

# **Classroom Technologies: How to Use Them to Engage Your Learners**

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Carole A. Levitt (clevitt@netforlawyers.com), President of Internet For Lawyers ([www.netforlawyers.com](http://www.netforlawyers.com)), is an internationally recognized CLE seminar speaker and best-selling ABA author. She is an expert on Internet investigative and legal research; social media research; social media ethics; Google search and Cloud Apps; and technology for lawyers. Carole has been presenting CLE seminars full-time since 1999.

Carole has co-authored several ABA LPM books, including (1) *Google Gmail and Calendar in One Hour for Lawyers* (2013); (2) *Find Info like a Pro, Volume 2: Mining the Internet's Public Records for Investigative Research* (2011); (3) *Find Info Like a Pro Volume 1: Mining the Internet's Publicly Available Resources for Investigative Research* (2010); and (4) *Google for Lawyers: Essential Search Tips and Productivity Tools* (2010). She has also co-authored twelve editions of *The Cybersleuth's Guide to the Internet*.

Previously, Carole was a California attorney, a law librarian in Chicago and Los Angeles, and a Legal Research and Writing Professor at Pepperdine University School of Law. She graduated with distinction from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago and was a member of the school's law review. Carole has a Masters in Library Science and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois. Carole is a member of ACLEA. She is active in the ABA LPM's Section and serves on its Publications Board. She previously served on the section's Executive Council. Carole is past Chair of the California State Bar's LPMT Executive Committee. Recently, Carole was nominated as a Fellow to the College of Law Practice Management.

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Mark E. Rosch (mrosch@netforlawyers.com), Vice-President of Internet For Lawyers ([www.netforlawyers.com](http://www.netforlawyers.com)), is an internationally recognized CLE seminar speaker and best-selling ABA author. He is an expert on Internet investigative and legal research; social media research; social media ethics; Google search and Cloud Apps; and technology for lawyers. Mark has been presenting CLE seminars full-time since 1999.

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In addition to speaking and also writing books and articles, Mark blogs and tweets about legal technology issues. He developed the company's website, blog, Facebook Business page, and its online CLE education initiative. Mark is a graduate of Tulane University. A member of ACLEA, Mark has chaired its Marketing and Entrepreneurship SIGs. He is active in the ABA LPM Section, currently serving on its ABA TECHSHOW Board and previously on its Education Committee.

## **Classroom Technologies: How to Use Them to Engage Your Learners**

The proliferation of portable devices that can instantly access the Internet has opened new opportunities for CLE planners - even at in-person events. A high percentage of attendees now carry a laptop, a tablet, or a smartphone with them into CLE programs. They can be an attractive nuisance unless you design the program to use them.

Our Internet research CLE seminars bring attendees to the new level of professional competence required for gathering the winning facts for their cases or transactions by having them conduct real-time searches of topically-relevant Internet sites.

The goal of this session is to demonstrate how speakers on almost any topic can increase their level of audience engagement by having attendees conduct real-time searches of Internet sites relevant to the presentation topic. One caveat is that this level of audience participation can limit the amount of content a presenter can cover. Therefore, presenters should not rely solely on these kinds of searches for a presentation. Presenters should scatter them throughout a presentation and limit them to the most informative or useful examples.

A good way to get attendees to use their devices productively during a seminar is to play on their reticence to raise their hands or otherwise participate publicly. We have had success asking attendees to submit questions by text or e-mail. By displaying text and e-mail contact information in a PowerPoint slide at the beginning of the seminar (and having it in the written materials), we have been able to get attendee questions and feedback that we might not have gotten otherwise. To that end, if you have any questions during this presentation, you can send us a text at 505/500-4943 or an e-mail at [questions@netforlawyers.com](mailto:questions@netforlawyers.com).

### **Corporate or Business Due Diligence Seminar**

**Google – <http://www.google.com>**

A client is interested in going into business with a movie producer named David Dadon. You can find information available online through a Google Web Search that would help the attorney advise their client.

**Google – <http://www.google.com>**

**Question:** What's Dadon been up to lately?

## **Any Topic**

Many public libraries provide free remote access to useful and current databases (that would be very costly if you had to pay to use them). Most of these databases are full-text and updated regularly (some as often as daily). The database topics range from business, news, financial, and science to medical. These databases can be used for finding background information about clients, the opposition, a company, a product, or a topic about which you need to get up to speed. Every library offers a different group of databases, ranging from the Wall Street Journal (full-text) and Gale's Business Directory (which includes background information, broker reports, and more) to RefUSA (which provides addresses and phone numbers for millions of people and businesses). All you need to access these resources is your library card.

