



Practicing with the iPad

Is it practical to expect an iPad to replace a laptop for legal work? D. Todd Smith's article in the *Texas Lawyer* is optimistic about the iPad's role as serious legal technology. He points out that smartphones can do some of the iPad's work, such as email and surfing the Internet. If you're looking for more functionality, the iPad does some things really well:

- *A powerful e-reader:* the iPad can store thousands of pages in PDF, which has the added benefit of making the files easily searchable.
- *A virtual legal pad:* You'll have to go to secondary sources for a good notetaking app, but some, like Evernote, enable note-taking and capturing of other types of information, including photographs and audio clips.
- *A mobile presentation device:* The Keynote app allows viewing and editing slide presentations (including those imported from Microsoft PowerPoint). With the VGA adapter accessory, the iPad connects directly to a projector.
- *A mobile legal research device:* WestlawNext, LexisNexis and Fastcase (and a Wi-Fi connection) allow access to an entire library of databases.
- *Office on the go:* When coupled with online document-management services, the iPad can be a fairly complete portable office.

That's the iPad story in a nutshell—for the moment. The iPad 2 is expected in March or April of 2011 and could include even more features useful to attorneys on the go. Stay tuned.

Source: *Law Technology News* Jan 3, 2011

Did you get a new iPhone for Christmas? A new laptop? Remember, your LCLL membership gives you free access to the wireless network on the 3rd floor of the courthouse. Contact the law librarian for details.

Lexis Advance Gets Two Thumbs Up

Robert Ambrogi, technology reviewer for the *Law Technology Journal*, reports that a new product geared to solos (or duos) is well worth the \$175/month price tag. Lexis Advance is easy to search, has a flat rate that includes a password for your paralegal and a comprehensive research library that includes all 50 states, Shepards Citations, dockets, jury verdicts, briefs, pleadings and motions, and expert witness transcripts.

The downside to Lexis Advance: research access is limited to your subscription, you cannot email results, printing is only through your browser, and folders cannot be shared. However, given the ease of use, substantial library and predictable pricing, Lexis Advance for Solos could be a great investment. For more information, visit www.lexisnexis.com/newlexis/advance

Membership Fees

For the first time in the law library's history, membership fees have been raised from the statutory minimum of \$10 to \$25 per year. This raise will help offset the increased cost of office supplies; in particular, paper and printer toner. P.S. Fees & completed form are due Jan 15.

Congratulations to our winners! They knew that the 1896 US Supreme Court case that resulted in what was known as the "separate but equal" doctrine was *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Winners were: Mickie Cleary-Bright, John Sanderson, Patti Nurnberg and Merlin Wheeler.