

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

Monday, June 28, 2010

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ATTORNEY SEARCH

Jared Harrison Beck - #233743

Current Status: Active

This member is active and may practice law in California.

See below for more details.

Profile Information

Bar Number	233743		
Address	Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers	Phone Number	(305) 789-0072
	28 W Flagler St Ste 555 Miami, FL 33130	Fax Number	(786) 664-3334
		e-mail	jared@beckandlee.com
District	Outside California	Undergraduate School	Harvard Univ; Cambridge MA
County	Non-California	Law School	Harvard Univ Law School; Cambridge MA
Sections	None	and the state of t	TO THE

Status History

Effective Date	Status Change
Present	Active
12/6/2004	Admitted to The State Bar of California

Explanation of member status

Actions Affecting Eligibility to Practice Law

Disciplinary and Related Actions

This member has no public record of discipline.

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Elizabeth Lee Beck - #233742

Current Status: Active

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See below for more details.

Profile Information

Bar Number	233742		
Address	Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers	Phone Number	(305) 789-0072
	Courthouse Plaza Bldg 28 W Flagler St Ste 555 Miami, FL 33130	Fax Number	(786) 664-3334
		e-mail	elizabeth@beckandlee.com
District	Outside California	Undergraduate School	Univ of California at Los Angeles; CA
County	Non-California	Law School	Yale Law School; New Haven CT
Sections	None	14461	

Status History

Effective Date	Status Change
Present	Active
1/2/2008	Active
2/1/2007	Inactive
12/6/2004	Admitted to The State Bar of California

Explanation of member status

Actions Affecting Eligibility to Practice Law

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This member has no public record of discipline.

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Jared Harrison Beck

Member in Good Standing

Eligible to practice in Florida

ID Number:

- 20695

Address:

Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers

28 W Flagler St Ste 555 Miami, Florida 331301810

United States

Phone:

305.7890072

Fax:

786.6643334

E-Mail:

jared@beckandlee.com

vCard:

County:

Miami-Dade

Circuit:

11

Admitted:

04/20/2006

Sections:

Young Lawyers Division

10-Year

None

Discipline History

Law School:

Harvard Law School

Graduation Year:

2004

Degree:

Doctor of Jurisprudence/Juris Doctor

Firm:

Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers

Firm Size:

2 to 5

Occupation:

Partner / Shareholder

Practice Areas:

Antitrust and Trade Regulation

Appellate Practice

Business

Civil Litigation

Entertainment, Arts and Sports

Intellectual Property

International

Trial

Languages:

French German Italian

Spanish

Federal Courts:

United States District Courts

State Courts:

California

Florida

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[Revised: 06-07-2010]

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Find a Lawyer

Elizabeth Lee Beck

Member in Good Standing

Eligible to practice in Florida

ID Number:

- 20697

Address:

Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers

28 W Flagler St Ste 555 Miami, Florida 331301810

United States

Phone:

305.7890072

E-Mail:

elizabeth@beckandlee.com

vCard:

56

County:

Miami-Dade

Circuit:

11

Admitted:

04/20/2006

Sections:

Young Lawyers Division

10-Year

None

Discipline History

Law School:

Yale Law School

Graduation Year:

2004

Degree:

Doctor of Jurisprudence/Juris Doctor

Firm: Website:

Beck & Lee Business Trial Lawyers

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Firm Size:

2 to 5

Occupation:

Partner / Shareholder

Practice Areas:

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Languages:

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Federal Courts:

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ATTORNEY SEARCH

Gregory S Weston - #239944

Current Status: Active

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See below for more details.

Profile Information

Bar Number	239944			
Address	The Weston Firm	Phone Number	(858) 488-1672	
	888 Turquoise St San Diego, CA 92109	Fax Number	(480) 247-4553	
		e-mail	greg@westonfirm.com	
District	District 9	Undergraduate School	Ohio State Univ; Columbus OH	
County	San Diego	Law School	Harvard Univ Law School; Cambridge MA	
Sections	None	2004 (VEX.200.000 III.) ОА АССЕ, АА АССЕ обо онивенного с навосновного почение почение павосор иле и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и и	м межен межен менен менен от	

Status History

Effective Date	Status Change
Present	Active
12/1/2005	Admitted to The State Bar of California

Explanation of member status

Actions Affecting Eligibility to Practice Law

Disciplinary and Related Actions

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Administrative Actions

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ATTORNEY SEARCH

John Joseph Fitzgerald IV - #257370

Current Status: Active

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See below for more details.

