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Highlights from the ABA Techshow Expo

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The ABA Techshow EXPO featured the latest technologies from nearly 100 vendors and service providers.

<u>**Vendor Highlights**</u>

DirectLaw
http://www.directlaw.com/
DirectLaw offers tools to help attorneys create virtual offices using their current law firm websites using a variety of client-management tools. Clients can use these tools to login to firm websites for information about their cases and other matters. There are also tools that allow firms to sell specific legal services and documents for set fees (kind of like Amazon for legal services). DirectLaw can also be used to charge one-time fees for legal advice via phone, email, or web cam. It includes a pre-built library of questionnaires for generating common legal documents as well as software to create additional forms and questionnaires. DirectLaw offers a free version of their services to law schools.

Fastcase
http://www.fastcase.com/
Fastcase is an inexpensive alternative to Lexis and Westlaw for basic legal research. One of its latest features is a timeline which displays research results as an interactive graph. Researchers can use the graph to quickly spot recent and relevant materials. Fastcase also now includes a feature called Foresight which identifies the most popular cases cited by a set of search results which are not part of the set itself. For example, the search for the phrase "Miranda warning" would not include the original Miranda case in the result set, but Miranda is highlighted in the Foresight results.

GeekDesk
http://www.geekdesk.com/
New research suggests that sitting many hours a day is harmful, so many workers have started to arrange their desks so they can stand for at least part of the day. However, this arrangement is difficult with a traditional desk. GeekDesk offers easily adjustable desks which can be used sitting or standing. The desks are powered with an electric motor.

PB **PBWorks**
http://pbworks.com/content/biz-legal-edition

PBWorks offers a collaboration platform for managing client and attorney relationships using a simple wiki interface. Free sites are also available which can be used for educational purposes (see http://pbworks.com/).

SMART
http://smarttech.com/

SMART Tech has been expanding beyond education into businesses. At the ABA Techshow, SMART featured collaborative whiteboards which could be used for internal firm projects as well as virtual meetings. Note that the latest models can be written on with standard whiteboard pens (these pens could potentially ruin earlier models).

TrialTouch/TrialPad
http://www.trialpad.com/
http://www.trialtouch.com

Several vendors demonstrated new iPad and other mobile apps this year. Two of the latest apps allow attorneys to use their iPads as courtroom presentation devices. TrialPad ($89.99) allows attorneys to easily organize and annotate PDFs for presentation at trial. TrialTouch (not yet available) lets attorneys organize exhibits, videos, images, and other materials in an online repository for trail presentations.

Other Resources from the Techshow

General information about the Techshow: http://www2.americanbar.org/calendar/TECHSHOW/Pages/default.aspx.

- Keynote: Lawrence Lessig, "Code is Law: Does Anyone Get This Yet?"- Lessig discusses current legal issues facing the Internet (available at http://youtu.be/us5CUAsH0U0).
- 60 Sites in 60 Minutes (from previous years): http://www2.americanbar.org/calendar/TECHSHOW/Pages/60Sitesin60Minutes.aspx - great sites for productivity, presentation, organization, and more.
  This year also featured 60 Apps in 60 Minutes: http://www.tabletlegal.com/aba-techshow-60-apps-60-minutes.
- Rachael Zahorsky, "Lawyers Who Ignore Social Media Equal to Cavemen Who Refuse to Hunt, Techshow Duo Says," ABA Journal Law News Now, April 12, 2011 (available at http://bit.ly/ABATechDuo) – some insights from the Techshow.