

# Technology eReport

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## **Welcome To Our Brave New World**

**By George Ripplinger, Section Chair**

Welcome to a new way of delivering Section Service. This is our first E-Newsletter. Soon you will be receiving E-Newsletters from all of our core-curriculum areas. The Section's goal is to deliver to you, our members, two to four newsletters per year in each of our five core curricula to help you practice more profitably and more efficiently.

This newsletter is made possible by support from the West Group, a primary corporate sponsor of the ABA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section. Let us know how we are doing as we explore this new delivery system. Tell us what you like—and what you don't like. And, if you know of a new case, product or technique that will help your fellow members, share it with our editors and see your contribution in print—as well as your name.

We hope this new format will not only deliver a service to you, but also involve you with the rest of the members of the General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section.

## **The Future Is Now**

**By Jeffrey Allen\***

Certain religious groups have a theory that when a good person dies he goes to Heaven and when a bad person dies, she goes to Hell. People and religions have different concepts of Heaven and Hell. My favorite concept structures individual Heavens and Hells based on the personality of the deceased. Keeping that concept in mind, know that when good gadget freaks die, they go to the Consumer Electronics Show (CES).

The world's top consumer electronics firms gather at CES to try to impress each other, buyers and, ultimately, the general public with their newest and greatest offerings. There are several CES shows each year; the biggest and best takes place in January in Las Vegas.

CES offers insights into our future. What technology will we see in our homes, our cars, our offices and our pockets in the next several years? For fun, we can contemplate what impact these new developments will have on the way we practice law and the tools we



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choose and use to facilitate our work and our lives.

So, what does the 2002 CES tell us about our future tools and toys? This year's CES offerings presented evolutions and new uses for existing technologies more than new technologies. By evolutions, I mean that the products presented offered a combination of some of the following traits: different sizes (depending on the product, sometimes smaller and sometimes larger), lighter, less expensive, sharper, more appealing designs. LCD monitors offer a good example of this concept. Originally very expensive, we now see more variety in features, better pricing, larger screens and sharper images. We have already seen computer manufacturers shifting from CRT displays to LCD flat screen displays. Advantages of the LCD monitor include sharpness, clarity and crispness of color. New iterations offer combined computer monitor/television display units, larger units, and wall-mountable flat screen units. Look for LCD to replace CRT monitors near term. Next step, THE PLASMA SCREEN- sharper, bigger and better, but extremely expensive - for now.

Vendors offered a wide variety of wireless devices this year. Those devices ranged from Internet-ready pagers and phones to GPS tracking devices. The list includes wireless computer keyboards and mice (surprise, they work great!). And my personal favorite technological redundancy: the wireless headset for your wireless cell phone. The evolution of wireless technology has led to the marriage of multiple devices, a concept called "convergence". Examples of convergence include several iterations of Internet-ready cellular phones with paging and PDA capacities.

Data storage devices continue to get smaller sizes, larger capacities, faster and cheaper. Still somewhat pricey, we saw many USB thumb-sized drives with density increasing to 1 GB and 2 GB promised this year. Look for prices to continue to drop. Think about these devices for emergency, backup and data transfer. Speaking of storage devices, we saw many FireWire and USB 2.0 drives. All were fast, small and increasingly affordable.

Vendors showed smaller high capacity music storage devices. Some small enough to qualify as "wearable". Most favored MP-3; some included the ability to record MP-3 to CD's for storage as well as to play those disks and standard CD's. Apple's iPod, based on hard disks, can store an incredible amount of music and also serve as computer backup devices.

Sony's memory stick technology and various configurations of memory cards continue to proliferate. Vendors showed such storage devices in a wide range of devices ranging from backup devices to digital cameras, video cameras and audio recording devices. Uses will continue to expand; these devices will show up everywhere in the next few years.

Wherify Wireless offered a clever application of GPS (Global Positioning) technology. They offer "lo-jack" for kids. Fasten one piece to the child's wrist and keep the other with you. When you turn around to discover your child has run off, signal the child's wrist device and it tells you the child's location calculated by GPS tracking satellites.