Profile Information

Bar Number	257370		
Address	2811 Sykes Ct	Phone Number	(650) 440-3170
	Santa Clara, CA 95051	Fax Number	Not Available .
	a A samma a managama a	e-mail	jack.fitzgerald1@yahoo.com
District	District 3	Undergraduate School	Cornell Univ; Ithaca NY
County	Santa Clara	Law School	New York Univ SOL; New York NY
Sections	Litigation		

Status History

Effective Date	Status Change
Present	Active
9/16/2008	Admitted to The State Bar of California

Explanation of member status

Actions Affecting Eligibility to Practice Law

Disciplinary and Related Actions

This member has no public record of discipline.

Administrative Actions

This member has no public record of administrative actions.

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Yelp to show reviews it automatically filters

Posted 4/6/2010 9:37 AM

By Rachel Metz, AP Technology Writer



By Richard Vogel, AP

The Yelp website is shown on a computer screen in Los Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO — Yelp, seeking to combat allegations that the online reviews site manipulates its users' feedback on local businesses, will now let visitors see the items that had been automatically removed by software meant to catch unreliable content.

Starting late Monday, Yelp is adding links to take visitors to those once-hidden reviews - a change that gives businesses and individuals a rare peek at decisions rendered by the popular start-up's software.

Although the site won't detail why each review has been shunned from a company's Yelp page, which shows information such as its hours and location along with photos and reviews, readers may be able to draw their own conclusions after seeing the hidden content.

Yelp CEO and co-founder Jeremy Stoppelman said Monday that the company wants to make people

understand that Yelp does give all businesses fair treatment, despite allegations that advertisers are favored.

"You'll be able to dive into the content yourself and make your own judgment," he said.

Since it started letting consumers post reviews six years ago. Yelp has used an automated program to weigh reviews and sift out those that are potentially unreliable, such as a negative review that a pizzeria owner might write about a competitor.

Still, business owners have long complained about the way positive and negative reviews can come and go from their pages on Yelp.

At least three lawsuits seeking class-action status have been filed against the site by a dozen small companies alleging that reviews are manipulated depending on whether a company advertises on the site. The businesses claim they've been pressured to advertise on the site in exchange for getting negative reviews squashed.

Yelp, based in San Francisco, says it doesn't manipulate reviews aside from letting advertisers choose one review that they want to feature at the top of their page. Although such featured reviews have been clearly marked as such, the company is getting rid of it entirely. It will be replaced in the next few weeks by a feature that lets advertisers post a video to their Yelp pages.

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Monday, June 28, 2010 As of 9:29 AM PDT New York

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By Tomio Geron

When appeasing angry small-business owners across the country, perfection is a nice goal, but it's not necessarily possible.

Yelp inc. has built its business on selling advertising on its local reviews Web site to mom and pop stores in many cities, but it has had a hard time convincing them that its technology is fair. Yelp Chief Executive Jeremy Stoppelman said new changes announced today will make the company more transparent.



"At least everyone can see there's a level playing field,"

Stoppelman said on a conference call today with reporters. "As for perfection, I don't know if we'll ever get there.

The challenge for Yelp is that it depends on its proprietary algorithm for filtering out reviews that attempt to game the system, for example when a business owner asks a friend write a positive review or competitors of a business write negative reviews. If Yelp explained exactly how that algorithm worked public, it would lose its advantage over competitors. At the same time, the company has had to respond to the growing chorus of complaints about how it filters its reviews, especially in relation to advertising. Three civil suits have been against Yelp recently on these

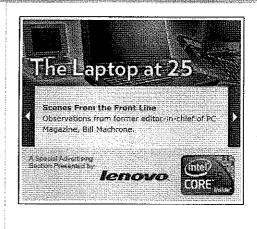
The changes announced today will address some of those concerns, by allowing users to click a link to see all reviews that have been filtered out, Stoppelman said. Yelp is also removing its "Favorite Review" feature that gave businesses the ability to choose a review that would appear at the top of a page, to clarify that there is no link between advertising and reviews

Stoppelman emphasized that the moves were not a response to the lawsuits. But the changes could help Yelp make the argument that it is transparent with how it handles reviews and address concerns about its review algorithm, the exact details of which the company has never discussed publicly

Making it possible to see reviews that have been filtered out will dispel "misconceptions and conspiracy theories" about Yelp, he said.

One of the complaints businesses have made is that Yelp will hide positive reviews only after the business rejects an advertising offer from a Yelp representative. In addition there was a kind of frustrating effect where business owners would try to point to something that no longer existed on the site. Stoppelman emphasized there is no quid pro quo, and hopes the changes will help clear that up.

