

(Nearly) Free Legal Searching Online

Your firm's Westlaw or LexisNexis accounts may have been the victim of the latest budget cuts, but that doesn't mean you can't access legal information online for free or nearly free. Some sites that may be of interest (links are embedded):

Federal case law

[U.S. Supreme Court](#) slip opinions
[PACER](#), the Public Access to Court Electronic Records website, for case and docket information from federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts.

U.S. Code

[Legal Information Institute](#) at Cornell University Law School allows users to search the U.S. Code by citation or browse by title
[Government Printing Office's U.S. Code](#) website allows users to search by citation to obtain statutory text

State court opinions

[National Center for State Courts](#) website

State statutes and administrative regulations

[Legal Information Institute](#)
[Washburn University School of Law](#)

Municipal codes and ordinances

Searchable by state on [Municode](#) (Emporia is not included)

Public records

[Public Records Center](#) - if a match is found, the user has the option of purchasing low-cost reports

Adapted from the *ABA Journal* July issue and Kristi L. Bergemann's article, "A Garden of Good Research: Free (or Inexpensive) Legal Resources on the Internet" in the June 2010 issue of the *The Young Lawyer*, a publication of the Young Lawyers Division.



Technology in the Courtroom – More than Graphics

Houston lawyer Mark Lanier has won some huge verdicts (\$417 million, \$253.5 million and \$118 million) in asbestos and products liability suits in his 26 years of practice. And he's proud of his role in changing how lawyers use PowerPoint and other technology in the courtroom.

He applies Hollywood-style storyboarding techniques in his PowerPoint presentations, focusing on pairing pictures with slogans rather than bullet points. He quotes communications research as indicating pictures and a slogan as more memorable, persuasive and educational than bullet points alone.

Lanier is all about understanding how juries learn and how to present evidence that not only teaches juries what they need to know but to do so in a way that moves information into their long-term memory. Source: *Law Technology News/Texas Lawyer* June 29, 2010

Do You Google Your Jury Pool?

Los Angeles County plaintiffs lawyer Paul Kiesel gained national attention over a recent construction accident case in which he employed researchers to Google jurors' names during jury selection. Kiesel planned to select a 30-year old attorney who did not have a conflict with his client until his researchers discovered the man had run for state office on a tort reform platform. Kiesel rejected the potential juror and his client won half of the requested \$1 million.

Should attorneys use social media during jury selection? Join us in a discussion at the law library Facebook page, accessible from www.lyoncounty.org/LawLibrary.html.