Blogs are often treated dismissively in the academic world, however they can serve an important role as a current awareness service. The largest collection of law school related blogs is the Law Professor Blogs Network. This network contains over 60 individual blogs, some of which have a legal subject focus (e.g. Sentencing Law & Policy), while others focus on aspects of legal education (e.g. Legal Skills Prof Blog). One of the more informative blogs for those who are tracking the legal education industry is actually Tax Prof Blog edited by Paul Caron at Pepperdine. Despite its name, the blog has a wider scope than just tax law, and provides timely and relevant posts concerning the industry in general. It should be noted that our own faculty contribute to blogs, including Mirror of Justice and NonProfit Law Prof Blog.

Outside of the Law Professor Blogs Network there are many worthwhile blogs, however if you want to focus on just one I would recommend SCOTUSblog, the blog for all things Supreme Court.

The h-Index

Although used far more widely in other disciplines, particularly the sciences, the h-index is starting to creep into the lexicon of law schools. Developed by Jorge Hirsch in 2005, the index has quickly become a recognized, although somewhat controversial tool for assessing the research impact of a scholar (or a journal). Computing the h-index involves identifying the intersection of x number of papers each being cited x number of times. An author with a h-index of 20 would have 20 papers each cited at least 20 times. Google Scholar can help you keep track of your own h-index. Law reviews and journals are also now ranked according to their h5-index (over a 5 year span).