



The Legal Connection

where legal technology & people connect

2013-02

LTNY Wrap Up

Long time readers know that every year about this time I head into The City to attend the largest legal trade show – LegalTech NY.

This year was no different, except I took the train into the City and did not park the LegalTypist Mobile at the Hilton. I'm glad I made the change – even if the bad shoulder I used to carry my briefcase is not!

Commuting reminded of the days when I worked in the City – from standing on the windy Hicksville platform to squishing into a rush hour subway – there's a freedom of not having to worry about a car and a dynamic and rhythm that is uniquely Manhattan which you cannot experience behind the wheel.

Sad to say that one of the most exciting things about LTNY this year was the commute! This year had to be, without a doubt, the most boring Expo Floor. ☹

In year's past, I have chided the event - calling the Expo Floor a circus, with the non- stop caffeine available at the coffee station fueling the madness! This year, the coffee station remained by the 2nd floor entrance – but the screaming coffee lady inviting you in and all crazy exhibits at LTNY are gone.

If I could use only one word to describe the Expo Floor this year: hushed. Not sure if it was the plush (WHITE) carpet put down by Lexis Nexis as you walked in or simply the lack of anything that moved or made sound at most booths – but it definitely felt less “show” than ever especially for New York City.

It was not just the excitement of the Expo Floor that was gone this year. Also gone were a few of the big name technology companies who had been LTNY staples – reminding me again of how ediscovery focused this particular event tends to be, and I guess will always remain.**

If not as “exciting” as a Mark Twain impersonator - there were some interesting happenings announced at LTNY:

- Thomson Reuters announced their cloud based practice management tech: FIRM CENTRAL. @BLVickers was nice enough to provide me with a private demo of this product for solo/small firms to manage their practice on and through the web. Nothing glamorous, but I heard the correct responses to the 7 questions I ask of any web based tech so I will be actively testing this tech and will keep you posted.
- Clio (which passed all my tests years ago and which LegalTypist uses with solo/small firms every day) announced dramatic user interface changes coming in the first quarter of 2013. I enjoyed lunch with Co-Founders Rian and Jack – and am excited by many of the things we got to discuss regarding Clio and LegalTypist. Again, stay tuned!

I always enjoy the people in the legal tech worlds – and getting hugs from @tim_baran and @ProfJonathan

I always seem to bump into @bburney and this year I also saw @blorish and got to dine with @debbiefoster and the “guys from STI”.

As always, LTNY makes me all the more excited for **ABA TechShow** – April cannot come fast enough the year (and I hope you are considering joining me in Chicago as I speak about a few things techy, **and throw one heck of a party!**)

Til next month ...

**ALL good as I have long wanted to organize a legal/tech conference that did not focus on ediscovery and this year it becomes a reality! List members stay tuned for details as this NYC based event shapes up or contact editor @legaltypist .com if you wish to contribute/ sponsor / exhibit.

10 Techs LegalTypist Loves



Ccleaner keeps my PC in tip top shape. I run it at the end of every week, after saving/closing all my windows/programs/files.



Twitter is my favorite tech tool. I get/stay/keep in touch with 1,000's of people; learn in real time; and share what is important.



sendthisfile®

When I want the convenience of email to get someone a file securely – especially a large file – SendThisFile is the tech I use.



Hootsuite is how I manage twitter and the other “on line” presence(s) of LegalTypist such as LinkedIn and how I measure which information I share resonates.



Almost 4,000 “legal” people are a part of this free list serv maintained by the American Bar Association. If not exactly like being a part of a law firm in web space – you can at least feel like you are around the water cooler/coffee maker(s) at a law firm in web space!



clio

Practice Management Simplified

Clio is a tech that is in practice with dozens of client law firms of LegalTypist. It is used to manage and coordinate the matters, contacts, calendars, time and billing, documents and staff.



Long before there was Dropbox (with all those security issues!) there was LogMeIn helping people securely access their files and applications from anywhere.

netdocuments®

Need a secure web based filing cabinet for you and your team/firm? Done.



I have used the program for years to help with the recording and post production of podcasts, including the BYOB Lunch n Learn series.



This tech helps me help lawyers learn and also helps me throw one heck of a party when I'm in Chicago for TechShow.
See: LegalTypist Meet Up

Technology, Takei and Hallelujah!