This year you will all have the opportunity to accessorize your electronics devices to

your heart's content. For cell phones, we can get radiation guards, miniature printed circuit antenna boosters, every conceivable configuration of ear-set, head set and hands-free set and charging device plus a myriad of cosmetic offerings. For your PDA's: hard, soft and waterproof cases, add-on cards, charging and connectivity devices and more keyboards than you can count on all your fingers. Most of the keyboards we saw were Palm compatible devices, but iterations for other PDA's and even the new Palm phones by Kyocera and Samsung also appeared at the show. To name a few, Seiko and Targus offer slide on Rim 950-like thumbboards, Fellowes has a combination case and keyboard, Palm sells a folding full-sized keyboard, and Man-Machine now offers a reduced-sized flexible keyboard that you can roll up and shove in your pocket. They all seem to work. Check them out and find the one you like the best.

No matter how far we advance technologically and no matter how much we improve our ability to get things done with the help of electronics, one vendor reminded us that sometimes, nothing will ever replace good old fashioned manual labor. Freeplay offered radios, and flashlights powered by batteries, household electrical current and/or by hand crank. Better yet, (OK, it's another accessory) they offer a hand-crank-powered charging device for Motorola cell phones (chargers for other models promised soon). In an emergency, you can crank up your cell phone to power it up for a call! If cranking makes you cranky, we saw several versions of portable re-chargers and extra battery power devices for your phones. The best of that lot appears to be Instant-Power which makes battery cells that power and/or recharge cell phones, PDA's and even camera batteries.

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## **Can't We All Just Get Along? Welcome to the "Convergence Zone"**

**by Ross L. Kodner, Esq.**

The legal technology world is a rough and tumble place. Legal road warriors face special and daunting challenges. Some of these challenges are, in a sense, fashion-related. Consider my own situation nine months ago. When away from my office, in order to be properly techno-equipped, I was festooned with a Palm Vx, my Blackberry wireless e-pager And my Nokia cell phone. I started to feel like a plumber with the tools of the trade connected to my belt. Worse, on any given day, while I'd always remember my cell phone, I might forget my Palm or Blackberry. A Palm Pilot on one's desk at home 20 miles away is

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just plain not useful. But I was resigned to my electronic fate and resolved to develop a truly anal-retentive morning routine so that I wouldn't be without any of my electronic toys.

One day while shopping with my family, I walked past a Verizon cell phone store. As I was about to walk indifferently past the window displays, I glanced left and stopped dead in my tracks. As if the gates of heaven had opened and virtual trumpets blared away, I saw it. The answer to my techno-troubles. I had read about it. But I had never seen one. I found myself gasping for breath because I had forgotten to breathe . . .

It was a six foot tall full color banner advertising Kyocera's then brand-new QCP-6035 Smartphone. At first glance, it appeared to be a relatively clunky digital cell phone. But wait, flip open the keyboard and voila! Instant full-blown wireless Palm Pilot - the equivalent of the then current Palm VIIx model. 100% Palm running the Palm 3.5 OS. A thin plastic stylus slid out of a vertical sheath on the side of the phone. Tap, tap, tap. Date book, address book, calculator, to-do list - all the familiar Palm functions. Seven ounces of converged technology in the palm of my hand. My search was over. I paid my \$499, dumped Sprint PCS (which I hated anyway) and signed up for a new Verizon wireless cell plan (note that the phone is now offered by Verizon Wireless, Qwest Wireless, U.S. Cellular and Sprint PCS at \$399 with a cellular service plan).

Many know me as a legal gadget nut and over the years, I've played with and evaluated hundreds of gizmos. But this was the best of the bunch . . . ever. The single most useful piece of technology I have ever had the pleasure and privilege to own and use. At home I retired my trust old Palm Vx, put my Blackberry out to pasture and put the Nokia phone on the shelf for good. I had entered . . . The Convergence Zone! I was now a "One Tool" guy!

Let's get specific: the Kyocera QCP-6035 Smartphone is three devices in one chassis. It's a tri-mode digital cell phone that also offers analog roaming capability. It is the functional equivalent of a Palm VIIx albeit with the smaller screen of the Palm m105 series. It offers complete alphanumeric paging capability. It also offers a surprisingly effective speakerphone, which allows one to talk on the phone while popping open the keyboard and simultaneously using the Palm functions. Think about this for a moment. You're taking a call from your office. The caller asks if you have a mutual contact's fax number. You press the "Speaker" button, flip open the keyboard, slip the stylus out of its sheath and tap the Address Book and search for the contact's record. There's the fax number and you inform the caller via the speakerphone. This is exactly what everyone waiting for converged technology hoped for. But it gets better.

