

iPad for Lawyers: A Tool or a Toy?

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The question in the title can lead to the eruption of a religious war. Even the authors disagree. John thinks the iPad is more of a toy – Sharon acknowledges the toy aspect, but has seen lawyers effectively use the iPad in their practices. So . . . she wheedled until she was given leave to purchase one.

In all candor, she became immediately addicted to Angry Birds and persisted until she had killed all the green pigs on every level. But that pathetic confession aside, she took a tip from friend and colleague Tom Mighell, who has written a terrific book for the ABA Law Practice Management Section entitled *iPad in One Hour for Lawyers*. We'll talk more about the book later.

The tip was to search the absolutely overwhelming Apps Store (currently 65,000 apps and more being added every day) with the words “law” and “legal” and of course terms related to areas of practice, case management, etc. Ever the avid reader, Sharon built a library of legal books – most free or 99 cents – the notable exception being Black's Law Dictionary which cost \$54.99 – and yet all the reviews are glowing and it is feature rich. She also has the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, along with a raft of the most notable legal documents in history.

Functionally, much of what a lawyer has to do is not particularly well-handled by the iPad. We have yet to find any application that supports “track changes” and comments completely and Documents to Go Premium can only view them – and there is no file management system on the iPad. John says everything is a kludge. Sharon says most of it is, but there are workarounds. Now workarounds are not a great thing, but they do get the job done – and this is still a product in its infancy. Moreover, it is so very light and portable – that feature alone is worth a lot. But is it worth a loss of functionality or significant “Rube Goldberg” gyrations to get things done that are native to other computing environments? Unless you have your documents and data stored on the iPad there is little functionality if you don't have connectivity.

Make no mistake about it, the iPad is extremely dependent on connectivity (WiFi or 3G) if the data isn't stored on the device. What does that mean? If there is no WiFi hotspot or 3G access isn't available, your cloud services will not be available so you're essentially screwed. Let's look at another shortfall...printing. Lawyers love their paper and iPad users will be foaming at the mouth when they can't generate paper from that slick sheet of glass called an iPad. So how do you print anything? If you're lucky enough to own one of the five or so printer models that

support over-the-air printing, there isn't a problem. However, most folks will have to transfer the data (another kludge) to some other device or jump through hoops and pray to the printing gods to get some sort of paper output. Just be aware that printing is a pain from the iPad and that you'll need reliable wireless connections if you use a lot of cloud services.

Let's take an example: To work with a Word document attached to e-mail, you'll need to open it in an App like "Documents to Go" to review and edit it. If a PDF, you'll do the same thing with a program such as iAnnotate.

Working on the iPad's keyboard is clumsy – some are better at typing on it than others but it is just too small for most folks. A lightweight Bluetooth keyboard is the answer here. Some iPad covers even come with the keypad embedded. You can find a number of them at Amazon's site.

We both sometimes act as law practice management auditors for the Virginia State Bar from time to time and it is here that we have seen the iPad shine. Lawyers who tell themselves "I'll enter time and billing and return those client e-mails later today or over the weekend" often just don't get to it – they end up in ethical trouble for failure to communicate with the client or for not keeping contemporaneous time.

The iPad can save these folks from themselves. It is so light to carry around in a purse or briefcase – while hanging around court, it is easy to work on your practice management apps entering time, contacts, making calendar entries etc. Clio and Rocket Matter are both fine programs that lawyers seem to love and they are priced modestly. In this way, dead time becomes productive time – and things that ethically need to get done right are more likely to get done right with the iPad. Having seen this in the field, we are persuaded that the iPad provides an invaluable tool when struggling to keep up with daily tasks.

It is impossible to write an article about the iPad without discussing security. While we wish we could avoid the subject so we could avoid getting flamed by Apple's legion of fanboys, the iPad is just as insecure as the iPhone since it runs the same iOS. Just put the sucker in DFU (Device Firmware Upgrade) mode and you can do all sorts of nasty little things since the operating system isn't fully loaded yet. Researchers have already been able to bypass a PIN code on a fully patched iOS device in 2 minutes. Even with that vulnerability, a PIN lock code is better than no lock code.

How about securing your iPad with a strong passcode? Tom Mighell has detailed instructions on how to do so on his iPad 4 Lawyers blog at <http://ipad4lawyers.squarespace.com/posts/2011/4/29/ipad-security-tip-setting-a-strong-passcode.html>. Follow his directions and you're good to go. And a hint from us – the bad guys can now crack any eight character password in less than two hours (we wrote about this in an

earlier column). But an alphanumeric password (passphrases work well) of 12 characters currently takes 17 years to crack. 'LawPractice2011!' will do nicely.

With a nod to Tom again – and his wonderful book – he has shared some of his favorite iPad apps below:

Apps - Legal

Trial Pad (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/trialpad/id381223425?mt=8>) Easy-to-use app for preparing and presenting presentations for trial.

iJuror (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ijuror/id372486285?mt=8>) Juror selection tool

Jury Tracker (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/jurytracker/id408560814?mt=8>) Facilitates collecting jury information and observations about jurors during trial.

