
Patent lawyer relies on mobility to boost client service, lower cost.

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– Tim Johnson
Houston-based attorney

Mobile Technology Attorney Tim Johnson has always had a penchant for technology, carving out a legal practice that melds his personal interest in tech advancements with expertise in intellectual property issues such as patents.

So it's no surprise that Johnson gravitates toward mobile computing to make his work more portable and efficient, putting his Apple® iPad® tablet through the paces for legal research, email, scheduling, and a host of other daily functions.

"I bring my iPad with me just about everywhere I go," says Johnson, a Houston-based attorney. "Any time I have a spare moment – I can then take time to address an issue that my client has."



TECHNOLOGY TREND

Johnson's sophisticated portable office illustrates a growing trend among legal practitioners across the country. Regardless of firm size, practice area, or geographic region, attorneys working in today's uncertain economy face constant pressure to do more with less.

From courtroom to boardroom, mobile legal solutions are steadily gaining traction, helping lawyers improve time management and deliver better service – gaining a competitive edge despite having fewer traditional resources and office support staff at their disposal.

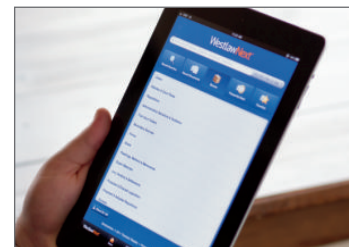
According to the American Bar Association, 88 percent of lawyers used a smartphone for law-related tasks while away from their primary workplace in 2011. Among those same users, 20 percent regularly used mobile-specific

research apps on their smartphones, compared with 16 percent in 2010, the ABA's Legal Technology Survey found.

iPads IN THE COURTROOM – YEAH, THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

New Orleans lawyer Jeff Richardson, who publishes the independent website "iPhone J.D., Lawyers using iPhones and iPads" (www.iphonejd.com), is a proponent of mobile research solutions. Richardson, whose site was named best legal technology blog in 2010 and 2011 by the *ABA Journal's* Blawg 100, reviewed the mobile app for the iPad from WestlawNext® in December, praising its functionality.

On the whole, Richardson favors tablet computing in the courtroom over the use of laptop computers. A laptop screen forms a physical barrier between counsel and the judge and jury, he says, "creating a sense that there is something between you and them." Laptops are awkward to carry to the podium, he writes, while tablets give attorneys the electronic equivalent of a legal pad, made more effective by apps such as WestlawNext.



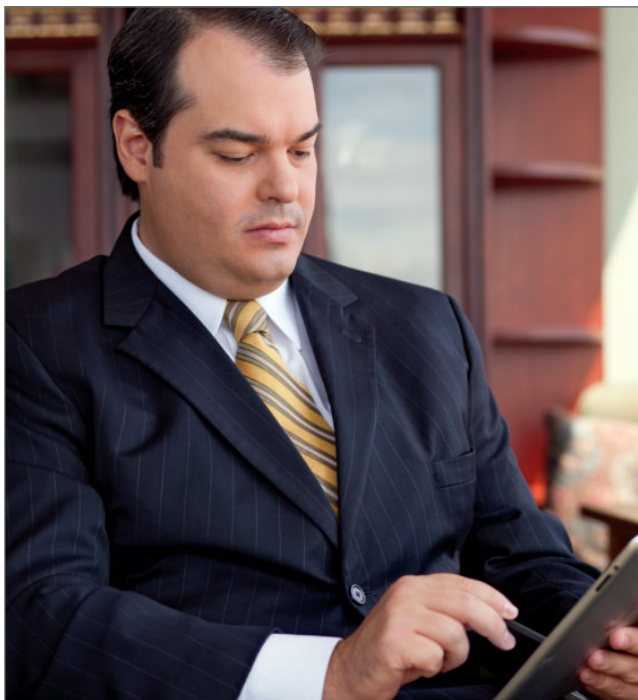
"WestlawNext has helped law firms and individual attorneys such as myself who are trying to go paperless."
– Tim Johnson

“The interface is simple enough to be intuitive and to not get in your way, but the app is powerful enough to satisfy all of your legal research needs,” Richardson says, noting that when he started his practice in the early 1990s, legal research was restricted to the confines of a law library. “In the courtroom, this may be the best way to do quick legal research.”

The American Bar Association reported significant preference for Westlaw®/WestlawNext over all other research providers in a study published in July 2011. In fact, in 2011, the WestlawNext iPad app was recognized in *The National Law Journal's* Best of Legal Times Survey as “Best Legal Research App.”

GETTING OUT OF THE OFFICE, BUT STILL STAYING CONNECTED

Mobile computing and concurrent improvements in tablet technology, such as the WestlawNext iPad app, afford lawyers like Johnson the freedom to remain productive during downtime away from the office, while boosting their comfort levels in high-pressure environments such as court appearances or meetings with opposing counsel.



Attorney Tim Johnson using the award-winning WestlawNext iPad app.

“The WestlawNext iPad app allows me to detach myself from my office desk and my desktop but still have access to all the resources WestlawNext gives me,” Johnson says, citing electronic case file benefits that include better organization, simplified client billing, improved records management, and remote collaboration with other members of the legal team.

The creation of a robust mobile workplace also offers a competitive advantage for companies seeking to attract and retain employees, a 2011 study from Internet technology provider Cisco Systems found.

“Mobile networking, device flexibility, and the blending of personal and work lifestyles are key components of work environment and culture that are increasingly important in determining which companies will land the next wave of industry talent,” Cisco said upon releasing the findings in November, part of the Cisco Connected World Technology Report. The report studied attitudes of more than 2,800 students and young professionals.

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“WestlawNext has helped law firms and individual attorneys such as myself who are trying to go paperless,” Johnson says, adding that mobile technology offers efficiencies that benefit both the client and the firm.

“You don’t have to go back and rediscover what you’ve already found and re-bill the client or determine whether or not you did this before – it’s all there,” he says. “I spend more time focusing on the solution to my client’s issue and on other things that are core to the case.”

COLLABORATION IS KEY

A new feature in the WestlawNext iPad app, which is downloadable from Apple’s iTunes Store®, enables attorneys within and outside an organization to share research folders in real time, giving them instant access to collective research.

WestlawNext search results can also be integrated with other litigation tools such as Westlaw Case Notebook™, the centralized electronic case file that lets legal teams share key facts, insights, and documents surrounding a matter; and West km®, which enables users to quickly locate internal work product, even when working from the iPad.

Dedicated users such as Tim Johnson, who has used the iPad app to help argue cases before a federal circuit court, are convinced this and other developments in mobile computing will continue to revolutionize the field of legal research.

“You get the information faster,” he says. “You get to save it. It’s always available to you – the efficiency is where you get the return on investment.” ■