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ABA Techshow Report

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Where is legal technology going?

Everywhere. Most lawyers now have smart phones. Every year, more use iPads for legal practice. Apps and mobile-friendly sites are available for time keeping, helping with jury selection, marking up transcripts, and other day-to-day tasks. There is even an app for mediation called Picture It Settled (iOS, free). As one speaker noted, legal technology vendors who don't offer apps risk becoming invisible.

ABA Mobile Favorites

- Note taking – Evernote (most platforms, free; paid accounts available)

- File storage – Dropbox (most platforms, free; paid accounts available)

- Writing - Docs To Go (iOS, $16.99; available on other platforms), WordPerfect Viewer (iOS, $5.99, there isn't an editor yet). And when will Microsoft release an iPad app? Current rumors say Fall 2014.

- PDFs - GoodReader (iOS, $4.99)

- Mind maps - iThoughts HD (iOS, $9.99)

Presentations on the Go

Lawyers have used their laptops in court for years; now they are using iPads.

- Sanction.com – sophisticated trial presentation software (PC, free for law school teaching)

- TrialPad – the most popular trial presentation app (iOS, $89.99)

- Bee Docs Timeline 3D – create dynamic timelines (iOS, $2.99)

- Keynote – create engaging presentations (Mac, $19.99; iOS $9.99)

- Apple TV – connect Apple devices to projectors/TVs wirelessly ($99.99)

How Discovery Has Changed

- Social media – lawyers now mine social media sites for evidence

- Geolocation & geotagging – many devices, including cell phones, now can easily track people, vehicles, and objects

- Mobile devices – lawyers can find a great deal of evidence on mobile phones, if they know where to look

- Document processing & predictive coding – computers can process large groups of documents (better than humans can), but only if trained lawyers first tell the computers what to look for – see EDRM.net for more information

New Vendors

- Transporter (filetransporter.com; $299) – set up your own 1T virtual drop box – you control access and security

- WordRake.com ($89) – a Word plugin that removes extraneous language

Tech Tips

- Two monitors – an old but still valid tip. Almost everyone who tries this reports an instant increase in productivity

- Voice recognition- most operating systems now have basic voice recognition built in

- Learn your operating system – you'll find that you can automate many common tasks like renaming groups of files by learning the secrets of your operating system

5 sites in 5 minutes

- Momondo.com and Skyscanner.com: Locate the best airfares. Neither website is controlled by hotel or airline companies (unlike other popular travel sites), meaning you're more likely to find better deals

- TaskRabbit.com – need to run errands but don't have time? This service will find someone to help you

- CopyPasteCharacter.com – do you ever need to type a special character on your mobile device (say §) but don't know where to find it on the keyboard? Visit this site and copy the character you need

- RiskyRoads.org – compiles data from the NTSA to highlight dangerous roads across the US

Find more useful (and amusing) sites here: http://bit.ly/YV4Lwq