

5

NEW ARTICLES

42 Essential Apps for Trial Lawyers in 2016

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

For trial lawyers, the iPad is indispensable these days. It is used in trials and depositions to organize cases, present evidence, conduct research on the fly, pick jurors, and for a variety of other tasks.

In 2011 we reported on the emerging use of the iPad among litigators and we outlined the eight most popular apps for trial. In 2013, we updated that list to include 22 apps, and did so again last year ([40 Essential Apps](#) part one and [part two](#)).

Since then, some of the apps have been discontinued, some have changed names, and several new apps have been introduced. Here is our summary of the best.

Transcript Review Apps

AgileLaw (free). AgileLaw enables paperless depositions by allowing lawyers, witnesses and other participants to view and annotate documents. Although the app is free, using it requires a paid account with AgileLaw.com.

DepoPlus (free). This app makes your deposition interactive. Use it to instantly stream deposition videos and make video clips by simply highlighting transcript text.

DepoView (free). This app from inData Corporation allows attorneys to import and manage deposition transcripts along with corresponding video. It provides simple processes to organize depositions into individual cases, create focused clips from those depositions and export the clips to be used in TrialDirector for presentation.

Mobile Transcript (free). This app is optimized for reviewing and annotating transcripts on an iPhone, although it also works on an iPad and has versions for BlackBerry and Android phones. A paid version of the app, at \$29 a month, lets you upload your own transcripts in either Amicus or Summation format.

TranscriptPad (\$89.99). This full-featured app enables you to store, organize, review and annotate all your transcripts on your iPad. It lets you search across an entire case, a single witness, or a single deposition. Flag and highlight important sections and assign issue codes. It works only with ASCII files in .TXT format, which is the standard format for transcripts.

Westlaw Case Notebook Portable E-Transcript (free). This app lets you review, search and annotate transcripts in the E-Transcript .PTX format on iPads and iPhones.

Legal Research Apps

Black's Law Dictionary (\$54.99). Black's has long been recognized as the quintessential law dictionary. With this app for iPhone and iPad, you get mobile access to the ninth edition.

Bloomberg Law (free). For subscribers to Bloomberg Law, this app lets them view news and analysis targeted to their interests, receive the latest Bloomberg Law alerts for legal and news searches, access legal documents and news articles saved in their Queue, and track dockets, opinions or bills.

CourtroomEvidence (\$1.99). This app underwent a name change, from TrialEvidence to CourtroomEvidence, but its functionality remains the same. It serves as a mobile reference guide for courtroom evidentiary foundations. Use it to review predicates commonly used to get evidence admitted by laying the proper foundation.

Fastcase (free). When you need to do some quick legal research on the road, there is no more convenient app than this. Research federal and state case law and statutes, directly on your iPad (or iPhone) and all for free.

Fed Courts (\$2.99). This app provides the full text of the federal rules of procedure and the local rules for every federal court in the country, including district, bankruptcy and appellate courts. It also provides access to PACER and lists the address of every federal court.

Lexis Advance (free). This is the companion app to the Lexis Advance legal research service. To use it, a Lexis Advance subscription is required.

On the Go by Bloomberg BNA (free). Bloomberg BNA maintains a variety of subscription-based resource centers around a number of litigation- and transactional-related areas of law. This app provides mobile access to those resource centers, including practice tools, expert analysis, new and commentary, and other features. Although the app is free to download, using it requires a resource center subscription.

RuleBook (free). This app gives you mobile access to federal and state court rules and to The Bluebook for legal citation. Although the app is free, the various rule sets must be purchased separately from within the app. Most are just \$2 or \$3, but The Bluebook costs \$39.99.

◀ Page 1 2 3 4 ▶

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TrialWorks App (free). This app is a companion to the TrialWorks case management software. It provides on-the-go access to all matter-related documents, notes, calendar dates and contacts. Use of the app requires a license to the TrialWorks software.

E-Discovery Apps

DocReviewPad (\$89.99). This e-discovery app comes from the same company that developed the popular apps TrialPad and TranscriptPad. It lets you import, organize and review documents, search documents, annotate documents, create production sets, and add custom Bates numbers.

eDiscovery Assistant (\$29.99). This app is intended to provide access to key e-discovery information. As purchased, it includes access to the FRCP for e-discovery, pilot projects, key case digests identified by the editors, sample checklists and templates, a resources database and a glossary of terms. For an additional monthly subscription of \$15.99, you can also get access to all state and U.S. district court e-discovery rules, more than 3,000 digests of e-discovery decisions, and more than 50 checklists and templates.

E-Discovery Project Calculator (free). This free app lets you calculate and estimate the size of your e-discovery project. This tool will estimate document and page count based on size of the job. It will also calculate time and cost required to complete the project.

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