INTRODUCTION

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I think the Journal of Law’s focus on scholarship that appears on blogs is helpful in identifying the kinds of work that is appropriate for blogs – work that is suggestive rather than definitive, quick takes, or in an area that’s moving quickly. But I still have the nagging question: are law blogs relevant?

– Alfred Brophy, Are Law Blogs (Still) Relevant?, The Faculty Lounge blog, June 19, 2013

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“Every day I check SCOTUSblog and How Appealing and The Volokh Conspiracy.”


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Alfred Brody asks a fair question, and The Post is intrigued by Justice Kagan’s comments at the Aspen Ideas Festival.

Her remarks are nice evidence of judicial awareness of good blogging, and perhaps even of its influence, but they do not give us much of an idea of how judges view posts: Are they scholarship? Are they journalism? Are they more reliable for a sense of where scholarship is today because they reflect the current thoughts of scholars, while the law reviews reflect the thoughts those scholars had a year or two ago? Are they more reliable than journalism because they are more susceptible to correction and part of a culture that is more

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likely to confess – or at least flag – errors than, say, the New York Times? In other words, what do judges think they are reading when they read a blog post? The Post will keep its ear to the ground.

Are you inspired to celebrate more legal blog posts that can sometimes get buried in the avalanche of life on the internet? We welcome submissions from astute readers who know good legal blog posts when they see them. (Our parameters: (1) The blog post should be about law or laws; (2) it should be written by legally trained people for legally trained people or aspiring lawyers rather than for a general audience; and (3) it deserves to transcend the 15 nanoseconds of fame that blog posts typically enjoy.) Please send links you’d like to nominate to post@annaivey.com. //