



Blogging at the SOG

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I want to acknowledge all of the great blogging for public officials and others happening at the School. It all started with Jeff Welty's [North Carolina Criminal Law](#) blog. Jeff's post on Tuesday was about [Britt v. North Carolina](#), the NC Supreme Court case involving the right of a convicted felon to possess a firearm according to the NC Constitution. This post is timely—I went from reading the *News & Observer* article about the decision at breakfast to reading Jeff's analysis once I was in my office. The comments to this post illustrate the kind of back-and-forth that can take place on a blog, including from one of the attorneys involved in the case (that's my assumption from one of the comments). Jeff is committed to posting something every day, and a number of his colleagues have stepped up on a regular basis to contribute good guest posts.

There is a new blog from the School called [Coates' Canons](#), which is the NC Local Government Law Blog. This blog is a group effort by a core number of colleagues in the local government law area—each of them has committed to writing a regular post so that there is something new every day. I was talking last week with Leslie Moxley, the Macon County Attorney and former President of the County Attorney's Association. We were talking about something completely unrelated to the blog, when all of a sudden she said "The new blog is great." Leslie is a critical and thoughtful user of our services, and a compliment from her is not given lightly. According to Leslie, the blog "is one of the best things we have done in a long time." She believes that it is better than *Popular Government*, which I honestly didn't prompt, because it makes relevant information immediately available, and it is "scholarly but approachable."

If you haven't looked at these blogs, I encourage you to check them out. They represent a real advance in how we share information with public officials and others. The topics addressed by each post are tagged and searchable—which means that we are creating an impressive database of information that will grow over time. I am confident that interest in the blogs will continue to increase, and I am equally confident that they will reduce short-term advising requests as people come to rely on them for new and archived information. Congratulations to all of our colleagues who are blazing this new trail.