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Smart Devices in Law Schools

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There's an App for That: Using smart devices in legal education
Debbie Ginsberg, Educational Technology Librarian
February 17, 2010

Apps: Applications which can be downloaded and installed in smart phones and other smart devices

Smart Phones

Compare smart phones: <http://cell-phones.toptenreviews.com/smartphones/>
Information about 60 smart phones including price, features, and reviews

Apps for Law Schools

Primary Law

- Federal Rules
Law Pod has versions for Blackberry & iPhone/iPod Touch: <http://www.thelawpod.org/>
Other versions: Search "Federal Rules" in the iTunes store. Free to about \$10.
- CFR for the iPhone/iPod Touch:
Sold by chapter, from \$4.99 - \$19.99
- U.S. Code for iPhone/iPod Touch
Various versions; price varies depending on features.

Dictionaries

- Taber's Medical Dictionary (available for most smart phones, \$49.95):
<http://www.skyscape.com/estore/ProductDetail.aspx?ProductID=2509>
- Black's Law Dictionary (iPhone/iPod Touch \$49.95)

Research

- iSSRN - download articles (iPhone/iPod Touch, free)
- Lexis - Get cases and Shepardize (iPhone/iPod Touch, free)
- Fastcase - search federal and state cases and statutes (iPhone/iPod Touch, free)
- Westlaw has a mobile website: <http://wireless.westlaw.com>

Exam Review

- BARBRI app - access BARBRI course materials (iPhone/iPod Touch, app is free):
<http://www.barbri.com/wps/portal/barbri/barbrimobile>
- BarMax- an entire bar exam course (iPhone/iPod Touch, \$999.99)
- Law in a Flash - 16 subjects available (iPhone/iPod Touch, \$40-\$60)

Classroom

- ResponseWare from Turning Technologies - replaces clickers (available for many smart phones, laptops):
<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/studentresponsesystem/mobiledistancelearning/responware/>

Kindle in Law Schools

PLI Places Law Texts on Kindle (July 20, 2009): <http://lawschool.about.com/b/2009/07/20/pli-places-law-texts-on-kindle.htm>

June Liebert & Lyonette Louis-Jacques, *Kindle for Law Schools*, PowerPoint presentations from CALI 2009: <http://w.cali.org/conference/session/64>

Find more apps

- General - G.M. Filisko, *70 Sizzling Apps*, A.B.A. J., October 2009 (available at http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/70_sizzling_apps)
Features apps for many brands of smart phones
- iPhone - iPhoneJD (http://www.iphonejd.com/iphone_jd/)
Regularly reviews iPhone apps for lawyers
- Android - Future Lawyer (<http://futurelawyer.typepad.com/>)
Focuses on technology in law in general, but recently has been discussing Android apps
- Blackberry - Nicole Black, *Blackberry Apps for Lawyers*, LLRX, July 30, 2009 (available at <http://www.llrx.com/features/blackberryapps.htm>)

Useful iPhone/iPod Touch Apps

- Documents to Go (\$14.99) - read, create, and edit Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Can also read other file types like PDFs, can download email attachments from CK servers.
- Evernote (free) - sync notes and other information between your desktop, browser, and iPhone/iPod Touch
- Kindle (free) - download and read books from Amazon's Kindle store
- RedLaser (iPhone only, \$1.99) - scan barcodes and compare prices on the web; find books in local libraries, including the DTC Library
- Yelp (free) - find and evaluate local restaurants and other stores and services; location-based features work only on the iPhone
- Dragon Dictation (free) - transcribe dictation and copy text in your email or other document
- Dropbox (free) - use the web to transfer files from your desktop to your iPhone/iPod Touch

Coming Soon: Kindle Apps

In late January, Amazon announced that it would open the Kindle to app development. Nothing has been released yet, but experts have speculated that possible apps might include an email program, an RSS reader, folders for organizing materials, and a calendar. In the meantime, try these "Easter eggs:"

- Minesweeper (Alt-M)
- Screenshot (Alt-Shift-G)
- Display time (Alt-T or Menu)

For more information about the new apps, follow the Kindle Apps blog: <http://www.kindle-apps.net>.

Coming Soon: Apple iPad

Also in late January, Apple announced its long-awaited Mac tablet. Although it's not yet available to the public, possible uses for lawyers and law schools include innovative e-casebooks and advanced presentation software for the courtroom and classroom. See the Tablet Legal blog for more ideas: <http://tabletlegal.com/>