

The iPad—IRS Deduction? or Toy?

Based on a *TechnoLawyer* article by Jeffrey Allen

Oakland attorney Jeffrey Allen wanted to justify his iPad as a legitimate business expense, so he put it to the test in court, from docketing to trial. He used 20 apps and came to the conclusion that the iPad is an effective trial tool and legitimate tax deduction. The apps in brief:

Dockets

Court Days (free and Pro version for \$4.99) enables you to determine the due dates for various court-related events. The free version calculates the number of court days between two dates. The \$4.99 version gives you rules-based calendaring.

Taking Notes

The iPad comes with a Notes app or you can buy software such as Apple's Pages (\$9.99) and QuickOffice (\$19.99), which emulates a full Microsoft Office suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) from XP to 2007 and is a PDF reader.

Legal Research

Lexis.com and Westlaw both have iPad apps that will connect you to their services. In addition, Law Stack (free) provides Federal Rules (Civil & Criminal Procedure, Rules of Evidence) and the US Constitution.

Jury Selection (Voir Dire)

Forget the messy notebook sketches and use Jury Tracker (\$4.99), iJuror (\$9.99) or Jury Duty (\$29.99) to track information about prospective jurors and their status on the panel.

Reviewing and Presenting Evidence

Apps that enable you to store electronic files of your evidence on the iPad include: TrialPad (\$89.99), Exhibit A (\$9.99) and RLTC: Evidence (\$4.99). Mobile Transcripts (free) may be useful for reading and highlighting transcripts on the iPad.

Examination Outlines

Outlining may be accomplished with word processing (see above) or outlining programs such as OmniOutliner (\$19.99) or Outliner for iPad (\$4.99). The Deponent App (\$9.99) is designed to organize materials, whether from a deposition or for trial or other hearings. It links exhibits to your outline and can retrieve files from a DropBox (free) folder.

Trial Book

There are many apps to create "notebooks." One that Allen recommends is Circus Ponies Notebook (\$29.99). A version for the Mac is also available, which



allows you to move notebooks back and forth between your iPad and your Mac, using iTunes to transfer the files.

Opening Statements and Closing Arguments

The iPad truly excels when it comes to opening statements, closing arguments and, on occasion, oral arguments of motions. You can keep your notes in any one of many format choices, such as OmniOutliner (noted above) although the iPad can easily handle popular file formats such as DOC and PDF.

Additional Storage

The iPad has a limited amount of space. Enter off tablet storage, which provides extra room for large media files and the convenience of accessing files through the Internet. Apps to look for include DropBox (free and premium accounts), iDrive (\$49.50/year) and Pogoplug (free and \$29 to stream movies and music).

Representing Citizen Soldiers CLE

Wed, Sept 14 from 11 am to 1 pm, Alma Whitelaw of the Kansas Army National Guard will present "Representing Citizen Soldiers" at the Lyon County Courthouse jury assembly room. **This approved 2-hour CLE is free and lunch is included.** A [registration form](#) is on the law library website. The CLE credits include 1 hour of Ethics & Professionalism.

Public Legal Education (PLE)—September 16

The law library has partnered with the Emporia Public Library for a series of PLEs in 2011-2012.

The **first event is scheduled for Friday, Sept 16—or Constitution Day—**at the Emporia Public Library large meeting room from 12 to 1 pm. Charles Rayl will be the speaker.

If you would like to participate in future PLE events as a panelist or presenter, please contact the law librarian.