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**Appapalooza: Valuable Legal and Productivity Apps for Your Smartphone
or Tablet**

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Introduction

What is an “App”

Everyone has heard of an “app,” but what exactly is it? The term app is short for applications. Everyone has installed a software program on your computer, whether it was Microsoft Word, Adobe Reader or an Internet browser. These software programs permit your computer to use its hardware to assist you in word processing, reading documents, surfing the Internet, etc.

Essentially apps are just software programs that are designed to run on your smartphone or tablet. Apps allow individuals to leverage the software and hardware inside their mobile devices so that they can use them to play games, watch videos, be more productive, or listen to their favorite radio station. These apps are either designed specifically for your Android or Apple devices and thus there are Android Apps and Apple Apps. Android apps are available for purchase through Google Play or Amazon and as you as you probably guessed; Apple apps are available through the Apple App Store (the “App Store”).

There are two different types of app platforms. There are mobile based apps and Internet based apps. The mobile based apps are downloaded to your mobile device whether it is a smartphone or tablet and can be used anywhere by individuals whether they are able to connect to the Internet or not. These are also called “native” apps and are directly operated by your mobile device. The downside of these native apps is that they only will work on either an Apple device or an Android device; an app designed for an iPhone will not work on your Samsung Android phone. This is because each device

runs different operating software. Apple uses iOS as its operating system to compete with the Android operating system. Just like your Microsoft Windows computer could not run a program designed for an Apple computer the Android and Apple mobile devices are not compatible. Another downside of native apps is that they need to be continuously updated as new versions of an app are created by developers.

This is why Internet based apps are becoming more popular. If an app is Internet based then the developer only has to design one program and the user does not have to worry about downloading updates. The user, using either an Apple or an Android device can simply use his web browser to access the app and he is automatically delivered to the most recent version. Therefore it does not matter which type of mobile platform you are using because you are simply accessing the app through the Internet. Obviously the downside to this is that a person has to have an Internet connection in order to be able to access these types of apps. However, with the increasing availability of Internet connections and the ability to work “offline” on these apps they are becoming more and more prevalent.

Okay, Why do I Need Apps?

You need apps in order to make the best use out of your smartphone or tablet. Basically apps increase the functionality of your mobile devices. Instead of just using your tablet to browse the web or read books you can use it to be more productive in your work. Instead of using your phone to make calls, text, and surf the net you can use it to locate a procedural rule.

Developers are continuously creating apps to meet customer needs however unique they may be. Therefore developers have created a multitude of apps to help attorneys in their professional responsibilities. This paper will describe various apps that will be beneficial to you in your daily life. It will first review some general productivity apps that will assist you in general day to day tasks, the paper will then provide some productivity apps that have been created specifically for legal practitioners. Finally the paper will discuss some legal research apps and let you know about some miscellaneous apps that will assist you in your personal life.

General Productivity Apps

Even though these apps are not designed specifically with attorneys in mind, they will provide you with tools to make your smartphone or tablet more effective. The apps below will let you take notes, help with networking, and improve your ability to perform work on your mobile device.

GoodReader

[<http://www.goodiware.com/goodreader.html>]

This is one of the first apps you will want to download when you get your smartphone or tablet. This app lets users open up a variety of file types (pdf, Excel, Word, PowerPoint) and annotate the documents. This app currently costs \$4.99 and is available at the App Store. Unfortunately this app is not available on Android devices yet but **qPDF Notes**

[<http://www.qoppa.com/android/pdfnotes>]

and

EZpdf

[<http://m.unidocs.com/ezPDF Reader Android Pro.html>] are good alternatives.

These do not have all of the features of GoodReader but they do allow individuals to annotate pdf documents.

GoodNotes and UPAD

[<http://www.goodnotesapp.com/>] [<http://www.pockeysoft.com/>]

There are many different note taking apps available but these two apps are especially functional for users. Both of these applications organize your notes into different “notebooks” so that all of your notes on a certain client, case, issue, etc. are organized together. Individuals can then use a stylus to take notes on their tablets. Although these apps do not convert your writing into text they do an excellent job of recognizing writing and have useful features to assist users (i.e. highlighting, editing, and typing capabilities). The UPAD app does have a bit more features for creating shapes, colors and using different types of “pens.” Both of these apps have free versions to test out prior to purchasing the \$4.99 full version through the App Store. If you are looking for a note taking app for Android devices, **Evernote** [<http://evernote.com/>] is consistently reviewed as a reasonable alternative to GoodNotes and UPAD.

