INTRODUCTION

This textbook examines social and new media issues through the lens of law and policy. From business law to entertainment law, from criminal law to employment law, social media continues to touch upon many facets of the legal field—therefore, any savvy lawyer should have a working knowledge of some of the social media questions that may arise in his or her practice and know where to find the answers. With the recent explosion in social networking and the use of social media and new media, it is essential for attorneys and law students to understand the trends in these new platforms when advising clients of the potential risks and pitfalls of social media and social networking use.

OVERVIEW OF TOPICS
The textbook addresses the following topics:

• privacy, anonymity, and accountability in the context of social networking;
• sources and privacy issues faced by journalists;
• the future of journalism and publishing in the context of new media;
• the intersection of social media and the First Amendment;
• social media issues in employment law;
• social media and education law;
• copyright and fair use in the context of new media;
• peer-to-peer file sharing;
• the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the proposed PROTECT IP Act;
• new media and its impact on mass communications laws;
• social media and litigation—from “tweeting” jurors (and jurors who “tweet”) to messaging witnesses to “friending” judges;
• bloggers, user-created content, “citizen journalism,” and the like;
• social media-related cybercrime and its prosecution;
INTRODUCTION

• the intersection of social medial law and new business models, and implications on business law and contract law;
• virtual law practice and the role of social and new media in representing clients, specifically in the business of law practice and in issues of professionalism.