

Write Briefs Like a Rockstar

Law.com's *Legal Blog Watch* highlights Ross Guberman's article on Chief Justice John Roberts' legendary brief writing skills. Guberman offers these tips for those who want to rock like Roberts:

- 1. Let your facts "show, not tell:"** facts should read like narrative nonfiction, like something you'd read in *The Atlantic* or *The New Yorker*.
- 2. Add speed through short and varied transitions.** Roberts starts sentences with short, punchy words.
- 3. Add elegance and clarity through parallel constructions.** This is a good way to streamline information and make your points stick.
- 4. Add interest through short sentences, examples, and figures of speech.** Variety in the prose is another way to ensure a standout brief.
- 5. End with a bang.** As with any well-written piece, the last sentence in your argument section should clearly define your message and offer the reader a parting thought. The full text of Guberman's article can be found at <http://www.legalwritingpro.com/articles/john-roberts.pdf>

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ALWD Citation Manual KF245.A45 2006
The Bluebook KF245.B575 2005
Curmudgeon's Guide to Practicing Law KF300 .H47 2006
Legal Writing in a Nutshell KF250 .S68 2009
Plain English for Lawyers KF250.W9 2005
Universal Citation Guide KF245 .U58 2004

Kroll Trial Management

A recent webinar contained this quote from *The National Law Journal*: "**More than 40% of the national jury pool is made up of younger 'Generation X' and 'Generation Y' jurors. That demographic shift has litigators changing the way they present cases.**"



CLE Survey Results:

1. Ethics
2. Probate/Wills
3. Trial Techniques

We will schedule these in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for details!

Netbook v Laptop - which is more cost effective?

The law librarian is fond of small, powerful electronic gadgets. She even entertained the idea of acquiring a netbook once. She has overcome that temptation and disagrees with legal technology experts who suggest that a netbook can serve as an attorney's workhorse. Her reasoning? Netbooks have limited capacity for multitasking and storage. While the small size and light weight is attractive, one has to weigh the hidden costs and performance capabilities before making a purchase.

Case in point: Lenovo makes a netbook (S12) that retails for \$450 and a laptop (Thinkpad SL410) for \$595. The laptop has optical storage, 2GB RAM, 2MB cache, a 320GB hard drive, a 15" display and weighs 5.3lbs. The netbook does not have optical storage, has 1GB RAM, 512KB cache, a 160GB hard drive, a 12" display and weighs 3.5lbs. For a difference of less than \$150 and 2 lbs, one can have twice the RAM, four times the cache and twice the hard drive as the netbook—not to mention a larger screen that is easier on over-40 eyes.

If you find yourself in BestBuy and hear the siren call of the netbooks, think twice. A laptop may be a much better investment.