Evidence (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/rltc-evidence/id406179902?mt=8>) Image presentation software for trial lawyers.

Apps - Productivity

Penultimate (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/penultimate/id354098826?mt=8>) Take notes that are handwritten only.

NoteTaker HD (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/note-taker-hd/id366572045?mt=8>) An app for writing and organizing handwritten notes, diagrams etc.

WritePad (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/writepad/id293033512?mt=8>) Takes handwritten notes and converts them to typed text

GoToMeeting (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gotomeeting-v4-5/id363452804?mt=8>) Allows you to attend online meetings by tapping a link in your invitation e-mail. View anything the meeting organizers choose to share.

WebEx (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/webex-for-ipad/id364031971?mt=8>) Likewise, allows you to join meetings from your iPad.

Fuze Meeting (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/fuze-meeting/id302731408?mt=8>) Start, host, and attend web conferences, view multimedia content and chat with others.

SignMyPad (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/signmypad/id380299554?mt=8>) PDF reader and annotation tool. Allows you to add your signature.

DocuSign (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/docusign/id388519437?mt=8>) The app lets you send, track and sign documents from anywhere.

GoodReader (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/goodreader-for-ipad/id363448914?mt=8>) A very robust PDF reader, now with encryption features.

iAnnotate (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iannotate-pdf/id363998953?mt=8>) As you would guess, document annotation.

Documents to Go (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/documents-to-go-premium-office/id317107309?mt=8>) View and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint files, PDF viewer, view and edit e-mail attachments.

Quick Office (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/quickoffice-connect-mobile/id376212724?mt=8>) Create, edit and share Microsoft Office files.

Office2 (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id364361728?mt=8>) View, create and edit Word and Excel files.

Tom talks about many of these apps and using the iPad in the practice of law generally in a recent LPM The Digital Edge: Lawyers and Technology podcast called *The iPad for Lawyers* which you can find on iTunes.

We also received a list of favorite iPad apps from attorney and fellow ABA TECHSHOW speaker Finis Price:

iAnnotate - Every day usage to annotate medical records and pleadings
(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iannotate-pdf/id363998953?mt=8>)

GV Connect - The best Google Voice app I have used. Stable and great GUI.
(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gv-connect-call-sms-client/id347835665?mt=8>)

Air Sketch- Used in trial and in depositions for a witness to draw on a picture and simultaneously display on a projector (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/air-sketch/id376617790?mt=8>)

Trial Touch- Used in trial already and it's a fantastic Trial Presentation app
(<http://dkglobal.net/trialtouch.php>)

PhotoSync - Transfer photos and videos to/from iPad/iPhone/Desktop
(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/photosync-wirelessly-transfers/id415850124?mt=8>)

1Password- Generates random passwords, stores and syncs them with all of my iPads/iPhones and desktop browsers (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/1password-for-ipad/id364747489?mt=8>)

OmniFocus- Greatest task management app (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/omnifocus-for-ipad/id383804552?mt=8>)

Notability- Records audio while I take notes in depositions and syncs the audio playback with my notes. (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/notability/id360593530?mt=8>)

ReaddleDocs- Best and most of all EASIEST document management program for the iPad (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/readdledocs-documents-attachments/id285053111?mt=8>)

BT Chat HD- Sets up a BT chat connection between multiple iPads, use it in trial and in depositions for co-counsel and experts to discuss testimony (<http://itunes.apple.com/lv/app/bt-chat-hd/id413603530?mt=8>)

Notice how little duplication there is on these two lists. This shows you just how **many** apps there are – and all with their own adherents. It is likely, over time, that some clear “winners” will emerge, but to the novice, it’s the Wild Wild West out there. It is helpful to take the good advice of experts like Tom and Finis – especially when the apps cost money!

While most apps are inexpensive (or even free) some of the legal apps cost more than you might think, and boy oh boy is it easy to just hit the “buy now” button. We have discovered that one click purchasing can be somewhat addicting. Before you know it, you can rack up quite a bill. This is a further good argument for doing some research and relying on experts like Tom and Finis.

As you search the Web – this particularly irritated us - you may find yourself irritated by the iPad’s inability to display Flash. The workaround there is a mobile browser called SkyFire.

While Tom’s iPad book is wonderfully legal specific, you might also want to check out *iPad: Portable Genius* by Paul McFedries, *Incredible iPad Apps for Dummies* by Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus and Bryan Chaffin and *iPad: The Missing Manual* by J.D. Biersdorfer – and a hat tip to Virginia lawyer Ken Curtis for telling us how useful these books were to him – all can be found on Amazon.

At this year’s ABA TECHSHOW, we were all amazed at the number of attendees taking notes on iPads. We are continually astonished by how many iPads we see being used in courtrooms. John can mutter “toy” all he wants – Sharon remains convinced that, clumsy though some of its functions may be currently, we are seeing a tool that will mature to become an invaluable part of legal technology.

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