ABA TECHSHOW 2019

The Long Play

By Laurence Colletti

February's Law Practice Solutions column[1] highlighted the many benefits of attending TECHSHOW 2019, a program created, developed, and produced by the Law Practice Division of the American Bar Association and now in its 33rd year.[2]

For those unable to attend or purchase the materials produced by the TECHSHOW experts, read on and listen to these free Legal Talk Network podcasts featuring experts on topics ranging from ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Get Your Mobile Ninja On—Top iOS Tips, Apps, and Gear *to* ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Automation Tools for Law Firm Operations. *Legal Talk Network is a podcast network for legal professionals with hosts from well-known organizations and brands including the American Bar Association, Florida Bar, State Bar of Michigan,* ABA Journal, *Thomson Reuters, Robert Half Legal, Above the Law, and Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Its collection of more than 20 podcasts cover important legal news and developments including access to justice, law schools, industry events, legal technology, and the future of law.[3]*

Also, tune in monthly for the State Bar of Michigan's On Balance podcast series on the Legal Talk Network, featuring a diverse array of legal thought leaders. Hosted by JoAnn Hathaway of the SBM Practice Management Resource Center and Tish Vincent of the Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, the series focuses on the need for interplay between practice management and lawyer wellness for a thriving law practice.[4]

—JoAnn Hathaway,
SBM Practice Management Advisor

When most of us think about technology, we tend to fixate on the magical products of today or dream about the wonders of tomorrow. Often, we forget about past technological developments or how we used to get things done. Seriously, how did we ever find cheap five-star cuisine two blocks from our hotel without Yelp? Similarly, I bet most legal professionals don't realize how long ABA TECHSHOW and its mission have been around, nor do they recognize the significance of its longevity.

Thanks to our recent audio coverage and a related Above the Law article[5] (hat tip to Bob Ambrogi), I learned that the first ABA TECHSHOW took place in 1986, the same year we met Oprah Winfrey, *Top Gun* introduced us to "the need for speed," and Lady Gaga was born. If you're feeling ancient, just think about your Apple IIGS computer or TI-60 calculator.

It's from this vantage point and a recent interview with law students that I came to a new appreciation for a legal conference I've been covering for the last four years. Even during that short period, we've seen a proliferation of technology into the legal profession. Probably the best semi-recent example is the nearly universal acceptance of cloud-based technologies by attorneys. Today, the cloud is an obvious fit, but when first introduced (like email), it was revolutionary and arguably controversial. As big as these doctrinal shifts were, they pale in comparison to what's coming next.

Unburying the lead and coming full circle, my conversation with law students Danielle Chirdon, Sara Agate, Ryan Dobbs, and Doug Lavey may reveal the long play value of ABA TECHSHOW and movements like it. It's not the advent of new gadgets and software that will accelerate and modernize the practice of law; it will ultimately be about the base paradigm of practitioners. If lawyers, as a whole, stop seeing the profession as a refuge for the tech-phobic, the industry will evolve to new heights. To that end, I believe the value of long-running programs like ABA TECHSHOW find their real mark. By perpetuating an ecosystem where new ideas and practical innovations can breathe long enough to travel back with conference attendees, modernization will eventually take root.

We've seen this for years. Why is this suddenly so important? Although technology

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has reached small firms, bar associations, and law schools, the industry still lags behind. But for the first time, the legal profession has a new generation of self-identified digital natives who embrace technology in their everyday lives and expect everyone else to do the same. They are rapidly absorbing the legal tech environment created by their predecessors.

With university mashups of science and law, tech competency at bar associations, and Global Legal Hackathons,[6] there is no place for these new lawyers to go but forward. The big gift from long-running movements like ABA TECHSHOW is that throughout the years—conference after conference, session after session, and meeting after meeting—their hard work spread and kept the ecosystem alive until its seedlings hit critical mass. With digital natives now entering the work force, this could finally be the moment when the legal profession sheds its reputation for antiquity and becomes a leader in innovative thinking.

