

Agenda	
 Welcome Maintaining Attorney-Client Privilege in the Age Media Attorney-Client Privilege Overview 	of Social
 Social Media and Its Effects on Privilege Best Practices for Preserving Privilege 	
 Recent Developments Concerning Social Media and Employment Law Considerations Social Media and Employee Benefits Social Media Sites as a Marketing Tool Conclusion 	
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- Whole Foods CEO's anonymous blogging promoting his company and criticizing competitors, including Wild Oats Markets prior to hostile takeover, led to unfair competition claims/lawsuit following FTC/SEC investigation.
- International Air Carrier "Queen of the Sky" Flight attendant fired for posting revealing photographs in company uniform on her blog. She sued for sex discrimination claiming men not similarly punished.
- International Software Company Employee posted news of a free software upgrade that Microsoft planned to offer select customers before Microsoft officially announced the promotion.

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• Domino's, Burger King, KFC – Employees posted video/photographs harming company image.

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Hiring Risks

- In addition to the social networking sites, some employers use search engines and other Internet sites such as PeopleFinders.com, Local.Live.com, Zillow.com, Feedster.com, Technorati.com (to search for blogs), and Opensecrets.org and Fundrace.org (to search for campaign donations). La Jean Humphries, *The Impact of Social Networking Tools and Guidelines to Use Them*, LLRX.COM, Jan. 15, 2007, <u>http://www.llrx.com/features/goodgoogle.htm</u>.
- According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), more than half of all employers use some kind of online screening technology, including social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. *Id*.
- Lawful background checks? Invasion of privacy? Lawful off-duty conduct?

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Be Careful about Accessing an Employee Website that Prohibits Management Access: Konop v. Hawaiian Airlines, Inc., 302 F.3d 868, 880 (9th Cir. 2002)

 Pilot maintained password-protected website that only specific employees on an eligible list could visit. Eligible employees voluntarily gave access to management representative who logged on to the site as an eligible employee. Plaintiff sued his employer under the SCA for unauthorized access to his website.

- The SCA "allows a person to authorize a third party's access to an electronic communication if the person is 1) a 'user' of the 'service' and 2) the communication is 'of or intended for that user.'"
- The court held that the eligible employees had never actually accessed the site and, therefore, were not "users" under the SCA and could not provide third-party authorization to management.

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Risks to the Employer: Copyright and Fair Use

- *L.A. Times v. Free Republic*, 2000 WL 565200 (C.D. Cal. 2000).
- Defendant's "bulletin board" website allowed members to post news articles to which they added commentary. Members posted the entire text of articles, including those from plaintiff's website.
- Court held that defendant's verbatim copying and posting of news articles onto its website was an attempt to exploit the market for viewing plaintiff's articles online, and such action was not protected by the fair-use doctrine.

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• Potentially a concern with employer-sponsored blogs or electronic bulletin boards.

















Social Media and Employee Benefits: Considerations

- Advantages
 - Effective
 - Interactive
 - Broader audience
- Disadvantages
 - Integrates with—does not replace—current employee benefits communications

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- Privacy concerns

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What the Surveys Are Reporting

Industry Report © 2012 Social Media Examiner

- Marketers still place high value on social media: A significant 83% of marketers indicate that social media is important for their businesses.
- Video marketing holds the top spot for future plans: A significant 76% of marketers plan on increasing their use of YouTube and video marketing, making them the top areas marketers will invest in for 2012.
- **Top three benefits of social media marketing:** The number-one benefit of social media marketing is generating more business exposure (reported 85% of marketers), followed by increasing traffic (69%) and providing marketplace insight (65%).
- **Top five social media networks/tools for marketers:** Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, blogs, and YouTube were the top five social media tools used by marketers, in that order.
- Social media outsourcing underutilized: Only 30% of businesses are outsourcing some portion of their social media marketing, a slight increase from 28% in 2011.

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Ad Agencies – Sample Terms

- When utilizing Social Media on Company's behalf in an approved campaign, our business partners must remain cognizant that they are representing Company in such posts and content, and must use appropriate and professional language in all uses of Social Media. Company-sponsored messaging through Social Media or other electronic media must be focused on topics related to Company business or products, and should not be used for any non-business purpose.
- All statements made by our business partners on behalf of Company must be truthful, not misleading, and adequately substantiated (i.e., our business partners must have a reasonable basis for claims used in Social Media or other promotional materials prior to making such claims). Note that claims concerning products or services that affect consumer health or safety require a relatively high level of substantiation as compared with other goods or services. Scientific and/or technical claims concerning the utility, efficacy, or safety of Company's products must be based on competent and reliable scientific evidence.
- To the extent not apparent based on context, making clear in any post, conversation, or other exchange of ideas and information about Company or Company products that the business partners has been engaged by Company to make such statements or participate in such dialogue.

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