

# Do legal blogs need disclaimers?

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I am very excited about law firms incorporating social media into their legal marketing strategies. Blogging seems like a great way to start. When asking lawyers to start a blog I get the sense they are worried about the potential legal ramifications. "Everything you say can and will be used against you" is the typical response I hear.

So do legal blogs need legal disclaimers like the example below?

*"Nothing in this blog should be relied on as legal advice. The information contained herein does not create an attorney/client relationship. The articles posted are intended for entertainment and general information purposes only. Laws vary state/province by state/province. Anyone seeking legal advice for a specific situation should consult a qualified*

*lawyer or similar qualified professional in the appropriate state."*

Poyter News University provides a free course called *Online Media Law: The Basics for Bloggers and Other Publishers*<sup>1</sup>. I took the course and thought it was quite thorough and relevant. It takes about an hour to complete and includes topics such as:

- Defamation
- Copyright Infringement
- Invasion of Privacy

My opinion is every legal blog *should* include the above disclaimer (or something similar to it). Lawyers are held to a higher set of standards and ethics and providing the disclaimer will ensure readers do not rely on their blog for legal advice.

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<sup>1</sup> Located at <http://www.newsu.org/courses/online-media-law-basics-bloggers-and-other-publish>