Before we start, a reminder: I am not a techie. Not a tech expert. That said, this month, I am loving the following technology:

- eBillity: Because a client who has grown her practice to the point of booming, was never up to date with timekeeping, billing and collections- until she started using eBillity. It might not be the most elegant or comprehensive solution, she has looked at practice management software that I recommend, but eBillity is a solution she finally chose to USE. Consistently. Her words: "I can't believe the difference it's making." My thoughts: "Hallelujah!"
 - <http://www.ebillity.com/>
- Chrome timeStats (beta) & other Chrome time management extensions: Because keeping up with the Kardashians, or George Takei or Steve O'Donnell can be disastrous to your schedule. If you're a pro, you need to be honest about how you're *really* spending your time.
 - <http://www.techmaish.com/best-time-management-extensions-for-google-chrome/>
- Smartsheet: Because I know I should love Basecamp, it's an awesome program. But I don't USE it. My virtual assistant introduced me to Smartsheet, it's how we communicate tasks, deadlines, priorities and accountability. It can be as simple as an excel spreadsheet, but it can also do a lot more. The trouble with *more*, however, is that for me- *more* can quickly turn into *too much*! Once I get more experience

with this one, I'll give you a video demo and you can easily use it with your own assistants!

- <http://www.smartsheet.com/>

I would love it if you would take a look at software you've downloaded, or subscribed to, or purchased, but aren't using. Even if you love the idea of it. That unused technology piles up and it consumes energy. Clear it out.

If you hate all the pro-recommended best practice technologies, it's OK to choose something that works for you. Especially if we're talking timekeeping, billing and collections, because you have to start somewhere. Just use things that are not one-off, like excel spreadsheets. I want your practice to grow and you're going to need a more reliable, scalable solution.

As for the technology you're abusing- think about using something like timeStats to get the facts. Think of yourself as a pro. A pro lawyer. Not an amateur lawyer. Looking at those stats, is that really where you want to be spending so much time?

I invite you to declare your love for a technology on Facebook, the Successfully Solo page. Chances are there's someone else just like you, who would be delighted to learn there's an alternative out there!



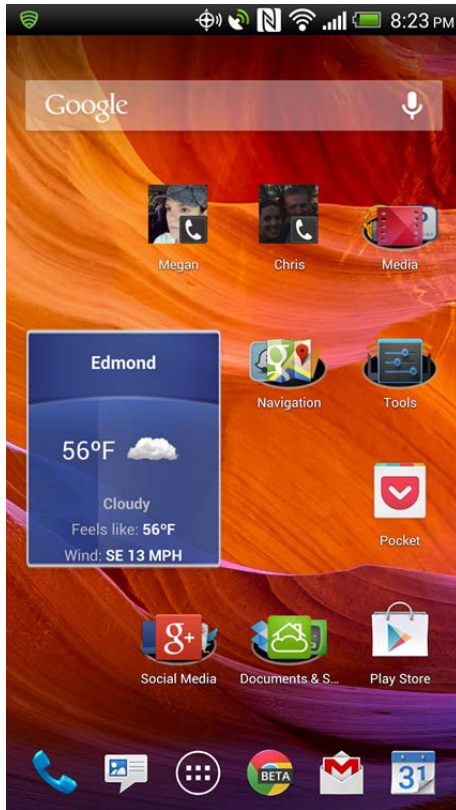
Barbara Nelson helps lawyers and other professionals learn the simplicity of action. She's grateful for the opportunity to show up here and share her unique perspective. Barbara is a huge fan of writing to improve productivity. To learn more, visit Barbara's blog: <http://www.successfullysolo.com/blog>



THE DROID LAWYER

Five Reasons to Love Android

As the go-to Android attorney, I get asked a lot of questions about the operating system. Perhaps none is more prevalent than the question, "why do you love Android so much?" For me, the answer boils down to five main reasons:



Widgets - Android offers widgets, which are little gadgets you can attach to your home screen to customize the look and feel. I have a widget that gives me the weather, a link to my wife, and a gigantic clock. I also have links to view my social media sites such as Twitter and Google+. If I don't like the look and feel of the screen, I just change the widget. No need to fidget with an immovable system. You can quickly add a widget in Android 4.x by going to the apps menu and scrolling to the widgets tab. In older Android versions, just long press on the screen, select the widget, and it'll move to the home screen

Customization - One of the great benefits to the Android OS is the ability to customize the system. Customization includes adding widgets, but also means more, such as using a new launcher (my favorite is Nova Launcher) to change how your screens display on the desktop. I have an app dock that contains my most-used apps and folders arranged by similar apps. Folders help broaden the experience by enabling me to store multiple apps together under a similar heading.

Google Now - This program is similar to Apple's Siri assistant, but gets bolstered by the awesome power of Google's search and

data engines. Google Now will fetch weather information, sports scores, open apps, send text messages or emails, and even help make phone calls. Quite simply, it's my go-to app for complete satisfaction.

