

App of Your Eye

Lawyers today are increasingly mobile, using smart phones and similar devices to supplement office computers. But with so many apps debuting, it can be difficult to remain up to speed. Here are some new applications for your phone, tablet and perhaps even your car.

Litigation on the Go

Review and annotate deposition and court transcripts interactively with the free Mobile Transcript app. Created exclusively for lawyers, it offers the ability to be productive while on the go. The easy-to-use platform is currently formatted for the iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch and BlackBerry and will soon be available for Android as well. Although it costs \$9.99 for the iPad, Exhibit A is another app worth checking out. It offers versatility and the ability to present exhibits, photos and documents.

Go Green

Large and small, many firms are going paperless. You can take “going green” to the next level with these electronic-signature apps. Softsign is a free app with the ability to open .pdf files, execute and e-mail them without the need for a pen. Other noteworthy e-sign apps include DocuSign, Echosign and EasySign.

Payment Transactions

Androids, iPhones and iPads can provide a to-go credit card processing terminal in the palm of your hand. Square Up offers a free card-processing app with a free card reader and a low per-swipe fee, giving attorneys the opportunity to process credit card transactions while out of the office. BlackBerry’s Aircharge and Charge Anywhere apps perform the same functions for your out-of-office business needs. ProcessAway, available for iPhones, offers these same services but requires you to manually enter card information rather than just swipe a credit card.

Video Access

Attorneys may often require access to video files as well as document files while on the go. Dropbox, the Soonr Workplace, DataViz Documents To Go and Carbonite all permit users to view, access, create and synchronize word-processed documents or other text files on cell phones. The VLC Streamer app allows you to view stored videos from your computer’s hard drive on your cell phone. For a very low price, iPhone and iPad users may download Video Stream, offering the same capabilities.

Dashboard Apps

While app developers have concentrated on engineering applications for your cell phone, software developers are targeting a whole new industry: your car. Late-model vehicles are also partaking in the app frenzy, which in turn allows the modern mobile attorney easier access to work materials. For the 2011 auto show lineup, Ford introduced MyFord Touch systems, a predecessor to the Microsoft Sync system, which offers touchscreen access to your files, contacts, images and videos from a memory card. This technology also possesses the ability to turn your smart phone into a wireless router, allowing passengers to browse the Internet instantly without the need to locate a hotspot. And Toyota’s Entune technology system



iPhone image courtesy of Apple.

will soon offer in-dash touchscreens offering apps similar to those found on cell phones.

The days of performing all your work on a desktop or laptop are long gone. Taking advantage of the surfeit of apps out there may just help you speed past the competition. ⚡

Dan Kehr (dan@kehrlaw.com) of Kehr Law is Co-Chair of the SDCBA’s Law Practice Management and Marketing Section.