Blogging at http://familylaw.law.miami.edu

A. How to Do It

Many of you are doubtless already more sophisticated bloggers than I but, especially for those of you who are newbies, I lay out below some of the technical issues around being part of the Family Law authoring community. (You can also find both more basic and more sophisticated information at WordPress: http://wordpress.org/support/).

NOTE: I discovered that it is much easier to post to the blog using Firefox; if you use Internet Explorer, there are extra steps and limitations that I will describe in footnotes.

1. Getting started

To login to the Family Law blog, do the following:

a. Open a browser and go to http://familylaw.law.miami.edu/

b. Click on the “Login” link under Meta on the right hand side of the page:

![Family Law](http://familylaw.law.miami.edu)

Welcome back

This is your Law School email account information to login.

NOTE: For Username, enter the first part of your email address – everything up to the @ symbol
If you are able to successfully login, you should see the screen below. Click on the Profile link on the left hand side of the page.

On the Profile page, you must put in a display name. It needs to be recognizable by me and your fellow students; you can make it recognizable to anyone else (the whole world can view the blog, though only the students in the class and I can post). So if your name were Joe Student, your display name can be JoeS or JoeStudent, as you choose. Fill in your Name and Contact information, then click the “Update Profile” button. Then, select a display name from the “Display name publicly as” drop down menu.

You will only be able to choose a display name after you click the “Update Profile” button. After choosing your display name, click the “Update Profile” button one more time so that the changes will take effect.
2. **Posting**

(The posting directions below assume you are posting in “HTML” mode in the text editor; if you choose to post in “visual” mode (which you can do if you check the “use visual editor” box when you update your profile), the system for inserting links is somewhat different.)

To write a post, click the “Add New” link on the Posts section in the Dashboard on the left hand side.

To write a post from the main blog page, click the link “site admin” down on the right navigation bar. Then, click the “Add New” link under the Posts section on the left.
First, give the post a title. Then you can simply write your post in the box below. When you are done you can save it or publish it. Once it is published it appears on the blog, (you can see it by clicking “Visit Site” button on top of the page.

In addition to typing in your own content, you can insert a link to another website, or to a file or photo on your computer. Each of these takes a slightly different path. In each case, note that what appears in the posting box will be HTML; you will see what your post will look like only once you click the [Publish] or [Preview] buttons on the right of the screen.

**Inserting a link to a webpage:** First, make sure the [HTML] tab is selected (see figure below). To insert a link, type your post text, then highlight the text you would like to create a link from by selecting it.

Next, click the link button (see figure above). A URL dialog box will come up. Type in or paste the URL that you want your highlighted text to link to.

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1. In Firefox, each inserted item will appear in the final post at the point where the cursor is in the box when you insert. In IE, every insertion automatically goes to the very beginning of the box, so you will need to cut and paste to get the desired organization of the post.

2. In Internet Explorer you will first have to click a security bar that will appear at the top of the screen, click “temporarily allow pop ups” and then click link again.
When you are done, your post should look something like this:

NOTE: This also works for inserting a link to a video from, e.g., youtube, although the upload from the published site is much slower than for websites.

**Uploading a file from your computer:** Click one of the Upload/Insert icons (right above the post text box). The first icon represents image files. The second represents video files; the third audio and the last documents (e.g., .PDF, .DOC, etc.)

After clicking on one of these icons, a dialog box will come up. Click the Select File button to browse to the file from your computer.
Navigate to the file and click the Open button. A new dialog box will come up. At this point you can choose to give the file you are uploading a title, a caption and a description. The File URL button will give you the actual location of the file you are uploading. The Post URL button will give you its URL in relation to the post you are creating.

To insert a link to a file you are uploading straight into your post, click the File URL button, then click the Insert into Post button. At this point, a link to the file will be inserted in the post. Please note that the link name you are creating will be the Title of the file. This is what users will read on the link when your post is published.

When uploading images, you will see additional options for alignment according to the text and image size (in pixels.)
**Removing a Post**: If you want to remove a post after it has been published, do the following: From the dashboard, under Posts, click “Edit”. You will see a listing of all the posts on the blog. Click the check box next to the post you want to remove, then choose the “Move to Trash” option from the function list at the top of the post listings. Lastly, click the [Apply] button next to “Move to Trash”.

![Image of dashboard with post removal options]

**NOTE**: You can only delete your own posts, not those of the Professor or your peers.

**Editing your Post After it is Published**: If you want to edit your post after it is published, do the following: From the dashboard, under Posts, click “Edit”. You will see a listing of all the posts on the blog. Click the check box next to the post you want to edit, then choose the “Edit” option from the function list at the top of the post listings. Last, click the [Apply] button next to “Edit”.

![Image of dashboard with post editing options]

**NOTE**: You can only edit your own posts, not those of the Professor or your peers.
3. **Commenting**

You may post a comment on any post. Click the link for the post you want to comment on. Type your comment in the comment box, then click the [Submit Comment] button at the bottom of the page. You cannot insert files from your computer into a comment. However, you can include a link to website as part of a comment by pasting or typing the url into the comment box. (However, creating hyperlinks this way does not work for posts.)

**NOTE**: You will not be able to edit or delete your comments. Try to pause after typing before clicking "submit comment." You may also email me and ask me to delete your comment.
4. **In Closing...**

The purpose of this blog is to share ideas, views and information related to the course and to family law issues more generally. No one is required to post or comment; however, I will take this into account, along with what you do during class sessions, in assessing “class participation.”

I anticipate posts of several types. You may want to ask a question or make a comment about something that was discussed in class or in the readings. The blog allows us to continue the conversations on the topics or related topics. You may also want to share your views or ideas about issues related to family law generally but outside the scope of what we can cover in class. You may want to share insights or views of friends and family that might enrich our understanding of various family law issues. You may also want to draw to our attention newspaper articles or posts on other blogs or media clips that seem relevant to family law, broadly construed. (Cartoons also accepted.) If you do this, you are encouraged to add a little content of your own, to tell us all why you think this is worth reading/watching. I plan to post both my own thoughts or questions and links to materials elsewhere.

I also encourage comments. This is meant to be a place for discussion, not just a series of separate statements. The comments can expand on the original post, agree, ask questions or disagree. The only limit is of civility. (A warning that is, I fully hope and expect, unnecessary here. If necessary, however, I will have the power to delete anyone’s posts or comments or even, in extreme circumstances, to remove a person’s rights to post/comment in the future.)

Let the blogging begin!