

[TECHNOLOGY]

THE TOP 20 TWEETERS TO FOLLOW ON TWITTER

by D. TODD SMITH

Since I last wrote about Twitter, the micro-blogging platform and social media tool has continued to gain popularity among lawyers. Last time, I focused on the ways lawyers can use Twitter to market their practices. [See "Marketing Your Practice in 140 Characters or Less," Texas Lawyer, Jan. 12, 2009, page 22.]

This time, I identify 20 "tweeters" — listed alphabetically according to their Twitter usernames, along with any text from their respective profiles — who provide content that is interesting and useful to Texas lawyers.

1. @ABAjournal: "Continuous news updates from the United States' most-read and most-respected legal affairs magazine and website."
2. @AmLawDaily: "The source for daily legal business news and analysis of leading law firms."
3. @carolynelefant: "Cool FERC lawyer (fercfighths.com). Marine renewables expert. Avid blogger at MyShingle, author Solo by Choice, mom. All at once."
4. @chucknewton: "Husband, father, lawyer, Third Waver, carpet commuter, spare room tycoon that likes crooners."

Lawyer-Coach LLC; former Vice Chair Law Practice Mgt Comm of Tx Bar; lawyer 18 yrs coach 9 yrs."

10. @LawBiz (Ed Poll): "CEO of LawBiz Mgt. Coach & Consultant helping lawyers become more successful."
11. @matthomann: "Legal Thinker. Innovational Speaker. Creative Facilitator. Dad."
12. @pdflawyer (Ernest Svenson): "The paperless law practice is here; it's just not evenly distributed." (See also @ernieattorney.)
13. @SCartierLiebel: "Creator of Solo Practice University — the 'practice of law' school, Lawyer, Mom, Wife, Inspiring Legal Entrepreneurs."
14. @SCOTXblog: "The Supreme Court of Texas Blog (SCOTXblog), covering Texas law and legal news. Edited by Don Cruse (@doncruse)."
15. @statebaroftexas: "Every licensed attorney in Texas is a member of the State Bar of Texas. Tweets for this account written by John Sirman, State Bar web manager."
16. @stevematthews: "Steve is the founder of Stem Legal, a fun loving law librarian & law firm seo."
17. @TheJuryExpert (Rita Handrich, Ph.D.): "Research & news relevant to litigation + juries +



Make It Easy

While browsing and choosing people to follow, lawyers should consider using TweetDeck or HootSuite to view and organize their Twitter streams. Both desktop applications allow users to filter tweets into columns, making it easy to follow discussions on specific topics or among user-defined groups. For example, I track everything said about the Texas Supreme Court in one column and everything fellow Texas appellate lawyers tweet about in another.

This tweeter list is hardly exclusive, and it reflects my own biases toward authorities on solo and small-firm practice, as well as on technology and appellate-related subjects. But whether lawyers are Twitter veterans or just getting started, I would recommend following any of the tweeters listed above. Their tweets will not disappoint.

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5. @glambert: "Law Librarian (BigLaw), Blogger, geeklawblog, Competitive Intelligence, Social Media, Knowledge Management (KM), Speaker, not Adam."
6. @JayFleischman: "Lawyer. Dad. Geek. Helping The Legal Profession Evolve."
7. @jordan_law21 (Jordan Furlong): "Lawyer, editor, blogger, and occasional Jeremiah for the legal profession."
8. @kevinokeefe: "Lawyer, dad to 5, husband to saint, Cubs-Packer fan. CEO of LexBlog, provider of professional blogs to law firms, operator of LexTweet and LexMonitor."
9. @LawyerCoach (Debra Bruce): "President,

- jurors + voir dire + more from the Editor of The Jury Expert (ASTC)."
 18. @TX_Legislature.
 19. @TexParteBlog: (Texas Lawyer's own Twitter account apparently needs no introduction, since it lacks any profile information at all.) [Editor's note: This has been rectified.]
 20. @TomMighell: "Consultant with Fios Inc., legal technology speaker and writer, social media geek."
- As an additional resource, @JDTwitt (Adrian Lurssen, who is himself worthy of inclusion) maintains what has grown into a 750-member list of lawyers and legal professionals who actively use Twitter (<http://is.gd/2poh>).



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I Like Being a Lawyer!

Editor's note: Billable hours. Demanding bosses and clients. Student loans. A lack of civility. We all know the cons of being a lawyer, but what are the pros? Texas Lawyer asked lawyers across the state to tell us the top five reasons they like being lawyers. Texas Lawyer will run the "I Like Being a Lawyer" column periodically in the newspaper's "Out of Order" section. Contributors e-mailed their lists, which have been edited for length and style.

Top 5 Reasons I Like Being a Texas Lawyer:

1. I have the ability and opportunity to use independent judgment.
2. The way the legal profession operates, from billable hours to marketing, is changing, and I like being on the cutting edge of that change.
3. I enjoy the flexibility to practice the kind of law I want to practice and to utilize my strengths and talents toward a fulfilling career.
4. I appreciate the professionalism among members of the bar.
5. I can use my legal tools to help others effectuate change in their personal and professional lives.

