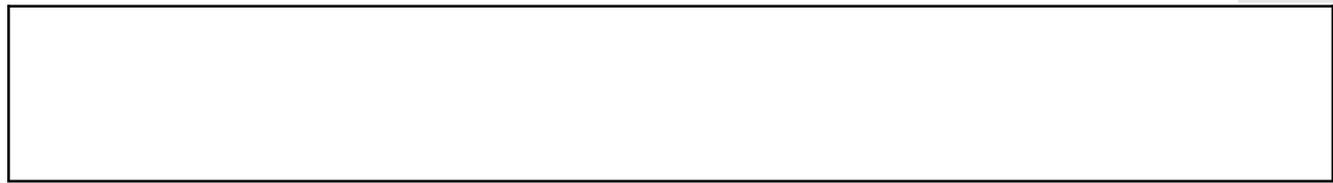


Welcome, subscription@alm.com | [Sign Out](#)

- [Law.com Home](#)
- [Newswire](#)
- [LawJobs](#)
- [CLE Center](#)
- [Online Store](#)
- [Our Sites](#)
- [Advertise](#)

ALM



# THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

30-Day FREE Trial

WWW.NLJ.COM

GO >>

**NEW!** Search one year of NLJ

Advanced Search

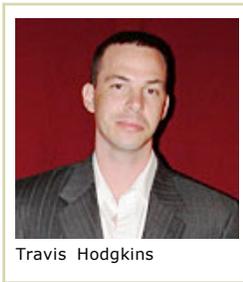
[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[NLJ Home](#) > [News](#)

FROM THE UPCOMING ISSUE

## Law blogs can be a successful strategy for job seekers

**Sandhya Bathija/Staff reporter**  
July 9, 2007



Travis Hodgkins

Second-year law student Travis Hodgkins didn't land his summer associate position through top-notch grades, a position on law review or through the traditional on-campus interviewing process.

He landed his dream job by blogging.

Hodgkins, who will begin his third year at University of California Hastings College of the Law, is spending this summer working in Shanghai, China, for Seattle-based law firm Harris & Moure, a job he was offered after name partner Dan Harris messaged him on his law blog, [www.transnationallawblog.com](http://www.transnationallawblog.com), which focuses on events in international law.

"The reality is we never would have hired Travis if not for his blog," said Harris.

For many law students, keeping up a professional blog has become another way to make employment connections. It enables an employer to see students' writing ability and knowledge about a particular subject and, more importantly, it shows that the student is motivated, innovative and takes initiative, Hodgkins said.

"A blog is like a huge billboard sign that is saying to the entire blogosphere, 'I'm a law student that has studied these areas of law and I need a job,' " he said.

Hodgkins is not alone in his blogging success story. Recent law graduates Ian Best, from Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, and Nema Milaninia, also from Hastings, both were contacted by potential employers through their blogs.

Best, the first law student to receive law school credit for blogging on *3L Epiphany* (now called *Law Blog Metrics*), was contacted by firms in West Virginia and New Jersey for interviews. Best turned down the interviews because he wanted to stay in Ohio and now works for the Ohio Legislative Service Commission in Columbus.

Milaninia has two foreign-policy blogs, at [www.iraniantruth.com](http://www.iraniantruth.com) and <http://iranscan.net>, and also posts with Hodgkins on the transnational law blog. He was contacted to see if he was interested in a position as a federal prosecutor and also by Amnesty International to work in their Middle Eastern/North African division. But Milaninia opted for an associate position at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, Calif., which has never asked him about his blog.

### Technological savvy

While the content of a blog often attracts employers, having a blog is also a good way to demonstrate technological skills to potential employers.

.....ADVERTISEMENT.....

Learn how strategic technology can help secure and streamline your legal department

Questions about E-Discovery?

Visit Law.com's FREE E-DISCOVERY ROAD MAP for the answers.

Raj R. Mahale, a partner in the Stamford, Conn., office of Hartford, Conn.-based Murtha Cullina, was impressed by new associate David Carson's blog, which organized a large amount of information on immigration law onto one Web site.

"It was impressive what he was trying to do with the site," said Mahale, who interviewed Carson for the position. "It was entrepreneurial and showed that he was very tech-savvy, which is useful for a firm like ours."

Mahale said Carson will be designing an immigration blog for the firm. His blogging showed that he had something more to offer the firm than just good grades and credentials.

### **Business, not personal**

Still, for some employers, the word "blog" may have a negative connotation, said Best.

"Many employers don't spend much time on the Internet and so for them, it is a knee-jerk reaction to think someone is writing about personal things," he said.

Which is why it is important that if a student wants to attract employers, the substance of the blog should be about a particular area of the law, rather than just a personal journal, said Harris.

"It matters hugeley what the person writes about," he said. "Travis' blog contributed in the sense that those who write on China law felt they needed to stop by the site every day to make sure they weren't missing anything."

But for some bloggers, the substantive topics they choose to write about may dissuade potential employers, said Milaninia, who learned that a firm he interviewed with declined to hire him because he wrote about controversial foreign-policy issues.

"My name is on a lot of articles about Israel and Iran," Milaninia said. "When you have an opinion, you find that there are a lot of people who may disagree."

[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Email this Article](#)[Comment on this Article](#)[Reprints & Permissions](#)

---

[about ALM](#) | [terms & conditions](#) | [privacy](#) | [advertise](#) | [about NLJ.com](#) | [contact us](#) | [subscribe](#)

---

Copyright 2007 ALM Properties, Inc. All rights reserved.