

New Lawyers Spotlight: What is the most vital piece of technology for your practice?



Joshua N. Brekken

Messerli Kramer

I would have to say both the hardware (the computer itself) and the software we use are the best tools of my practice. The hardware is self-explanatory. The software, FinPlan/Divorce Math, is essential as it allows for analysis of tax implications in divorce cases. This is especially important in cases where spousal maintenance is an issue and in other high net worth cases where investment income and significant tax implications come into play.

Dani Peden

Brandt Criminal Defense



Remote access to my server is the greatest technological asset of my practice. My firm uses a virtual private network (VPN) and server login/firewall (SOPHOS) in order to access our files remotely. At previous employment positions, I only worked with paper files and my work hours were limited to the times I had access to them. I may have relished the moment when I was able to disengage completely at times; but, I still spent many hours arriving early, and staying late, in order to ensure some piece of mind when I finally arrived home.



Anthony A. Remick

Arthur Chapman Kettering Smetak & Pikala

My mobile timekeeping app allows me to capture my billable time while working remotely. This increases my timekeeping accuracy. Events, such as depositions, inspections, hearings, and conferences, are crucial for my development as a newer attorney. However, I am only able to attend these events if I continue to manage my other files and projects while I am out of the office. The current technology allows me to make telephone calls, read and send emails, and review and edit documents from anywhere. With so much work being done remotely, the mobile timekeeping app is essential to accurately capturing and billing all of my time.

Scholastica N.S. Baker

Faegre Baker Daniels



I'm a mid-level product liability defense attorney training every day to become a first-chair trial lawyer. I am also a busy mother of three energetic boys and my husband is JAG attorney who works full time in the Minnesota Army National Guard. I rely on the "categorize" color-coding feature in Microsoft Outlook Calendar to manage case deadlines, work/court deadlines, personal commitments, bar activities, and to block off time to complete each activity. Each activity/category has its own color. Because I'm a visual learner, it's easy for me to quickly assess or change my current work load and personal commitments, especially if unexpected events occur.



Tescia Jackson

UnitedHealth Group – Optum

Web-based conferencing is the most essential piece of technology to my practice because it allows me to communicate with clients easily and effectively regardless of time zone, client location or weather. As an organization with employees and clients all over the world, access to a flexible and mobile platform where individuals can interact helps us stay ahead in a fast-paced economy.

Rene T. McNulty

Ballard Spahr



OneNote is a vital tool in my practice. It centralizes all of my notes into one digital notebook and allows me to organize them into sections, pages and subpages. Plus, there is a search function. It has replaced the dozens of notebooks I used to have scattered around my office. Best of all, if I'm feeling nostalgic, I can use the stylus to take handwritten notes on my tablet.