

iPads Help Lawyers and Clients Stay Connected

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Litigators in Arizona Provide 20 iPads to Clients



On the heels of a recent in-depth <u>in-house technology</u> survey, it is appropriate to highlight the technological strides two lawyers have made in Arizona.

While some attorneys may debate the usefulness of iPads for business and preparing for legal matters, these two litigators in Arizona are proving that iPads really are helpful.

Here's what they've done.

The attorneys, Marc Lamber and James Goodnow at Fennemore Craig, provided iPads to 20 clients in their biggest cases. The devices acted as hotlines, helping the clients keep track of what's happening and keeping the 180-attorney firm informed. The iPads also helped the attorneys build high-tech presentations that they used to help settle cases before they end up in court, the lawyers say.

Melissa Frankel, 40, of Phoenix was surprised when she got an iPad shortly after she hired Lamber and Goodnow.

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"It was nothing that I ever expected," said Frankel, who was injured in a collision last year. Frankel uses the iPad to access a dedicated e-mail account that is used only for case documents. She has also used the lightweight device to snap photos of the accident scene. She has taken a video of her injuries and she has had Skype video conferences with the lawyers. That means that she makes fewer trips to the lawyers' downtown Phoenix office and she can reach her legal team wherever there is a Wi-Fi connection, without a laptop.

The iPad "is brilliant," Frankel said. "It is the best way, the easiest way to communicate with them "

With the help of Google Voice, the devices also make it easy for clients to reach their legal team. By calling a single toll-free number, they can ring the desk and cell phone of every member of the team until someone answers.

"We pride ourselves on being available 24 hours a day, day or night," says Lamber.

Some experts estimate that perhaps one in 10 lawyers use an iPad or tablet PC extensively in their practices.

Could the days of pulling carts and boxes full of binders into court be disappearing? Perhaps the future is to have all of that available on a tablet PC.

News source: Arizona Republic, <u>iPads Bring New Levels of Connections to Lawyers, Clients</u>

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