

Stepping Up to Tech

Lawyers today are more tech-savvy and mobile than ever. If you're like me, you probably spend more time utilizing the current technology resources available at your fingertips than you realize.

Phone It In

Though we may try to deny it, for most lawyers, our cell phones have become an extra appendage. For those who have not given in to the dark side yet, the **Apple iPhone 5** is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. Set for release this summer, the iPhone 5 is certain to have a sleek design, scratch-resistant screen, advanced graphic chips, 3G video chat and the ability to show local TV channels using downloaded apps from different companies. Just make sure you aren't watching in court, since judges generally frown upon such enjoyment. If you are reluctant to join the Apple revolution, there's always the new **Atrix 4G** (about \$199 a year with AT&T contract), the first smart phone with dual core speed, Adobe Flash 10.1, the unique qHD display, Motorola's webtop application and a web-based desktop that can dock directly to a keyboard/monitor combination to act as a computer as well as a phone. Or perhaps you prefer the **Droid**. The next-generation Droid X2 is said to be a high-end handset with capacitive buttons instead of physical navigation buttons (to help those who shamelessly pocket-dial) and have a 4.3-inch qHD display, just like the Droid Bionic (i.e., Droid 3). It will retain the 8-megapixel camera with video encoding and a crystal-clear 4.3-inch resolution screen. Price points for the iPhone 5 and Droid phones are expected to be similar to those of their predecessors.

Embrace the Cloud

Sync all your files, documents and PDFs instantaneously and even share them with others. Local attorney Patrick Howe uses **NetDocs** and has this to say about joining the cloud-computing generation: "I started using NetDocs about six months ago as my cloud repository. I can put anything on it, other than audio. I love that I can access the information from anywhere in the world. Much better than things like [Go To] My PC.com." Whether you are



working from home, the office or 37,000 feet above the ground in an Internet-equipped airplane, cloud computing has fast become the mobile lawyer's best friend. Need to easily collaborate on your files but don't feel like investing the time, money and technical know-how to actually set up a physical file server with remote VPN accessibility? **Dropbox.com** is your friend. I use it and absolutely love it. Dropbox gives you 2GB of storage for free and will give you additional storage for every referral you send. It looks and functions just as a regular folder on your computer does. Dropbox will also back up your files for you. Some others are **Microsoft**, **Google Docs** and **Google Calendar Sync**, **clio.com**, **zoho.com**, **Yahoo**, **Amazon**, **mozy.com** and **box.net**.

Wirelessly Sync Your Life

Sync all your e-mails, calendars and contacts instantly and automatically. This technology will improve your efficiency, and you'll never have to duplicate entries again. A rapidly growing number of apps and programs out there work well, and many are free. **Google Sync**, **Yahoo Sync**, **www.Syncmycal.com**, **AirSync** for the Droid and **www.mobilesyncpro.com** are all free. And **www.secondcopy.com**, **Microsoft Exchange**, **BlackBerry Enterprise**, **www.syncing.net** (\$109 with a 30-day free trial) and **Mobile Me** (\$99 a year) are well worth their nominal fees. ✍

Dan Kehr (dan@kehrlaw.com) of Kehr Law is co-chair of the SDCBA's Law Practice Management and Marketing Section.