

# Conference of Court Public Information Officers

August 26, 2010

**Kathleen Arberg**  
**President**  
Public Information Officer  
U.S. Supreme Court

**Karen Salaz**  
**President Elect**  
District Administrator, 19th  
Judicial District, Colorado

**Laura Kiernan**  
**Secretary**  
Communications Director  
New Hampshire Judicial  
Branch

**Chris Davey**  
**Treasurer**  
Director of Public  
Information  
Supreme Court of Ohio

**Joan Kenney**  
**Past-President**  
Public Information Officer  
Massachusetts Supreme  
Judicial Court

**Thomas Hodson**  
**Consultant**  
E.W. Scripps School of  
Journalism - Ohio  
University

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**Association  
Management  
National Center for State  
Courts**  
c/o Shelley Rockwell  
300 Newport Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 259-1841  
Fax: (757) 259-1520  
srockwell@ncsc.dni.us



Enclosed is a copy of the recently-released report, “**New Media and the Courts: The Current Status and a Look at the Future.**” The report examines the effects of new media on the courts and is a culmination of a year-long, collaborative research project conducted by CCPIO, the Conference of Court Public Information Officers, an organization of court communications professionals.

Members of the state court community were invited to participate in an electronic survey that explored usage rates of new media by court personnel and courts as institutions and, for the first time, measured the impact of new media on the courts. CCPIO partnered with the National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, VA and the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, Athens, OH, to conduct the survey and evaluate the results.

The report provides an analysis of the nationwide survey and serves as a resource on the history of new media and the different types of technology impacting courts. Results of the survey show that state judges and court staff:

- are looking closely at the ramifications and opportunities it presents;
- use social networking sites sparingly at present; and
- agree that courts need to better understand how such technologies – from Facebook to Twitter to smartphones -- may impact day-to-day operations.

The report forecasts a cautious approach by courts in developing official presences on social media sites given their potential impact on court proceedings and codes of ethical conduct.

Authors of the report are Christopher Davey, director of public information for the Supreme Court of Ohio, Karen Salaz, district administrator for the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Colorado, and Thomas Hodson of Ohio University’s Scripps School of Journalism in collaboration with the National Center for State Courts. The complete project report is also available on the CCPIO website, [www.ccpio.org](http://www.ccpio.org).

We hope that you find the report useful and thought-provoking.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen L. Arberg'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Arberg  
President