

Do Wikis Belong in Law Firms?

by Connie Crosby
for torontowikituesdays.com
February 12, 2008

Law firms tend to be...

— [risk averse

Law firms tend to be...


— [conservative when implementing new technologies

Law firms tend to be...

— [entrenched in Microsoft Office

Law firms tend to be...

— [very private with their new tech projects



**“I remain contrarian
and cynical...”**

“...Aren't all major law firms with mature document management systems (DMSs) 'wikified' to the max already? If everyone in the firm has online access to the 'Smith file' or the 'Jones file' and can edit documents, view calendars or other lists of information, access research memos, and post comments, isn't this 'wiki' personified?”

- Ted Tjaden, SLAW.ca, Feb. 12/08

**But are lawyers & firms
all the same?**





anecdotal evidence of wiki use

Mid-size Canadian firm

Mid-size Canadian firm:

— [“I have had quite a bit of success introducing wikis here”

Mid-size Canadian firm:

— [“we are now piloting a wiki style platform”

Mid-size Canadian firm:

— [“will replace our intranet and the current model of centralized publishing through Dream Weaver”

Large U.S. firm

Large U.S. firm:

— [wiki platform added to existing intranet system

Large U.S. firm:

— [“we have decided not to have one central wiki”

Large U.S. firm:

— [“granularity’ is our mantra”

Large U.S. firm:

— [51 page database moved to 255 wiki pages with subpages

Small U.S. boutique firm

Small U.S. boutique firm

— [Rosen Law - specializes in divorce in Raleigh
<http://www.rosen.com>

Rosen Law:

— [Replacing Lotus Notes with PBWiki

Rosen Law

— [wiki will contain “everything from contracts to contacts”

Rosen Law:

— [“will start moving case files to it next year”

Rosen Law:

— [from \$25,000 per year for Lotus Notes

— [to \$600 per year for PBWiki

Critical Success Factors



according to **Doug Cornelius**
of Goodwin Procter LLP

* “there needs to be a reason to go to the wiki site”

- information needs to be handled better here than elsewhere

*** “you need more than one person dedicated to using it as the communication/collaboration tool.”**

* Avoid the “empty wiki syndrome.” -

“An empty wiki is like an empty nightclub.”

Other legal wikis



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Welcome

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What is Wex?

Wex is an ambitious effort to construct a collaboratively-created, public-access law dictionary and encyclopedia. It is sponsored and hosted by the [Legal Information Institute](#) at the [Cornell Law School](#). Much of the material that appears in Wex was originally developed for the LII's "Law about..." pages, to which Wex is the successor.

More information about Wex, its aims, and project plans can be found in the [Wex FAQ](#).

A list of all existing pages is [here](#).



Wex: U.S. law dictionary and encyclopedia
(the "open law" movement was started at Cornell)

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Excise tax

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An Excise Tax is a tax on a specific item, belonging to a special class of items.

The classes of items are frequently specialty or luxury items.

Some everyday examples:

A Federal excise tax is levied on motor fuel consumed during highway use; gasoline and diesel fuel exclusively consumed during off-road farming activities are not taxed. By statute, the fuel tax proceeds must be used for Federal highway projects.

An excise tax is levied on tobacco products, at the State level.

An excise tax is levied on alcohol products, at the State level.

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Agency

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agency: an overview

Agency law is concerned with any "principal"- "agent" relationship; a relationship in which one person has legal authority to act for another. Such relationships arise from explicit appointment, or by implication. The relationships generally associated with agency law include guardian-ward, executor or administrator-decedent, and employer-employee.

The law of agency is based on the Latin maxim "Qui facit per alium, facit per se," which means "he who acts through another is deemed in law to do it himself." Agency, in its legal sense, nearly always relates to commercial or contractual dealings.

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["http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Agency"](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Agency)

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menu of sources

State Material

State Judicial Decisions

- N.Y. Court of Appeals:
 - [Recent Decisions on Agency](#)
 - [Commentary from IJbulletin-ny](#)
- [Appellate Decisions from Other States](#)

Other References

Useful Offnet (or Subscription - \$) Sources

- Good Starting Point in Print: Harold G. Reuschlein & William A. Gregory, [Hornbook on The Law of Agency and Partnership](#), West Group (2001)

other topics

[Category: Enterprise Law](#)



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JURIX 2007 -
20th International
Conference on Legal
Knowledge and
Information Systems,
Leiden, Netherlands

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
LAW VIA THE INTERNET LEXUM
MONTREAL 25-26 OCTOBER 2007

8th International Conference Law Via
The Internet



16th annual congress of the
Association for Computing in
the Judiciary
19 - 21 September 2007,
Saarbrücken, Saarland,

Germany

JurisPedia in the 37th Annual
Conference of the CPLQ, « New
Frontiers » (Quebec, Canada)

JurisPedia - law encyclopedia for multiple countries



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🔊 Constitution of the United States of America

[USA](#) > [Constitutional law](#)



The text of the Constitution of the United States of America is as follows:

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

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3 Article. III.

encyclopedia entry

Resources

— [<http://crosby.pbwiki.com>

— [**KM Space** by Doug Cornelius

<http://kmspace.blogspot.com>

— [**The Law Firm Intranet** by Nina Platt

<http://lawfirmintranet.com>

— [**Wikis for the Legal Profession**

by Dennis Kennedy and Tom Mighell

Law Practice Today, February 2007

<http://www.abanet.org/lpm/lpt/articles/slc02071.shtml>

Legal Wikis

podcast with co-hosts J. Craig Williams and Bob Ambrogi
with guests Martin Farley, Tom Mighell, and Daniel N. Lewis
Lawyer2Lawyer, May 10, 2007
<http://urltea.com/2oxm>

Wikis in Law Firms - An Alternative View?

by Ted Tjaden (with comments)
SLAW.ca, February 12, 2008
<http://urltea.com/2oww>

Tech to Boost Teamwork

by Evelyn Nussenbaum
PBWiki, February 2008
<http://pbwiki.com/content/FortuneSmallBusiness>

Thank you

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