

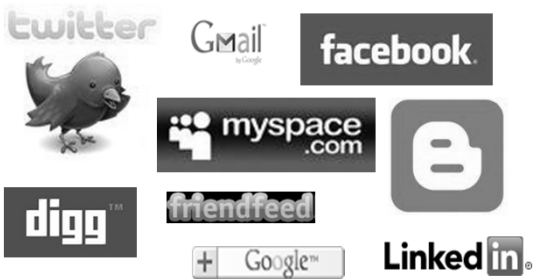
Social Media: Ethical Dilemmas

*Rebecca Stark, Director
Austin Municipal Court*

Social Media Ethical Dilemmas ...

- **What we will talk about**
 - **Social media / sites**
 - **Users**
 - **Common devices**
- **Types of dilemmas these may cause in court and with who is involved**
- **Possible resolutions**

Some Social Media Sites ...



Some Social Platforms ...



Users ...

- **149.4 million users in the U.S. had active Facebook accounts at the end of June 2011**
- **51% of Americans over age 12 are on Facebook. Only 8% use Twitter.**
- **A survey of British employees found that 57% of staff use Twitter, Facebook or other social networking site for personal use during office hours, spending almost one working week a year on such sites.**

-The Economist, October 31, 2009, "Business this week."

Some Devices ...



Some Who may be Involved ...

- **Judges**
- **Defense Attorneys**
- **Prosecutors**
- **Officers**
- **Jurors**
- **Customers**
- **Other city department/employees**
- **Employees**
- **Other**

Some Types of Dilemmas ...

- **Misuse of City resources**
 - **Employee on city time**
 - **Employee excuses**
 - **Use of city equipment**
- **Open records / media**
- **Ex parte communication**
- **Disruptions in workplace / courtrooms**
- **Jurors performing research**
- **Inattentive customers**
- **Security**
- **Customer expectations (providing information, turnaround time)**
- **Other**

Some Possible Resolutions ...

- **Policies**
 - **Court**
 - **Rules of the Court**
- **Monitoring**
- **Disciplinary Action**
- **Training, surveys, spot checks**
- **Communication—expectations/problems**
- **Outside Court Assistance**

Good Rules to Follow ...

- **If a post on a social media site or an email would disrupt the workplace, even if composed on the employee's own device, free time or outside the office ... don't do it!**
- **If your email or social media posting isn't someone you can comfortably explain to the media ... don't do it!**

Links for Policy Assistance ...

- <http://socialmediagovernance.com/policies.php?F5>
- <http://www.inqubation.com/government-policy-on-the-use-of-social-media/>
- http://www.ctg.albany.edu/publications/guides/social_media_policy
- <http://govsocmed.pbworks.com/w/page/15060450/Web%20%20%20Governance%20Policies%20and%20Best%20Practices>

Good Luck ... to all of us!

Rebecca Stark
(512) 974-4690
rebecca.stark@austintexas.gov