**Libdex – <http://www.libdex.com>**

**Question:** Use Libdex to find your library's databases. Do they offer Biography in Context, Reference USA, Infotrac, or General Onefile?

## **Bankruptcy**

RECAP (<https://www.recapthelaw.org>) is a project of the Center for Information Technology Policy at Princeton University that allows free access to millions of U.S. Federal District and Bankruptcy Court documents (<http://archive.recapthelaw.org/about>).

**RECAP – <https://www.recapthelaw.org>**

**Question:** Has LaDonna Carol Crawford ever declared bankruptcy?

## **Securities or Corporate**

The federal government's official Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) site, EDGAR (<http://www.sec.gov>), is free and provides access to data in "real time." Since 2006, EDGAR has provided full-text searching ([http://searchwww.sec.gov/EDGARFSCClient/jsp/EDGAR\\_MainAccess.jsp](http://searchwww.sec.gov/EDGARFSCClient/jsp/EDGAR_MainAccess.jsp)), currently covering the most recent four years of filings. This has made EDGAR significantly more useful. An Advanced Search option is also available that allows the inclusion of Company Name, Central Index Key (CIK), or Standard Industrial Classification limiters to further narrow down the keyword search results.

**EDGAR – <http://linkon.in/JgcQj5> (click on "Advanced Search")**

Your client wants to know what other CFOs in the luxury goods industry are earning, what the bonus structure looks like, and other fringe benefits. He

knows Joseph B. Parsons is a CFO in the industry, but doesn't know where he's currently working.

**Question:** Use the EDGAR advanced search to full-text search "Joseph B. Parsons" and limit the results just to the form DEF 14a. What is his total compensation?

### **Family Law**

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) National Sex Offender Public Registry (<http://www.nsopr.gov/>) offers one-stop access to registries from fifty states, Guam, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Indian Country.

The Advanced Search page gives you the ability to conduct a more focused search, such as a separate Address Radius Search allows you to search for registered offenders within a 1, 2, or 3 mile radius of the address you enter.

**National Sex Offender Public Registry – <http://www.nsopr.gov>**

**Question:** In a custody dispute you'd like to learn how many registered sex offenders live in close proximity to the opposing spouse. Use the Address Radius Search on the Advanced Search page to locate the number of offenders registered within a five mile radius of your own home.

### **Any Topic**

Many public record and investigative research databases require you to enter a birthdate when searching for information about a specific person.

While it's not an official birth record by any means, for those who only need to obtain or verify a date of birth, Birthdatabase.com (<http://www.birthdatabase.com>) allows you to search for birthdays for free. Birthdatabase.com allows you to narrow the search by entering an estimated age (within two years).

**Birthdatabase.com – <http://www.birthdatabase.com>**

**Question:** Does Birthdatabase include your birthday? (Search using a married or maiden name.)

### **Probate or Lawyer Retirement**

Determining whether someone has died can be important to lawyers in different practice areas for different reasons.

Probate lawyers can discover if past clients have recently died in order to contact their survivors to probate the estate. A lawyer in any practice area who is

planning their retirement, who needs to return files to clients, will save time when trying to locate those clients if they can determine at the beginning of the search which of those clients have died.

FamilySearch.org allows you to search death records by First Names and Last Names. Checking the boxes next to either of the names forces the database to search only for exact matches of the names you've entered. If you do not check these boxes, the returned results can also include names that sound similar to the names you've entered.

**FamilySearch.org – <http://www.familysearch.org>**

**Question:** Search for information about someone you know to see if their death is reported here.

Findagrave.com (<http://www.findagrave.com>) can be searched to find the gravesite locations of nearly 94 million people. You can search the database with as little as a Last name but can also add a First and Middle name as well. A check box also allows you to instruct the site to include maiden names in your search results. You can further narrow your results by adding birth and death years

**Find-A-Grave – <http://www.findagrave.com>**

**Question:** Search for information about someone you know to see if their death is reported here.

**Litigation, Family Law, or Expert Witnesses**

Jurispro.com (<http://www.jurispro.com>) is a free expert witness database with a unique feature. The site gives you the ability to view an expert's photograph and listen to his or her voice. The expert's CV, Background, Publications, and References are also included, in addition to a link to the expert's own Web site (where applicable) and an e-mail contact form.

**Jurispro.com – <http://www.jurispro.com>**

**Question:** Search for an expert witness named Kay Cox. What is her area of expertise?