4-9-2014

ABA Techshow Roundup

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Recommended Citation

Ginsberg, Debbie, "ABA Techshow Roundup" (2014). *Presentations*. 4.
http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/lib_pres/4

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April 9, 2014
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Technology Trends

The Techshow showcases skills, resources, and tools for solo, small, and medium-size firms so they can handle complicated technology issues without in-house professional IT staff.

Lawyers Want Efficiency

Many of the sessions focused on ways to help lawyers be more efficient. As billing practices change, lawyers need to be able to use tech tools that help them make better use of their time.

Mobile devices

Lawyers are increasingly using mobile technologies for their work. According to ABA's 2013 technology survey:

- 91% of the respondents use smartphones
- 62% of those users have iPhones (just 2 years before, in 2011, 45% used Blackberry)

- 48% use tablets(mostly iPads)

Practice from anywhere

Many lawyers and firms have set up systems where attorneys can access work documents and tools from anywhere. While most of those lawyers use laptops, a few use only tablets.

Paperless

Paper filing can take up a lot of attorney and staff time. Many offices are experimenting with going completely paperless.

Lawyers Need Better Security

Threats

Tools that are simple to use are often easy for hackers to access. The 2013 Tech Survey found few attorneys are using sophisticated security measures to protect their data, and many are not following even simple recommendations beyond password-protecting their mobile devices.

Solutions

Several sessions discussed basic solutions that attorneys should implement to better protect their technological investments, such as encryption, tools that alert lawyers when their technology is under threat, and techniques for managing mobile device security.

Tools for Practice

Tools for Practice Management

Client management

Firms are implementing tools to help better manage client relations -- but find that lawyers won't provide the data because they will not share proprietary client information.

Client portals

Firms are using web-based client portals to handle routine client projects, mostly those that involve generating documents.

Personal and Professional Marketing

Many firms are already using social media or blogging content for marketing, but want to learn more about best practices. The presentations also focused on potential pitfalls, including ethics violations, dealing with negative reviews from dissatisfied clients, and advising clients about how to avoid social media risks.

Tools for Presentations

Timelines

Lawyers are using timelines to visualize facts for case management and trial presentation. One of this year's exhibitors, Ntrepid Timestream (http://ntrepidcorp.com/timestream), offers a free timeline manager for law students and faculty (it's not as useful for presentations).

Prezi

Many presenters mentioned Prezi as an alternative to PowerPoint. One session showed how to use Prezi for closing arguments.

Favorite iOS Apps
- **iCab Mobile,** $1.99 -- Unlike Chrome and Safari, the iCab browser can be used to upload documents to websites
- **Voice Dream**, $9.99 -- Use this app to read PDF files aloud

60 Sites in 60 Minutes

One of the most popular sessions at the Techshow features useful web resources of all kinds. Here are some of my favorites from this year:

Password Security

These sites can help you create secure passwords
- **Telepath Words** - how easily can your password be guessed? https://telepathwords.research.microsoft.com/
- **How Secure Is Your Password** - tests password strength - https://howsecureismypassword.net/
- **Have I Been Pwned?** - check to see if you been compromised - https://haveibeenpwned.com/

Other
- **Politwoops** - Tweets politicians have deleted - http://politwoops.sunlightfoundation.com/

- **SmallPDF** - make PDFs easier to email - http://compress.smallpdf.com/
- **Dial a Human** - reach a human on the phone instead of a machine - http://www.dialahuman.com/

All sites: http://www.techshow.com/2014/04/60-sites-in-60-minutes-the-2014-list/