The phone and Palm functions are tightly integrated. If a call comes in that Caller ID recognizes, a couple of stylus taps and the caller's name and number are stored in the Palm address book. The next time I synchronize the Smartphone with my laptop, the new contact record is transferred to my TimeMatters case management system. Yes, this is the stuff drools are made of.

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But is everything perfect in Kyocera Convergence Land? Not quite. There are two drawbacks. The first is that the connector on the bottom of the phone is not "Palm-Standard." This means you cannot plug in any standard Palm peripherals such as keyboards, backup devices, GPS receivers, etc. Also, it would be nice if the screen had a color display rather than the standard monochrome issue. On the other hand, the monochrome display is far more frugal with battery power than a color model - a trade-off I am more than willing to accept. My challenge to Kyocera is simple: release a new model with a standard Palm connector or at least an adapter to allow the use of Palm accessories. At that point, I would be ready to declare the Kyocera Smartphone to be the perfect mobile communication-enabled data device.

The convergence market is heating up. Kyocera no longer holds the distinction of offering the only cell phone/Palm Pilot. Samsung released the i300 in late 2001. Physically more a Palm Pilot than a cell phone, the device offers color and full Palm functionality. There are no actual telephone keys as the Kyocera has. Rather the keys are electronically represented on the device's color LCD display. One taps with a finger or uses the unit's stylus to dial the phone. While workable, and to be sure the color display is impressive, the compromises are too great to treat the i300 as a serious cell phone. I don't know about you, but when I'm driving, talking, shifting and eating, all simultaneously, I dial my cell phone by the feel of the buttons. If there are no buttons, I'm either going to drive into a tree or even worse, have to wait to make my call. Perish the thought. Samsung's i300 is a Palm that has some cell capability v. the Kyocera, a great phone with very good Palm capability.

Watch for two new Handspring models in 2002. The "Treo" will offer Palm and cell phone functionality in a compact handheld chassis. The first model available, the Treo 180 will have a monochrome display. The Motorola StarTac-sized device will come in two flavors, one with handwriting-based input using Palm's Graffiti alphabet, the other with a thumb-operated keyboard instead of a Graffiti input area; this should prove to be a big hit with the Graffiti-challenged population. Later this year, an anticipated Treo 270 model will offer a color display.

**The bottom line:** Converge and simplify your techno-life. Don't think too much about it. Just do it! You won't regret it and you'll never look back!

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Ross Kodner is a "recovering lawyer" turned legal technology consultant. Founder of MicroLaw, Inc., he spends his time guiding law firms and legal departments in integrating technology into their practices. In his spare time he writes about and speaks on legal technology topics worldwide. Mr. Kodner's email address is [rkodner@microlaw.com](mailto:rkodner@microlaw.com).

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## ABA TechShow 2002

By Bruce L. Dorner

Are you frustrated by the thrills and spills of computers? Is that new case management software sitting on the shelf waiting to be installed? Do you wonder what electronic tools will work best in your office?

If these questions keep rattling around in your head, join us at ABA TechShow in Chicago. The festivities begin on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and continue through Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The massive CLE offerings are detailed on the web at [www.techshow.com](http://www.techshow.com). Best of all, you can register right from your desk at the web site!

This year's keynote speaker, Steve Gibson is a world-class expert on computer security. He's best known as the developer of Spinrite, ShieldsUp!, and other phenomenal utilities that help to keep computers running smoothly.

Other highlights include sessions on the best tools and gadgets available for lawyers. The omnipresent Ross Kodner will head up the team for 50 Gadgets in 50 Minutes. A long-standing favorite (not to be missed) program, 50 Gadgets offers substantive tidbits in a humorous format to tickle your techno palate. The equally popular "60 Web Sites in 60 Minutes," will point you to the best locations for inquiring legal minds.

The show provides a full course menu of opportunities for both office-based and courtroom-focused attorneys. Subjects range from technology ethics to sleuthing on the web. A program dealing with an office in your pocket will address new uses for wireless and PDA devices. As always, acquiring and implementing technology comes at a price; don't miss "Technology for Tightwads." Several sessions will address the current focus on security, including a segment about "Practicing Safe Hex-How Viruses Work." TechShow will offer many sessions on practice-specific tools and new uses for technology in court.

After you overload on CLE offerings, you'll have plenty of time to tour the sold out vendor floor. This is your opportunity to take the tools for a test drive and ask questions of the people who really know how to get the most out of their products and services. TechShow is truly immersion therapy for lawyers who want to understand the relationship of technology to the practice of law and how to make the most out of your technology investments. See you in Chicago!

