

Hot Topics Newsletter

Leo Web Protect Service-What A Senior Judge Should Expect

By The Honorable Lynne Battaglia

In January of this year, we, as Senior Judges, were afforded the opportunity to participate in the LEO Web Protect Program, which was intended to reduce “the visibility of personal information such as home addresses and telephone numbers found on the internet. This information is most commonly collected from online activities such as loan applications, mortgage applications, property sales, online purchases, and other related activities. (E-mail from Sean Wolcoff on January 22, 2022). One caveat noted in the same email was that, “It’s important to note this service is unable to delete professional licensure information, nor does it remove information printed in newspapers or on web-based message boards. This process also does not remove any social media information you have shared on Facebook (Meta), Twitter, Instagram, or other social networking sites. To remove that information, you must change the privacy settings on each of your accounts or manually delete the information altogether”.

I was intrigued with the possibility of containing damaging information on the web, an interest that became even more urgent when I was assigned by Judge Glenn Klavans of Anne Arundel County to be the trial judge in the congressional redistricting case, which could have proven to be and was a challenge to my privacy and security. I was

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immediately challenged in the registration process for Leo Web Protect, even though I was afforded enrollment instructions in the original email, as well as a quick reference guide and a “tip” guide. I have been assured that registration for the program is easier now, after some of the fits and spurts that I encountered.

Initially, I believed that my home address would no longer be available on the internet but found out that removal of my personal information from the county tax base is not possible in the program, nor does a transfer to a “Trust” remove that personal information, because of chain of title information that is available in each county. I decided to go forward, however, because I believed that removal of any personal identifying information was immediately important in the circumstance in which I found myself.

While I continue to believe that removal of whatever private information is on the Web can only be beneficial to all of us, I did discover that the removal process itself takes a significant amount of time to occur from the time a participant, like I was, fills out the online form and uploads a driver’s license and court-assigned photo identification to the time I had my first progress report.

My concern about the timeliness of the removal was certainly exacerbated by the encapsulated

period of time in which I found myself in a very public domain. Leo Web Protect now projects, in a “Post Enrollment Guide” issued after my trial experience, that the process can take up to three weeks to complete. I also discovered that no one could provide information about the content nor the context of what was removed from the internet, because there was no mechanism to generate a report of what existed and then what was removed. I have been advised that AOC and Leo Web Connect have been negotiating how to evaluate the timeliness of the process and its performance, although I have not been privy as to how the negotiations have evolved.

It is important to note that while everyone associated with the Program recognizes that the “internet is such a dynamic environment” (Leo Web Connect Post Enrollment Guide), the removal process really is a one-time event, unless the participant or AOC discovers new information. It appears that the AOC Security Staff will also now be conducting quarterly internet reviews of participants’ accounts and then work with Leo Web Connect to remove any identified accounts; how a participant will be advised of any problem is not addressed.

A participant can, for an additional fee of \$1000 yearly, enroll in the Leo Web Protect “premier service”. A monthly internet search then would be provided, and removal undertaken of any private information, with results reported monthly to the participant.

I continue to believe that the removal of information from the internet that could be damaging to any of us, is a valuable and important undertaking. It is important for all of us, however,

to have clarity about our expectations as we enroll in programs that purport to reduce the likelihood of any of us being a “target” (Leo Web Protect Guide to Protection of Personal Information on the Internet). My hope is that my experience with Leo Web Protect will anchor those expectations.



JIS Information Security: Anti-Phishing Tip Hover to Uncover

Not sure if a link you’ve received in an email is legitimate? Try hovering over the link to reveal the true URL.

To demonstrate the hovering technique and highlight how scammers will attempt to deceive you, below is a safe link for you to practice with. If you read the URL, it appears that you are being sent to a website for animal lovers but if you hover your mouse over it, you will see that you are really being directed to the JIS Information Security homepage on CourtNet:

www.iloveanimals.com

Practice the hover technique so that you will not be fooled by phishing and other email scams that entice you to click on links that appear to be legitimate. If you are ever uncertain on the legitimacy of an email or a link in an email, please contact the JIS Service Desk at 410-260-1114.

