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Journal of Law & Technology

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28 Westhampton Way
University of Richmond, Virginia 23173

Dear Readers,

The *Richmond Journal of Law and Technology* is proud to present the fourth issue of the 2008–2009 academic school year. Our authors analyze a variety of controversial legal topics that are at the forefront of debates regarding the intersection of technology and law.

The first article, “Corporate Privacy Trend: The ‘Value’ of Personally Identifiable Information (‘PII’) Equals the ‘Value’ of Financial Assets” is co-authored by John Soma, J. Zachary Courson, and John Cadkin. In today’s electronic age, personally identifiable information is readily available and can be used for illicit purposes if not adequately protected. The authors analyze the importance of upholding privacy rights in light of technological advancements and provide suggestions for securing personally identifiable information. They emphasize the need for companies to use technology to their advantage, relying on encryption, spyware, and virus detection in order to prevent identity fraud and data breaches.

Thomas E. Spahn’s article, “The Ethics of E-Mail” discusses the increasingly common use of e-mail by attorneys and clients. He examines this trend in light of various ethics opinions and model rules which address the challenge of preserving attorney-client privilege when communicating by e-mail. Mr. Spahn also discusses the implications on litigation when attorneys transfer documents electronically with accompanying metadata or “invisible ‘data about data’” and the surprisingly broad range of opinions on metadata held by state bar associations.

Timothy L. Coggins’ article, “Legal, Factual and Other Internet Sites for Attorneys and Legal Professionals” provides a wide array of legal research sources. Dean Coggins lists key sources for case and statute research and

makes helpful suggestions for complex research in areas such as international law. He even provides sources that enable researchers to find materials that have disappeared from other websites. It is a must read for anyone conducting online legal research.

The *Journal* is especially grateful for the continuing support and assistance of the faculty and staff at the University of Richmond, most especially the guidance we receive on a regular basis from our advisors, Professors Melanie Holloway and Jim Gibson.

We hope you enjoy Issue Four. On behalf of the entire 2008-2009 *Richmond Journal of Law and Technology* staff, I extend our deepest gratitude and sincerest thanks for your readership and support. Thank you for visiting the *Journal's* website, and as always, comments and suggestions are welcome from our readers at jolt@richmond.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Bridget Murray
Editor-in-Chief

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