Documents To Go

[http://www.dataviz.com/dtg_home.html]

This app lets users view, edit and create Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint files on both Apple and Android devices. This app also includes a desktop application, for both Windows and Apple computers, so that you can synchronize between your office computer and your mobile device. There is also a version that supports Google Docs, Box.net, Dropbox, iDisk and SugarSync. **Quick Office Pro HD** [<http://www.quickoffice.com/>] has also been getting many favorable reviews and is another option to consider for creating and editing Microsoft documents.

RDM Remote Desktop

[<http://www.rdmplus.com/>]

If you don't already have a remote software subscription or service (like GoToMyPC.com), RDM Remote Desktop is a great app for linking your mobile device with your office computer. Once this program is setup, you are able to access anything on your office computer remotely and control your office computer from your mobile device. This app also permits you to connect with multiple devices. Therefore you can connect with your office computer, home desktop, and home laptop if necessary. This app works on both Windows and Apple computers and is available for both Android and Apple devices.

DocScanner

[<http://www.docscannerapp.com/>]

DocScanner is an app for both Android and Apple mobile devices that uses the camera to turn a document into a pdf. The documents are scanned in using Optimal Character Resolution so that the document will be searchable once it has been digitized. This app can be used to scan in documents, receipts and images. Once documents have been downloaded they can be sent via e-mail or to Google Docs or Dropbox.

ScanBizCards

[<http://www.scanbizcards.com/>]

This app allows individuals to take a picture of a business card and add it to their contacts. However, this app also offers other features like creating new groups, adding notes, cloud backup, and the ability to add individuals to your LinkedIn network. This app is \$6.99 and is available through the App Store or Google Play for both Apple and Android devices.

Legal Productivity Apps

Developers have seen a market in lawyers and some great apps specifically tailored towards attorneys have been created. At this point many of the apps listed below are only available on Apple devices. However, this most likely will change in the future as more developers begin to create apps for Android products.

TrialPad

[<http://www.litsoftware.com/products/trialpad/>]

This app was specifically designed for attorneys to use their iPad in the courtroom. TrialPad allows attorneys to organize, manage, annotate, and store their documents and videos in their iPad. Attorneys can then display the documents in “presentation view” which will show the content on the entire screen and transition between the documents like a PowerPoint presentation. TrialPad is available for \$89.99 at the App Store. A cheaper alternative to TrialPad is **Exhibit A** [<http://www.lecturaapps.com/>] which is available for \$9.99. While most reviewers agree that TrialPad is an overall better product, Exhibit A has become a competitor to TrialPad with its recent updates.

Court Days Pro

[<http://www.lawonmyphone.com/court-days-pro/>]

The developer describes Court Days Pro as “the first rules-based legal calendaring app for the iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.” Court Days Pro provides attorneys and legal professionals with the ability to calculate dates and deadlines based on a customizable database of court rules and statutes. Once the rules are set up in the application, calculations are performed using a customizable list of court holidays. After an item is

entered into this app the corresponding days can be uploaded into your calendar or e-mailed. This app is available for \$2.99 through the App Store.

iJuror

[\[http://www.front9technologies.com/ijuror.html\]](http://www.front9technologies.com/ijuror.html)

This iPad app was created for attorneys during jury selection. This app lets the attorney add juror information based upon where a juror is sitting, add notes as the trial proceeds, and has drag and drop features to select and drop jurors. It allows the attorney to customize this app based upon the number of jurors and their configuration.

This app is available for \$19.99 at the App Store.

TranscriptPad

[\[http://www.litsoftware.com/products/transcriptpad/\]](http://www.litsoftware.com/products/transcriptpad/)

This is another iPad app to assist attorneys in reviewing transcripts. TranscriptPad lets attorneys code issues, search text, prepare reports and organize transcripts. Once the transcripts are uploaded into this app it automatically will fill in information about the deponents, dates, case number and other identifying information. This app is available for \$49.99 through the App Store.

Legal Research Apps

These apps are designed to let you take your legal research on the go. Some of these are through fee based subscriptions like Westlaw and Lexis. However, there are a lot of free apps available that provide access to primary laws. The good news is that most of these apps are available for both Android and Apple devices.