A PURSUIT OF JUSTICE BLOG

The new year is here, which means it’s time to make resolutions! It also means a new year to pursue a new degree, participate in continuing education, or study for certifications. The Honorable Steven I. Platt wrote an article on his *A Pursuit of Justice* blog, titled, “[The War Against Certification and Credentialing Organizations.](#)” Check it out!

PUBLIC NOTICE

- If you have not registered for MFA, you no longer have access to Office365 while off the network or VDI while on or off the network and must register before you can gain access. Please contact the JIS help desk at 410-260-1114.
- For all COVID-19 updates, please visit mdcourts.gov and click on the red banner labeled COVID-19 UPDATE at the top of the page.
- For the latest news, updates, payroll info, Hot Topics and more, check out the Senior Judge webpage, <https://mdcourts.gov/hr/seniorjudges>. Don’t forget to save the link so you can refer to it at any time.
- Have something about yourself that you want to share? Please contact Eliana Pangelinan at Eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov to be featured in an issue of the Hot Topics Newsletter.



Save the Date!

April 26-28, 2023

*The Judicial Conference for 2022
has been entirely cancelled*

Judicial College of Maryland, Judicial Education

Judicial Conference

at the
Hyatt Regency
Cambridge, MD

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Contact: Theresa Coffey
Judicial Education Event Coordinator
Phone #: 410-260-3601
Email: Kathleen.Coffey@mdcourts.gov

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S SENIOR JUDGES COMMITTEE

Hon. James A. Kenney III, Chair, Senior Judge
Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Vice Chair, Senior Judge
Hon. Jean Baron, Senior Judge
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Hon. Irma S. Raker, Senior Judge
Sharon Reed, District Court Headquarters
Hon. Marcus Z. Shar, Senior Judges
Hon. Nancy B. Shuger, Senior Judge
Hon. Norman R. Stone III, Senior Judge
Hon. Dennis M. Sweeney, Senior Judge
Eliana Pangelinan, Staff

UPCOMING ADVANCED PAYROLLS FOR SENIOR JUDGES

02/1/23 – 02/14/23. Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, February 13th.

05/10/23 – 05/23/23. Timesheets will be due for approval by noon on Monday, May 22nd.

Managers must have the approvals completed by 6:00 p.m.

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr.
Court of Appeals

Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky
Court of Appeals

RETIREMENT SERVICES CONTACT LIST

Maryland State Retirement and Pension System

1-800-492-5909

Gwendolyn Mulcahy

gmulcahy@sra.state.md.us

410-625-5516

Social Security Administration (SSA)

1-800-772-1213

www.socialsecurity.gov

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

1-800-633-4227

www.medicare.gov

Maryland Supplement Retirement Plan (MSRP)

1-800-545-4730

Angela Anderson

angela.anderson@maryland.gov

443-305-9055

Department of Budget & Management, Employee Benefits Division

410-767-4775

Missy Plunkert

mary.plunkert@maryland.gov

410-319-2176

Maryland Judiciary:

Human Resources – 410-260-1731

Ebonye Caldwell, Deputy Director

ebonye.caldwell@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1289

Debra Kaminski

debra.kaminski@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1271

Barbara Prevo

barbara.prevo@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1288

Benefits Administration & HRIS

Gail Coleman-Terry, Manager

Gail.coleman-terry@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1200

Kimberly Michael

kimberly.michael@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1268

Guy Thada

guy.thada@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1209

Janean Thompson

janean.thompson@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1269

Office of Payroll Services – 410-260-1735

Alex Hoyle, Manager

alex.hoyle@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1286

Gail Graham

gail.graham@mdcourts.gov

410-260-1721

Any questions regarding this issue, please contact Eliana Pangelinan at eliana.pangelinan@mdcourts.gov