

# iPad Apps and Tips for the Government Lawyer on the Road and in the Courtroom

by Tom Mighell and Joseph Waters

Three years ago, no one could have guessed how the iPad would revolutionize our lives. This simple-looking tablet allows us to arm our home security system remotely, watch entire seasons of T.V. shows on overseas flights, and play Candy Crush while waiting at the orthodontist's office. But this powerful device can allow you to do so much more than surf the web and play games. As the iPad's popularity grew among lawyers, it still was rarely seen in the courtroom. But with the proliferation of legal apps, more and more government lawyers are using this nifty device to take notes, do research, review depositions and present evidence in trial or at hearings. The iPad is a tool that has revolutionized the practice of law. You no longer have to bring a technology guru or assistant to court with you to work the technology; you can do it all yourself. Read on for our advice on apps and tips.

## Apps

### *Notetaking*

Literally dozens of apps exist to take notes, but we like several. **Noteshelf** (<http://bit.ly/uvUsa9>, \$5.99) allows you to take notes, file them into notebooks, and download templates and themes. You can also save notebooks in PDF to Dropbox.

**Notability** (<http://bit.ly/sK79wm>, \$1.99) integrates handwriting, PDF annotation, typing, and recording; helpful when you want to record meetings while you are taking notes. Also valuable is a built-in security feature.

If you want an app that converts your handwriting into text, check out **7Notes** (<http://bit.ly/IU6dEv>, \$7.99).

### *Managing Documents and Files*

With **PDF Expert** (<http://bit.ly/uYj8vd>, \$9.99) you can read and annotate PDF documents and fill in PDF forms. Great if you need to highlight text, make notes, or draw on memos, caselaw, and other PDF files.

**GoodReader** (<http://bit.ly/urxFKM>, \$4.99) is one of the best apps for managing files on the iPad including documents, audio, video, photos and PDFs. GoodReader also has an annotation feature for marking up PDFs using typewriter text boxes, sticky notes, lines, arrows, and freehand drawings, as well as a security feature that allows you to password-protect folders or individual files.

### *Depositions*

**TranscriptPad** (<http://bit.ly/ywMCsq>, \$89.99) is pricey but well worth the cost. The app allows you to consolidate all of your transcripts so that you can search across an entire case, a single witness, or one deposition. The annotation feature lets you reference

exhibits as you read the transcript, or add issue codes and other notes.

**eDepoze** ([www.edepoze.com](http://www.edepoze.com)) is a service that allows you to share your deposition exhibits with the witness and with other parties to the case—as long as they also have an iPad to view the documents. You also can review and annotate deposition exhibits. You can also organize exhibits and transcripts from multiple depositions and cases for later reference.

## Research

If you have a subscription to Westlaw or LexisNexis, of course you will want those apps. Both are free (**WestlawNext** <http://bit.ly/s3eYC8>, **Lexis Advance**, <http://bit.ly/siRPeG>), and are very good apps for conducting legal research.

There are several good free research apps. **Fastcase**, (<http://bit.ly/tQ24G5>) contains cases and statutes from all 50 states and from the federal government. You can search by citation or keyword, in Boolean or natural language. A subscription gives you access to additional premium features. **LawBox** (<http://bit.ly/KjOolm>) includes federal codes (Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Federal Rules of

## Want to See and Hear More?

Purchase a CD of the teleconference program on this subject with a live demo of many of these apps, \$70 for Division members. To order visit [www.americanbar.org/groups/government\\_public/events\\_cle/cle\\_courses.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/government_public/events_cle/cle_courses.html).

Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, 28 U.S.C. - Judiciary and Judicial Procedure and the U.S. Constitution). You can download statutes and codes for select states for \$4.99 each.

If you are a federal lawyer and need

mobile access to PACER, consider **FedCtRecords** (<http://bit.ly/t9jOkb>, \$9.99). The application uses your PACER login and searches PACER databases for attorney information, party information, deadlines/hearings, case summaries, and dockets.

## Evidence Presentation

**TrialPad** (<http://bit.ly/sMsX8y>, \$89.99) is another pricey app but it is full-featured and has just about everything you need to present evidence on an iPad. You can show documents side by side, highlight, annotate, redact, and zoom, and add exhibit stickers to documents. The whiteboard feature is particularly helpful if a witness needs to draw a sketch.

**Trial Director** (<http://bit.ly/RAixMG>) is not as strong as TrialPad, and it has many, but not all, of TrialPad's features but it is free. This app is recommended if you are already using Trial Director as your PC-based evidence presentation software.

## A Few Words on Security

Public lawyers in particular question the security of an iPad. The short answer is that the data on an iPad can be very secure, perhaps even more so than data on your PC or Mac, as long as you avail yourself of the security features. The biggest threat to the device is loss or theft so you want to make it as difficult as possible for someone to gain access. Under "Settings" you can set up your passcode, but rather than using the four digit default, use a longer code, with a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. While you are creating your passcode, it's a good idea to also set "Require Passcode for no more than 15 minutes" and turn on "Erase Data." Consider downloading and activating the "Find my iPad" app that can locate your iPad in the event it is lost or stolen. You can then use the app to lock the iPad, wipe it, or send a text message with your contact info so the person who has it will get in touch with you. While you are setting this up, make sure to regularly back up the information on your iPad to your

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computer or the cloud; otherwise, if you are forced to wipe the device you may lose valuable information. In addition, the security features that come with some apps should be used for an extra level of protection.

### Other Tips

Our other tips as they relate to trial practice can be pared down to three words: prepare, prepare, prepare. Practice using all of the apps so you are more than comfortable with them. Grab a colleague and get some feedback as you demo anything you think might be awkward or distracting.

If you travel to litigate or are going to an unfamiliar courthouse, don't wait until you arrive to see the technology set up. Call at least a few days ahead to the court administrator or clerk to find out exactly what equipment and capabilities they have. You don't want an eleventh hour scramble to try to find a projector in East Jabip where the closest Best Buy is 75 miles away.

While it may be tempting to get rid of those little red circled numbers indicating app updates, resist the urge right before trial. Apps are continuously being updated and tweaked. You do not want to be in court, ready to rely on a feature to show your evidence, only to learn that feature no longer exists or has changed in some other way. Open all the apps before testimony begins so that you can easily switch back and forth between them. A slow-to-open app could irritate the judge and bore your jury. Have a charger on hand. Your jury should be paying attention to the testimony rather than distracted by a low battery pop-up notice. And, just in case all technology fails, have a trial notebook as a backup.

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