

AEJI Conference
“Courts in the Age of New Media” Panel Discussion
November 4, 2017 11:00 a.m.

Participants

Moderator: Howard Bashman, *author, ‘How Appealing’ blog, Law Offices of Howard J. Bashman*
Panelist, Richard L. Hasen, *Chancellor’s Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine, author ‘Election Law Blog’*

Panelist, Adam Feldman, *Fellow in the Empirical Study of Public Law at Columbia Law School, author, ‘Empirical SCOTUS’ blog*

Panelist, RonNell Andersen Jones, *Lee E. Teitelbaum Endowed Chair and Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, former newspaper reporter and editor*

Learning Objectives

As mainstream media coverage of appellate courts continues to decline, other alternatives have arisen to provide coverage of noteworthy appellate court rulings and those areas of the law deserving of in-depth coverage. The moderator and two of the panelists for this program will offer their first-hand accounts of covering appellate courts and appellate court rulings online for a highly sophisticated audience that also includes anyone with an internet connection. The panel will discuss how other methods of new media, such as podcasts or homemade video presentations, are supplementing coverage of the courts that exist from more traditional journalistic outlets. The panel will conclude with a look toward the future and consideration, in particular, of how appellate courts themselves can assist bloggers and other new journalists to provide better and more useful coverage of the courts’ work and decisions.

Topical Outline

- I. New media and the courts, where have we been and where are we now
- II. How does one decide to launch a useful and popular law blog, and what level of expertise and what amount of time and resources does it take?
 - Examining the benefits and burdens for academics and attorneys in private practice
- III. What, if anything, can courts do to enable their work to be more easily accessed by new journalists and members of the general public
 - Free and easy access to court filings
 - Free and easy access to oral argument audio and/or video
 - Free and easy access to court rulings and important court orders
 - Should courts themselves issue news releases explaining decisions and procedures
- IV. What does the future hold for new and inventive ways to cover appellate proceedings and decisions?