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Bruce Dorner is a sole practitioner in Londonderry, New Hampshire. He is a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Small Firms and Sole Practitioners, Chairman of the Internet Board of the ABA General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section and a frequent speaker on technology and the law. Mr. Dorner's e-mail address is [bdorner@attglobal.net](mailto:bdorner@attglobal.net).

## A 1 Gigabyte Drive In Your Pocket

by Alan Pearlman

Normal computer memory retains information only as long as the power stays on in your computer. That's why you must save memory contents to a storage device such as a hard drive. The hard disk drive in your computer is magnetic; it retains data without the need for continuous power. Many of today's consumer electronic products use flash memory. Flash memory doesn't forget data when the power goes off. One of the first uses of flash memory was the digital camera. Digital cameras use computer memory instead of film to hold their images. Most of them use flash memory to retain the images so that in the event that your camera's batteries die, you won't lose the images already taken.

Now Flash memory technology is available as a hard drive without moving parts. It requires no cable, no batteries and no software. Using it's built in clip or ring, the Flash USB Drive clips to a pocket or attaches to a key chain. The included neck strap lets you wear it around your neck to make a techno fashion statement. About half the length of a pen and about twice as thick, the silver colored drive weighs in at a little over an ounce.

To use the drive, you simply plug it directly into a USB port. If the USB port is hard to access, the included USB extension cable should make connection easier. The computer will identify the drive as a logical device to be accessed in the same manner as any other drive. The Flash USB Drive sports a green LED to indicate the drive is properly connected and has power. A flashing red LED indicates data being read or written to the drive. The write protect switch affords security against accidental erasure. The drive comes in sizes ranging from 16 megabytes to 1 GB. Prices and availability for different capacity models vary. The device works with Windows 98 and later (including XP) and Mac OS 9 and X.

I have used a 1 GB drive for several months. It is a fast, quick and easy solution for backup and data transfer. I have really enjoyed the effect of placing an entire presentation on the drive. I can take it, in my pocket, to co-counsel's office, plug it in to their computer, and lo and behold, we are all viewing the presentation! Likewise, it is great for those times that you want to carry your information with you from one computer in one office to another office! I love to take all my files home, in the evening. I can work from home with all my data! On the morning's return to the office I plug it into my computer and download all the changes. [Flash USB drive is a product of J. M. Tek, LLC. [www.usbdrive.com](http://www.usbdrive.com).]

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\*Alan Pearlman, the "Electronic Lawyer" practices family and criminal law in Illinois. He also serves as a technology consultant and a frequent author of articles on technology and the law. His email address is: [Pearlman@theelectroniclawyer.com](mailto:Pearlman@theelectroniclawyer.com).

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## Trends in Technology

By J. Anthony Vittal\*.

**The 9/11 Aftermath:** We watched businesses turn to dust as the WTC towers collapsed into a blizzard of paper blanketing southeastern New York State. That imagery underscored the need to back up computers and convert paper files to images stored on other media. Backup systems have been user-unfriendly variations on Rube Goldberg devices. Now, USB 2.0 and FireWire drives offer a winning combination of large capacity, reasonable cost and high-speed data transfer. FireWire Direct offers high speed drives that you can daisy chain or arrange in a RAID array. The SLimLine Ultra II comes in 40, 60, 80, 100 and 120 GB sizes (\$189 to \$469). The Spark II comes in 10, 20, 30 and 40 GB sizes (\$199 to \$399). You can put all the files for one or more matters on one of these drives (including images of documents you did not generate). If you travel, you can put a copy of all your working files on a drive and plug it into your notebook computer or a workstation at your destination.

**Arm Savers:** Notebook computers continue to shrink in size and grow in power. The current record-setter, Toshiba's \$2,199 Portégé 2000, is the thinnest, and at 2.6 pounds, the lightest. Packed into a magnesium-alloy chassis, you get Intel's 750MHz ultra low-voltage mobile Pentium III CPU; an industry-first 1.8-inch, 20 GB hard drive; Wi-Fi wireless capability; Windows XP Professional; and 256 MB of RAM (expandable to 512 MB). A flexible internal lithium-polymer battery provides up to 2 hours of service; a second, included, 0.7 pound high-capacity lithium-ion battery powers up to 6.5 hours. Also included: 10/100 Ethernet port, modem, video-out, two USB ports, one Type II PC Card slot, a Secure Digital Media slot, and Fast IR. An optional port replicator adds four USB Ports.

