

## Attorneys using Facebook to serve legal papers

**Attorneys in other parts of the world are starting to serve legal documents via social media sites like Facebook, and it's expected to cross the pond to the U.S. soon.**

It seems like we are doing nearly everything online now, right? Facebook is as much a part of some people's lives as sleeping and eating. Recognizing this, attorneys in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada are now serving legal papers to people through Facebook. And they have been having quite a bit of success with this process, citing that Facebook is a "reliable, secure and private communication medium."

Since attorneys can't always reach people in person, Facebook seems like a reliable and viable option. **Agreeing with this position, Joseph DeMarco**, co-chair of the American Bar Association's criminal justice cyber-crime committee and a lawyer at New York-based DeVore & DeMarco said, "There are people who exist only online." Which is even more of a reason to use Facebook to reach them.

According to DeMarco, once you have enough proof that the person on Facebook is the one who needs to be served, and that they use the social network enough to see this notification, the courts shouldn't have a problem with the delivery process.

Though, on the other side, there is always a privacy concern when using social media platforms to disseminate information, especially private, legal information. Would the person receiving the papers be able to claim that his or her legal rights were violated?

What do you think? Should the U.S. jump on board and start using Facebook as an alternative way to serve legal papers? Share your thoughts in the comments section below.