers and the Public Interest: the Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession* ([KF299.P8 P75 2009](#))
- *Thorns and Roses: Lawyers Tell Their Pro Bono Stories* ([KF336 .S36 2010](#))

The 2013 February issue of the [ABA Journal](#) includes the cover story [Working for Free: Lawyers Incorporating Pro Bono into their Lives Talk about its Rewards, Challenges](#). "Each of these stories is different, sometimes wildly different. But the one thing they share is a new, personal understanding of the professional obligation that is pro bono publico."

Check out the [ABA Center for Pro Bono Exchange](#) for links to relevant blogs and the [ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service](#) website. The Committee's website is an excellent resource for news, publications, and pro bono programs.