

Solo and Small Firm Legal Technology Guide

If you are like me, you love buffets, salad bars and smorgasbords. There are so many choices, so many appetizing flavors, and so many combinations. There is always so much that you want to try – but I always end up eating too much, feeling too full, often with a queasy feeling of regret wishing that I had made better choices. Wouldn't it be great if someone were standing there with you at the buffet, walking down the line with you and telling you to choose this, but to forgo that? Telling you which foods go together well in combination and won't leave you feeling sick.

Legal technology today is like that buffet, especially for a solo or small firm, or anyone without the time or expertise to analyze and read everything out there on the newest hardware or software. We are always too busy meeting with clients, drafting pleadings, trying cases, and well, just practicing law.

But in this complete yet concise updated guide for 2017, you will have access to your own personal guides, Sharon D. Nelson, John W. Simek and Michael C. Maschke, at the buffet line of the latest legal technology who have already done the tasting, and vetted the ingredients for you. Like your own private maître d' they will help you decide what you absolutely need to run an efficient modern law office and more importantly help you decide what you should avoid.

The Guide can, for instance, help you decide if you need a low-volume or a high-volume scanner – and the chapter on case management software alone will save you days trying to figure out which of the many players in this important new practice software area is right for you. The Guide also provides up to date pricing on both the hardware and software items mentioned -- from the cost of an optical mouse to the price of the latest litigation software. But the Guide doesn't stop there. It objectively tells you which programs are tops (for instance jury selection and tracking software) and which deserve honorable mentions.

Young lawyers and law students often ask me what technology they should buy for their practice. In the past I was never sure quite how to respond. But now I am going to give them the link to the Guide and be able to say with confidence that the answers won't leave them with an upset stomach.

– Michael Spekter, Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Baltimore and American University Washington College of Law