FastCase

[<http://www.fastcase.com/>]

As members of the Georgia Bar you are familiar with Fast Case. This legal research database, which is free to Georgia Bar members, has developed an app so that you can use this database on your mobile device. This is available for both Android and Apple products. This app is free to use and allows researchers to search cases and statutes on an intuitive and great looking platform.

WestlawNext

[<http://info.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/westlawnext/mobile-ipad/default.aspx>]

For those of you that subscribe to WestlawNext, there is a free app that allows you to use this legal database wherever you go. Your research on your mobile device is fully synchronized with your account, so when you get back to your office the research will be up to date on your office computer. This allows researchers to search cases, statutes, regulations and even treatises that are within their subscription. This app is free for those who are subscribers to WestlawNext.

LexisAdvance

[<http://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/mobile.page>]

Just like WestlawNext, LexisNexis has developed a free app for its next generation database, LexisAdvance. For subscribers of LexisAdvance this app allows researchers to search for applicable cases, statutes, regulations and treatises that are within their subscription. This app is available for both Apple and Android devices.

FedCtRecords and FedCtBank

[\[http://64.142.115.163/index.html\]](http://64.142.115.163/index.html)

These apps from the same developer allow you to access PACER documents from your smartphone or tablet. A PACER registration is required but after you are registered, individuals are able to access all of the electronic records available in Federal District and Appellate Courts (FedCtRecords) and Federal Bankruptcy Courts (FedCtBank). These apps are only available for Apple devices and can be purchased for \$9.99 each through the App Store.

Black Law's Dictionary, 9th Edition

This app has over 45,000 terms and 2,000 audio pronunciations. This app uses predictive search technology so that when you type in a term results will begin appearing (similar to Google searches). There are links to related terms and frequently used words can be bookmarked for later. This app is made by Westlaw and is available for both Android and Apple products for \$54.99.

Law Stack and Droid Law

[\[http://www.lawstack.com/\]](http://www.lawstack.com/) [\[http://droidlaw.com/\]](http://droidlaw.com/)

Law Stack describes its app as “a legal library in your pocket.” It contains the Constitution, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. This is a free app that is currently only available for Apple users. However **Droid Law** is great alternative to Law Stack for Android users.

American Arbitration Association App

Not a fancy app name but it does have great content. For attorneys involved in arbitrations this app provides arbitration rules, protocols, and contact information for AAA offices. This is a free app that is available for both Android and Apple mobile devices.

Miscellaneous Apps

While the apps described below don't fall into any of the above categories they still are very useful or just fun.

FindmyiPhone

[<http://www.apple.com/iphone/icloud/>]

This app allows owners of iPhones and iPads to logon to a computer and locate the specific location of their devices if they are ever misplaced or stolen. This app also allows owners to remotely lock the device or remove data from it in the event that it is lost. You never know how valuable this app is until you cannot find your phone!

Crackle

[<http://www.crackle.com/outreach/platforms>]

This is one of the few apps that lets individuals watch movies and television shows for free. There are over 250 movies to choose from and it also includes old television shows and original series. Please note that this app requires an Internet connection.

Hungry Shark

[\[http://www.futuregamesoflondon.com/hungry-shark-evolution\]](http://www.futuregamesoflondon.com/hungry-shark-evolution)

People are always saying that lawyers are sharks and this game lets you become one. There are four different versions of this game which let you feast on other fishes, complete missions and scour the beaches for swimmers.

Whitenoise

[\[http://www.tmssoft.com/\]](http://www.tmssoft.com/)

Having trouble falling asleep? This app plays rain, airplane engines, waves, fans, and other noises to help you fall asleep. It is free and available for Apple and Android devices.

Pocket

[\[http://getpocket.com/\]](http://getpocket.com/)

This free app lets you store all those great stories, recipes, and facts that you find while browsing the Internet. Instead of trying to find the webpage again, Pocket stores the article, video or website. It also automatically syncs with your other devices so you can view the item on your phone, tablet or computer.

Strava

[\[http://www.strava.com/\]](http://www.strava.com/)

Strava is an app for bikers, walkers or joggers. This free app maps your route, tracks time, elevation and pace. It also awards you trophies and keeps track of your achievements. A great app to keep you motivated in your exercise.