

45th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

Author: Dr. Patricia M. Sterns
Law Offices of Sterns and Tennen, United States, pms@astrolaw.com

Dr. Leslie I. Tennen
Law Offices of Sterns and Tennen, United States, ltennen@astrolaw.com

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE SETI POST DETECTION DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Abstract

The SETI Post Detection Declaration of Principles was the culmination of years of work and consultations. The Declaration received broad international support and relied upon traditional forms of media as the best available options at the time for communication with the public. The Declaration was revised in 2010, and continued the reliance on traditional media for the dissemination of information. Neither document made express utilization of the Internet, which has spawned new forms of communication including social media which can involve millions of people in real time global conversations. A confirmed detection of an extra-terrestrial intelligence would incite a global conversation of unprecedented scale and proportion. This article examines the Post Detection Declaration of Principles and the revised declaration in relation to the nascent realm of social media and whether further revisions are necessary.