

New blawg, old tricks as attorney-writer steps up

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, of counsel at Melville law firm Lewis, Johs, Avallone, Aviles has joined one of the newest trends in the legal world – law blogs, or, as they’re coming to be known, blawgs.

Hers addresses insurance-coverage issues arising from New York State law. The field is based on interpreting policy coverage – essentially, interpreting contracts to determine what’s covered and what’s not, Fitzpatrick said. But it’s not limited to legal analysis and interpretation of terms.

“Of course, there are so many unique circumstances you could never envision,” she said.

To some extent, the blog is an extension of the newsletter Fitzpatrick launched when she joined the firm from private prac-

tice a little over a year ago. “We’ve Got You Covered” is intended primarily to keep the firm’s clients abreast of legal developments in their field. But it’s a quarterly, and that led to frustration that events couldn’t be covered in a timely fashion, Fitzpatrick said.

Launching the blog was a way to keep current with legal and legislative developments. Recently, Fitzpatrick has blogged about fast-moving legislation that would have changed the terms of certain claims involving insurers (it passed the Senate and Assembly but was quickly vetoed by Gov. Eliot Spitzer).

“If we didn’t have the blog, I wouldn’t have been able to address the ongoing saga of that issue,” Fitzpatrick noted.

Her blog (www.coveragelawblog.com) launched May 22 and is still evolving. To date, most readers are lawyers from all across the country, and they’ve been encouraging her to keep the blog going.

Fitzpatrick hopes the audience will expand to include those in the insurance industry; she also wants to add more analysis to the mostly factual reporting she’s done to date.

Whether the blog benefits the firm in any concrete way is yet to be seen, but Fitzpatrick hopes that, at a minimum, it will help drive traffic to the law firm’s Web site.

Fitzpatrick graduated from St. John’s University School of Law in 1991 and received her bachelor’s of arts from the Pennsylvania State University in 1985.