NFC - I wrote [a blog post](#) about NFC, and praised its uses. Basically, NFC allows your device to perform particular functions, such as connecting to a Bluetooth device or turning on GPS. I use NFC to secure my phone without a password, and adjust the settings on my phone when I get to work or into my car. I love the feature and I'm constantly thinking of ways to improve or use it.

Variety - The greatest thing about Android is the variety of each device, system, and the upcoming field. You can pretty much guarantee that no two Android phones will be exactly alike because of the customization and variety. If you want a big phone with a big screen, you can get it. If you prefer something small, you can get it. Whatever your desire, there's an Android phone or tablet waiting for you.



Jeffrey Taylor is a lawyer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, whose practice focuses on litigation, consumer issues, and business representation. Jeff is the author of The Droid Lawyer (<http://thedroidlawyer.com>) on tips and tricks for lawyers using Android OS.



Why I Love My Phone

I love my phone. No, wait, come back. I promise, this isn't some trite encomium about how I can send e-mails and keep in touch from anywhere. This won't be some iPhone vs. Android (vs. Blackberry, remember them?) diatribe. This is none of that. Stick around; I think you'll be happy that you did.

So as I said, I love my phone. Someone pointed out once that I have, in my pocket, a device with more computing power than anything that went to the moon, and I have access to a global network of information. And I use it to look at pictures of cats.

Well not really, but it's a good example of how we waste all of the power that we have in modern technology. I feel that I have found one particular use for my phone that makes it particularly useful. I use it to keep my mind sharp. While I love the practice of law, and while I find it particularly stimulating, there are some days when it can be monotonous and rote. There are times when all I find myself doing is sitting around at a seminar waiting for something to happen, or I am waiting for a meeting to start. It's times like this when I pull out my phone.

I keep a program on my phone that downloads crossword puzzles each day. The one that I use is called Shortyz, although there are several. I download Newsday each day and several puzzles that are released once a week. I can have the program tell me which boxes I have incorrect, or I can have a letter or word revealed. When I finish a puzzle, it tells me how long I took and how many boxes had to be revealed.

I also have two programs - one called "Flow" and the other called "Bridges," which are both by the same developer. These are two puzzle games - connect the same-color dots, filling the grid without crossing the lines (unless there is a bridge in the latter game). There are grids from 5x5 all the way up to 12x12 (although these are designed primarily for tablets). There is a timed mode where you attempt to do as many puzzles in a 30 second or 1- 2- or 4-minute period, and free play mode where you attempt to solve the puzzle in as few moves as possible.

There are others - Dropwords, where you have a board full of letters and your goal is to create the longest word using adjacent letters, for example. There's Curvy, where you connect paths. Even Angry Birds, trying to figure out exactly how to aim the birds and how to use them, can exercise different parts of your brain.

The brain is a muscle and just like any other muscle in the body, it needs exercise to stay strong. Attorneys are in a profession where we pride ourselves on our quick wits and our ability to think on our feet. But endless days of drafting contracts or wills can sometimes take a toll and when you need a quick break, pulling out your phone can give you a wealth of options not available using just pen and paper. It's like a whole gym is available there; a gym, complete with cat pictures.



Justin Meyer has an Android phone, in case you care. He is an estate planning and business attorney in Hauppauge, NY and is licensed in NY, NJ and FL. To contact Justin, e-mail him at jmeyer@meyeresq.com. For more about his practice, please go to <http://www.meyeresq.com>



The Rural Lawyer Love of Older Tech

Love is a snowmobile racing across the tundra and then suddenly it flips over, pinning you underneath. At night, the ice weasels come. -- Matt Groening

After the first blush of tech love - oh those carefree days when cases still sparkled, keyboards were clean and warranties still in force - comes the dark side of the bathtub curve¹ the period where we fight the ravishes of time in a vain attempt to cling to the relevance of youth before the inevitable obsolescence forces us apart; resigning the silicon to the trash heap and the human to the technomart.

Having just replaced the SSD in my laptop, I can hear the whispers (that's not the HD she was manufactured with; makes you wonder what else isn't OEM) as we head out together. The new tablet is no help; seductively swelte, seductively promising productivity with only a modest learning curve. But I am loath to completely turn away from my old flame - she is still a faithful performer and we have grown accustomed to each other.

