

Do Law Firms Check Their Applicants Social Network Profiles?

Question:

A friend of mine recently told me that law schools were looking at the Facebook and MySpace profiles of their applicants. As a third-year attorney thinking about conducting a job search in 2009, it occurred to me that law firms may search these websites to gain information about me when I apply. Are law firms looking at this information online? And what should I do to keep this personal information private?

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Answer:

[Social networking websites should have nothing to do with your professional career](#), right? But it's not that simple. Anything you put out into the public domain could potentially affect you professionally (especially if you make a routine habit of adding co-workers to your Friends list on Facebook). Most firms, at the very least, will perform a routine Google search on your full name and click on a few of the links. It's easy and free due diligence for a firm wanting to make careful hiring decisions.

I recently wrote this article about ways to ensure that your online information doesn't come back to bite you during the interview process.

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