Interview 1: Blogs on law

Entrevista 1: Blogs e Direito

Panóptica interviews Hugh Hewitt. He is a graduate of Harvard College and University of Michigan Law School, a professor of Constitutional Law at Chapman University since 1995, and a broadcast journalist. He has received three Emmy prize for his work as co-host of Life & Times Program (1992-2007). He is the author of “Blog – Understanding the information reformation that’s changing your world”. Here, the interview emphasizes how the Internet technologies can influence on law, and how they can be applied on it.

Panóptica - Could you tell us more about your experience being professor of law, journalist, and especially a blogger?

The three callings are related in that each requires an individual in love with information and communication. I move between the three seamlessly because each requires a lot of reading, thinking and writing about subjects at the center of law and politics.

Panóptica - What do you think about the relationship of different kinds of media, as radio, books, and blogs, for example?

My friend James Lileks, says it is all just text. He's right. Some is written. Some is spoken. But no matter the medium, it is still just text.

Panóptica - Which advices you would like to give, or you consider essential, to the professor of law, the student of law, and to the lawyer who want to create blogs on law but do not know how to start?

First, realize that whatever you write on a blog is forever, so prudence matters. Second, address your specialty, or if you lack one, develop a specialty. From specialty grows audience, and from audience grows the ability to influence on subjects not related to specialty.

Panóptica - What you consider essential to become a blogger man?

A love of information flows from all sorts of sources and a lot of time in front of a computer.

Panóptica - Regarding to the title of your book "Blog", how conciliate the
"information reformation that's changing your world" with the world of law?

Law orders; information disorders. If the law is going to keep up with new challenges from new sectors, it needs to be in the middle of the virtual conversation.

Panóptica - Is that possible to a lawyer, or a lawyer's office, creating their own blog without the risk of using it as a commercial tool to win clients?

Many American lawyers are using blogs to win clients, and I suspect that is the future of lawyer blogging.

Panóptica - What you think about the mass collaboration? That is, how do you think it can be a factor of changing in the law field?

Group blogs allow for unique voices to both be heard and to develop synergy among them that increases readability and audience.


Writing about blogs now is like writing about television in the 1950s. It is a new style of communication that is changing our culture very very quickly and thus deserves study and thought.