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#### 1. "Anti-Gang Legislation" Introduced

The Federal Justice Minister introduced legislation aimed at addressing gang-related violence on February 26, 2009. The contents of [Bill C-14](#), *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (organized crime and protection of justice system participants)* are summarised [here](#).

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#### 2. Interests of Justice not Served by Incarcerating Young Offender: Man. C.A.

In [R. v. O. \(K.\)](#), 2009 MBCA 13 the Crown appealed a *Youth Criminal Justice Act* sentence of two years' supervised probation for a home invasion involving an aggravated assault. Although the court concluded that the sentence was unfit given the seriousness of the offence, it dismissed the appeal because incarcerating the respondent "would not serve the interests of justice" given the uniquely particular circumstances of the case. The youth had complied with all conditions of his probation and had otherwise flourished in the seven months before the appeal was heard, and incarcerating him would "expose him, a non-criminalized individual with a tendency to follow, to the company of others who are criminalized in their thinking."

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#### 3. Supreme Court Hearing Webcasts and Appeal Factums Now Online

The Supreme Court of Canada implemented its new [Policy for Access to Supreme Court of Canada Court Records](#) on February 9, 2009 and is now providing online access to webcasts of appeal hearings and appeal factums filed on or after February 9, 2009. For details on how to access records and the applicable restrictions see the SCC [announcement](#).

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#### 4. Ten Years of the Supreme Court of Canada

A special edition of the Supreme Court of Canada's [Bulletin of Proceedings](#) provides a statistical overview of the court's work from 1998 to 2008. The summary is broken down into five categories: cases filed, applications for leave submitted, appeals heard, appeal judgments, and average time lapses.

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#### 5. Provincial Court Notice re: Front End - Federal Court

As announced in a February 26, 2009 Provincial Court [notice](#), effective March 9, 2009 all federal regulatory and summary conviction matters will appear before a pre-trial coordinator from the time a charge is laid until the matter is ready to proceed before a judge in accordance with the Pre-Trial Coordination Protocol. In addition, federal youth administrative and disposition dockets will be combined effective immediately.

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## **6. Social Networking and the Criminal Justice System**

The article [Criminal Law Resources: Social Networking Online and Criminal Justice](#), published February 28, 2009 on LLRX, examines the impact of social networking evidence on the criminal justice system. The author, Ken Strutin, provides links to scholarly papers and media coverage on how such evidence is used in investigations, prosecutions, jury selection, witness background, discovery and due diligence.

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## **7. Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop**

There is still time to register for the Law Society's [Intensive Trial Advocacy Workshop](#), which takes place April 15-18, 2009 at the Lakeview Resort in Gimli, Manitoba. Presented in partnership with The Advocates' Society, this year's workshop features a new case file focusing on trial advocacy from start to finish. [Contact Legal Studies](#) for further information and to register.

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