**Convergence Devices:** Early versions of these devices (a cell phone combined with a palmtop connected to the Internet) were inelegant and awkward. Newer versions, make the combination easy to use with accessories such as keyboards, sync cradle, and USB data cables. These devices will soon be pocket-sized. Voice and data both will be carried over the Internet using high levels of compression (currently available for 9,600 bps wireless connections) and wireless broadband. The voice I/O device will be a wireless headset—a *la La Femme Nikita*—using Bluetooth technology, such as the Bluetooth-enabled headset debuted by Plantronics at CES. Efficient voice recognition software, and language translation software, will be ubiquitous. The video display either will be LCD screens in your field of vision (like lenses of glasses) or a small hologram displayed in front of your eyes.

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## Mark Your Calendar For Section Meetings in 2002

**GPSSF Spring Meeting** at the Fairmont Hotel: Banff, Canada on May 2-5.

**ABA Annual Meeting:** Washington D.C., August 8-11.

**GPSSF Fall Meeting:** Westin Horton Plaza, San Diego, California, October 2-6.

## More Meetings And The Chance To Help

William T. Hogan III, Vice Chair of the GPS&SF section has announced the meeting sites for his year as Chair. The Section's Fall 2003 meeting will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, the ABA 2003-2004 Midyear meeting will be in San Antonio and the Section's 2004 Spring meeting will be held in the area of Phoenix, Arizona. Planning for these meetings has already started. If you want to share your ideas and energy to assist with the planning process, please contact Bill Hogan at [whogan@hrmlaw.com](mailto:whogan@hrmlaw.com).

## Membership

Do you feel left out because you are not yet a member of the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section of the ABA? Have you grow tired of getting GPSSF Section publications second-hand from friends? Are you concerned about missing some of our Section's vital new publications? We can help you fix those problems; all you have to do is join the section. For information about joining the Section, please call 1-800-285-2221.

## Technology eReport

The Section will publish the Technology eReport in the months of February, May, August and October as a supplement to the Technology and Practice Guide issues of GPSolo magazine that are printed and mailed in June and December. We will now provide technology information and news to you every other month. If you are interested in writing for the Technology eReport or for the Technology and Practice Guide issues of GP Solo, please contact Jeffrey Allen at [jallenlawtek@aol.com](mailto:jallenlawtek@aol.com). If you have comments, kudos, criticisms or suggestions about the Technology eReport or the Technology and Practice Guide issues of GPSolo, please send them to Jeffrey Allen by e-mail.

## The Inside Track From West Group On Online CLE And Wireless Document Delivery

West is working on a variety of technologies for General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section members and others in the legal community. Here's a brief overview of a few new technology developments that may be of interest to you:

### **Earn Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Credits on the Internet**

Did you know that 30 of the 40 states with MCLE requirements allow you to earn some or all of your CLE credits online?

West LegalEdcenter from West Group lets you earn mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) credits on the Internet. West LegalEdcenter has the largest online collection of CLE programs, and offers programs from local, state and national CLE content providers, including the American Bar Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, American Corporate Counsel Association, ALI-ABA, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Atlanta Bar Association, Boston Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, National Bar Association, National Practice Institute, Association of the Bar of the City of New York and Practising Law Institute.

You can find programs by practice area (more than 50 practice areas available), program provider, accredited jurisdiction, and specialty credit. When you purchase a program on West LegalEdcenter, you can choose from online audio or video formats.

With West LegalEdcenter you can register to track all of your CLE credits, and receive e-mail notification of new accredited programs in your jurisdiction, on topics of interest to you.

For more information about West LegalEdcenter, visit <http://westlegaledcenter.com>.

### **Wireless Document Delivery Thanks to .Net Development**

As an early adopter of Microsoft's newest .NET tools and technologies, West Group has created a set of document-delivery services that gives attorneys more options for finding, printing, and downloading citations. West built the enhanced version of WestFind&Print, for example, using Microsoft's .NET Framework. This new version allows users to instantly deliver documents to any of several locations (printer, download, e-mail and wireless e-mail), whether they are signing on from a desktop, a PDA, a wireless laptop, or a cellular phone.

To access WestFind&Print from wireless devices, go to **[findprint.westlaw.com/mobile](http://findprint.westlaw.com/mobile)**. To access WestFind&Print from your desktop or other non-wireless computer, visit **[findprint.westlaw.com](http://findprint.westlaw.com)**.