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Attorneys work toward extending wills to cover social media assets

By Ashley Barker

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Just as everyone should have a legal will designating where tangible assets will be distributed after death, law professionals are now encouraging everyone to also write a will covering social media ownership.

The legality of afterlife and social media was discussed during the sixth annual Law & Society Symposium, hosted by the [Charleston Law Review \(http://www.charlestonlawreview.org/Home.aspx\)](http://www.charlestonlawreview.org/Home.aspx) and the [Riley Institute at Furman \(http://riley.furman.edu\)](http://riley.furman.edu) last week.

Amanda Compton, associate professor of law at the [Charleston School of Law \(http://www.charlestonlaw.edu/Home.aspx\)](http://www.charlestonlaw.edu/Home.aspx), said digital assets should be treated just like regular, traditional property.

“Gone are the days of these simpler times, when you could just point to a filing cabinet and tell a loved one, ‘All my important documents are in there,’ ” Compton said. “We used to have letters, photos, videos and records. Nowadays we have email, blogs, YouTube for our videos and Instagram for our photos.”

