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Friday, February 20, 2009

2:00 pm, Room 501 IS Building
School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Jason R. Baron

Director of Litigation, National Archives and Records Administration

"What Do I Do With A Billion E-mails? The TREC Legal Track and the Future of Information Retrieval in E-Discovery"

Under new federal and state rules governing legal practice in the courts, lawyers and clients increasingly find themselves needing to strategically think about issues involving the search and retrieval of massive amounts of electronically-stored information. This presentation will provide an overview of what lawyers currently do as part of e-discovery, and also how they can and should improve their current practices. Included for discussion will be the research findings of what is known as the "TREC Legal Track," (sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology), research aimed at comparing the efficacy of Boolean and alternative search methods as a matter of objective information science in the applied legal context of e-discovery.

Bio: Mr. Baron served as trial attorney and senior counsel at the Department of Justice, defending the government's interests in complex federal court litigation, including in cases involving the preservation of White House. He currently represents NARA on the Sedona Conference Working Group on Electronic Records Retention and Production, where he is a member of the Steering Committee and Editor-in-Chief of the *Sedona Best Practices Commentary on the Use of Search and Information Retrieval Methods in E-Discovery*, available at www.thesedonaconference.org. He also is a founding co-coordinator of the National Institute of Standards and Technology TREC legal track, a multi-year international information retrieval project devoted to evaluating search issues in a legal context.

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