"We've always said there's no link between ads and content," Stoppelman said. "We've never



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But what if, after the new changes, business owners still have a problem with a review being hidden? Stoppelman said Yelp will continue to work with small businesses to address their concerns.			What I Did During the G-20 Summit Senator Robert Byrd Dies, Puts Financial Reform in Danger Nailing Your Finance Interview Explaining Employment Gaps on Your Resume and in		
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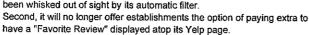
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Yelp dumps 'Favorite Review' feature, shows 'Filtered' write-ups

Yelp announced two changes to its review system last night that it hopes will quell accusations of extortion.

First, the San Francisco-based site, which collects user reviews of local businesses, services and other places, will allow people to see write-ups that had been whisked out of sight by its automatic filter.



yelb₽8

Yelp's habits of hiding reviews based on criteria it has yet to explain in much detail (a cute video on its blog offers only generalities) and charging businesses for prominent displays of positive assessments have led critics to accuse it of running a protection racket. See, for instance, this story by my colleague Michael Rosenwald. There and elsewhere, Yelp has denied those claims.

Yesterday's changes make sense to me, but I don't see how they'll end this controversy. Yelp makes it a little too difficult to look up reviews that it had screened--you have to click on a small "Filtered" link at the bottom of an establishment's page, then type in a random series of characters to verify that you're a person and not a program--and leaves some mystery about what got them hidden.

Consider the situation with one establishment cited in Rosenwald's piece, the Scion restaurant in Dupont Circle. Yelp's page for it lists 43 reviews, with an average score of three and a half out of five stars. But when you look through the 27 reviews Yelp filtered, it's hard to see a clear pattern. Some five-star raves got canned, but so did some one-star pans of the place. Most of the filtered reviews came from users who had written few reviews and had no friends listed on Yelp, but having five Yelp friends did not help the cause of one reviewer.

A similar situation exists with Yelp's take on another local establishment, the Lincoln Memorial. Far more reviews went through; with 133 listed, only 11 were filtered. But it's hard to say what disqualified this informative, five-star write-up from a Canadian tourist:

You don't have to be American to love this spot. Lincoln will inspire you. Try to go on a weekday, because it's an absolute zoo on weekends in the summer.

Both the Scion and Lincoln Memorial filtered-listings pages also feature numerous blank reviews that Yelp says were removed, not just filtered, for "violating our Review Guidelines." Presumably, they were the same sort of crude spam that we try to junk automatically here, but you can only guess.



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Lon't envy Yelp's job. Setting up a system for user input that allows for dissent but keeps the conversation civil and informative has repeatedly taxed our abilities, as Post ombudsman Andy Alexander noted in his column Sunday. That piece reports that The Post will adopt a tiered system, in which comments from readers with a history of playing by the rules will be trusted while those from others will be hidden by default, but viewable on request—somewhat like Yelp's new regime.

Have a look at Yelp's listings of some of your favorite places and let me know in the comments if you think it's been fair in its filtering. If it's not, how would you change Yelp's system?

By Rob Pegoraro | April 6, 2010; 10:16 AM ET

Categories: Digital culture, Social media

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Comments

I will see how the new review works. I wrote a review once for a restaurant in Baltimore called Meli. It was pushed down from the start, and now is filtered. I gave the restaurant is a very low rating for its absolutely horrendous service. I see that a few people have experienced the same thing. It became obvious that yelp was somehow skewing the results to give Meli a better ranking. After that I stopped relying on yelp.

Posted by: rcc_2000 | April 6, 2010 2:47 PM | Report abuse

Without personally investigating each review, large scale review sites need some kind of system to maintain their integrity and encourage user and submitter trust. Just look what happened to epinions.com - full of old reviews and advertisements.

Yelp's system may be imperfect, but other than, possibly, tripadvisor.com, I have not found a user-contributed rating system that I trust more.

The Post.com has a long way to go to catch up. I frequently find no ratings for popular places.

Posted by: graceld99 [April 6, 2010 3:20 PM | Report abuse

I just can't trust any "user" reviews. The anonymity of the Internet undermines all of

Of course, I may actually believe the opposite and am saying this just to troll you. How can you know the truth? Hence the problem.

Posted by: Dawny_Chambers | April 6, 2010 5:37 PM | Report abuse

Rob, thanks for pointing out Alexander's article; very interesting. I'll viist Yelp with a differnet attitiude now, about it now.Please stay on this story.

Posted by: Hattrik | April 6, 2010 6:16 PM | Report abuse

Amazon doesn't filter its reviews, and frankly, I think they're great. Yes, you have to read through the reviews and use a little judgment. I personally report reviews I read that I think are sketchy (and possible plants by someone with an interest in selling the product), but the vast majority of reviews I see are helpful.

The same goes for many clothing stores like Zappos or Anthropologie. It has gotten to the point that I won't buy anything on Anthropologie unless it's been reviewed first because the reviews are so helpful.

In my opinion, Google reviews are the next big thing. I've started leaving all of my

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