

CORPORATE LEGAL TIMES

LawPeriscope.Com Taps Into Largest U.S. Law Firms

BY CARY GRIFFITH

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for information about outside counsel or news and educational material from law firms, you should check out www.lawperiscope.com—an online resource that allows you to search the web sites of 300 of the largest law firms in the country.

Clear, consistent entries and a variety of full-text and targeted search templates make this site informative, in-depth and easy to use.

A useful feature of LawPeriscope is its standardized summaries of individual law firms.

What distinguishes LawPeriscope from other web-based attorney directories is its unique ability to access firms' online educational resources through a targeted search engine.

If you know the firm's name, for instance, you can find a profile of that

web cites

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firm by clicking on a simple alphabetical index. These profiles usually include the firm's address, practice areas, attorneys, publications and resources.

As an added bonus, all of these areas and listings are linked to the appropriate location on the firm's web site.

A user can also search these entries by keyword, practice area, location, number of attorneys, or by the seminars or events the firm offers.

But what distinguishes LawPeriscope from other web-based attorney directories is its unique ability to access firms' online educational resources through a targeted search engine.

This engine works like Google or Yahoo!, but is a lot less time-consuming and tedious to use because it is law firm specific.

For example, if visitors wanted to search law firm web sites for publications, letters, white papers, memoranda or other kinds of information relating to Sept. 11 legal issues, they could use LawPeriscope's "QuickLink" feature.

A search of "September 11 attacks" as a key phrase would generate a list of about 220 documents. Clicking on any of the

titles opens the appropriate document (from the appropriate site) in a separate browser window.


LawPeriscope is by no means perfect. For starters, the site is limited to 300 law firms and gives no indication of the criteria used to select those firms.

Gary Rindner, president of White Plains, N.Y.-based Periscope Ventures Corp., says the site's grouping is based on the number of attorneys per firm.

"Some firms should be included but they don't qualify in terms of size, so we're toying around with other criteria,"

he says.

In addition, while the full-text search capabilities are excellent, it's unclear from the location of some of the site's search links how to navigate to certain types of searches. If visitors want to perform a search of content from the firm web sites, they must select one of the QuickLink options.

Despite these shortcomings, LawPeriscope is a powerful tool that allows users to perform targeted searches of a large collection of law firm materials. 



The LawPeriscope home page provides a quick and easy method for locating and reviewing basic information on 300 U.S. law firms. Standard firm summaries can be reviewed within the site, or researchers can perform lightning-fast searches of the content available on all 300 law firm sites.