There is a lot to love about this mid-career silicon babe from the spots on her case worn smooth from the countless shirt sleeve buffings to the familiarity and stability of an operating system now abandoned by its engineers (sure the last set of bugs is still there, but somehow things seem to work better once folks stop mucking about with the innards). This solid get-things-done working gal may not have the seductive speed of those younger trophy devices, but frankly I really don't mind the few extra

milliseconds it takes her to recompute a spreadsheet; after all she's always willing to wait for my wetware to catch up.

Sure, we're preparing for that day when the ever-steeping right hand side of the bathtub curve eventually takes out some critical component or when a piece of mission critical software grows beyond her capabilities - full data backups are a bit more regular now and a RAM lift is but a few months away - but right now, it looks like we'll have a working relationship for a few more years.



Bruce M. Cameron Having decided that going to law school and opening a solo law practice would be a sufficient response to the male midlife crisis, Bruce now practices Collaborative Family Law and Estate Planning in rural Minnesota. When not in the law office, he can be found on his small farm where he and his wife are at the beck and call of a herd of horses, a couple of cats, a few dogs and one extremely spoiled parrot.
<http://www.rurallawyer.com>

**PAMELA J. STARR,
CBA, J.S.M.**
CED/PARALEGAL
EXTRAORDINAIRE



Technology – I love you, I love you not ...

For someone who makes her living virtually, by means of all things "e", "i" and tech, I must confess that my heart belongs to a much simpler time.

I am thrilled to have instant access to people and information – most of the time. Shh, don't tell anyone, but I come from 'that' generation – the one that used a card catalog/Dewey Decimal System, waited eagerly for the mailman, had to call the operator to place an overseas call, and for whom receiving a call was a welcome occurrence, nay, even a pleasant surprise. Oh how I miss those days ...

Not so very long ago, it was okay to be off the grid for several hours at a time. People simply waited to connect; then came answering machines, call waiting, caller ID, email, and ultimately, Star Trek worthy communication devices. There is a part of me that never quite understood why I needed to 'reach out and touch someone' or why it is so all important to 'have more bars in more places'. I confess, I prefer tradition to progress, and I'm reluctant to buy the latest and greatest gadget.

Is it really necessary for anyone to be able to reach me anywhere at any time? Why should I feel married to my devices?

In the late 70's, it was the answering machine. My grandfather had one of the early models in his real estate office - a huge monstrosity with a reel to reel tape. When the machine answered, we would joke that we had spoken with 'the dummy Grampa.' My young mind couldn't envision a world in which I would need to have people talk to 'my' dummy. Eventually I gave in; by then, answering machines used cassette tapes...

A few years later, the gadget guys developed call waiting, followed by caller ID. Again, I vetoed the thought that I could be important enough to juggle two calls simultaneously. It took some goading from my mom and friends,

but I bought in. Oof, how annoying was it to have a call blindly beep in and disrupt a conversation? I felt compelled to click over to find out who was calling and then I had to decide who was most worthy of my time. Caller ID only solved half of the problem, my device stared at me blindly when that second call came in.

The guys in R&D realized people needed to know who was interrupting their calls. Presto! I had to buy another new thingy to ID each caller. Over time, I became fond of that tech. I could send callers to voice mail or limbo without ever saying hello. Recently, I upped the ante, my newest phone allows me to screen and block all those calls that get past the 'No Call List' <insert evil laughter>.

Somewhere between caller ID and call waiting ID, I was absorbed by the collective – I got a cellphone. Now I could talk and text when I was away from home/the office. It gave me a warm, fuzzy feeling to be connected. Eventually my phone wanted more – a camera and video... then Internet access, email, music, more, more, more. Resistance is futile ... you must have a smartphone.

Uh, no, thank you very kindly; my dumb-phone, tablet and laptop make me quite happy. Sometimes, a girl just wants face time. You understand, don't you? It's not me, it's you ... I need my space.



Pamela J. Starr, CBA, J.S.M., Virtual Paralegal Extraordinaire, and tenacious redhead from the GSOT. As the lead paralegal and owner of StarrParalegals, LLC, Pamela also blogs as her alter ego, 'Pamela the Paralegal' and has launched 'Sessions with a Starr' - a Career Mitigation® platform devoted to helping professionals redefine their career options in an e-based economy.



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Calendar

[March Meet-n-Greet](#)

12 Mar 2013 1:00 PM • On line

[LunchNLearn: Getting Business Done 101 - Part 2](#)

13 Mar 2013 12:30 PM • On line

[4th Annual Chicago Legal Meet Up](#)

03 Apr 2013 7:30 PM • The South Loop Club

[April Meet-n-Greet](#)

09 Apr 2013 1:00 PM • On line

[LunchNLearn: Security & Ethics of Cloud Computing](#)

17 Apr 2013 12:30 PM • On line

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