



---

March 5, 2009

## ***Twittering—in court?***

*Twitter (def)—a social networking and micro-blogging service that allows its users to send and read other users' updates (known as tweets), which are text-based posts of up to 140 characters in length. Updates are displayed on the user's profile page and delivered to other users who have signed up to receive them.<sup>1</sup>*

Like MySpace and Facebook, Twittering has become a major means of communication and is being used in a variety of ways such as a source of information to students at college from college administrators, an emergency notification system, a relief support structure (used by the American Red Cross), and for posting news.

In Wichita, Kansas, a U.S. District Judge recently permitted the use of twittering to a newspaper reporter, enabling live post coverage of a capital murder trial. Federal courts traditionally have tighter rules—no cameras, video or audio recording in the courtroom. The judge was quoted as saying, “I don’t see this as prejudicial.” He would allow attorneys to file any objections they had for the record. Since then, other reporters have also covered trials using Twitter.

To learn more, go to [www.legalblogwatch.com](http://www.legalblogwatch.com).

<sup>1</sup>“Twitter,” Wikipedia.org, 2/27/09

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter>>