The following comprises our audio coverage of ABA TECHSHOW 2019. When it was all said and done, we recorded 19 episodes featuring 41 interviewees and hosts. Episodes are packed with tips, tricks, and ideas for running a better legal practice. Of special note were keynote presenter and 1871 CEO Betsy Ziegler discussing the direction of the legal profession and Judge Scott Schlegel, who is implementing innovative new methods to decrease recidivism with his Smart on Crime Initiative. In addition, Lawsites writer and podcaster Bob Ambrogi hosts the third annual Start-Up Pitch Competition (tune in below to hear which idea won). Other topics included drones, automation, data preservation, privacy laws, firewalls, online marketing, gig economy, iOS, and Google Adwords. We hope you enjoy.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Keynote Address[7]

1871 CEO Betsy Ziegler joins the *ABA Journal*'s Stephanie Francis Ward to discuss tech advancements that will impact the legal profession.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Tech Books for Lawyers[8]

Tech authors Brett Burney, Daniel Siegel, Ben Schorr, David Ries, and Dennis Kennedy join ABA Publishing's Ashley Alfirevic and Legal Talk Network's Laurence Colletti for a conversation about their experiences developing and writing technology books for the legal profession. If you're an aspiring author, you should definitely tune in.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Get Your Mobile Ninja On— Top iOS Tips, Apps, and Gear[9]

Noted tech aficionados Jeff Richardson and Brett Burney stop by for a rapid-fire discussion about their favorite apps, tips, and gear for the iPhone and iPad.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Mastering Google Adwords[10]

Google Adwords campaigns are not always straightforward. Gyi Tsakalakis, marketer and founder of Attorney Sync, and Jess Birken, solo practitioner and featured presenter, share insights on picking key search terms as well as hiring SEO specialists.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Succeeding in a Gig Economy[11]

Priori founder Basha Rubin and Kramer Levin's Emily Wajert sit down with host Christopher Anderson to discuss the gig economy and its effect on employee classifications.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Strengthen Your Core: Add-ins for Microsoft Word and Outlook[12]

Legal journalist Bob Ambrogi and noted legal technologist Nerino Petro share some of their favorite add-ins for increasing productivity in Microsoft Word and Outlook.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Smart on Crime Initiative[13]

Judge Scott Schlegel from the 24th Judicial District Court in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, stops by to discuss his Smart on Crime Initiative, which inventively implements technology to substantially reduce recidivism among criminal offenders. Tune in to hear how he does it.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Between Scylla and Charybdis— Managing Information Overload[14]

Emails, texts, alerts, and phone calls— how is anyone getting work done with all the distractions? If you feel overwhelmed at the office, you're not the only one. In fact, it's possible for some to be overwhelmed and not even realize it. OU Law Library's Darla Jackson and Habitat for Humanity's Amy Krieg sit down for a conversation about recognizing and properly handling information overload.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Is Your Web Presence Customer Friendly?[15]

Websites are supposed to draw in clients who need your legal expertise. But for so many attorneys, this is not happening like they intended. Think Pink's Julie Tolek, an active practitioner, and Attorney Sync's Gyi Tsakalakis join host Christopher Anderson to talk about tips and tricks for making your web presence more appealing to potential clients.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Technology in Law Schools: A Single Course or Curriculum Integration?[16]

Florida State University College of Law's Elizabeth Farrell Clifford and UNT Dallas College of Law's Jennifer Wondracek sit down with host Gyi Tsakalakis to discuss the need for additional training of digital native law students to incorporate technology into their future practices.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Law Student Panel on LegalTech[17]

Law students and digital natives Danielle Chirdon, Sara Agate, Ryan Dobbs, and Doug Lavey join co-hosts Adam Music from the ABA Law Student Division and Laurence Colletti from Legal Talk Network to talk about the emphasis their law schools put on innovation and their expectations for tech in their future careers.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Firewalls for Today's Law Office[18]

Don't get scorched by non-use of firewalls! Stanley Louissaint, founder of Fluid Designs, and Jason McNew, founder of Stronghold Cyber, stop by to discuss the importance of firewalls, what they do for you, and how to implement them.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Trending: GDPR and Data Privacy Laws?[19]

Steve Puiszis of Hinshaw & Culbertson and Judy Selby of Judy Selby Consulting join host Kelly Street for a conversation about General Data Protection Regulation and what lawyers need to know about these new regulations emanating out of the EU.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Automation Tools for Law Firm Operations[20]

Conor Malloy, founder of Chi City Legal, and Kimberly Bennett, founder of K Bennett Law, share their favorite ways to automate repetitive tasks in their legal practices. Tune in to hear how you could save a lot of time and effort in your firm today!

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Startup Pitch Competition[21]

Legal journalist Bob Ambrogi hosts the third annual Start-Up Pitch Competition at ABA TECHSHOW. Whether you want to hear about the latest in legal technology or think you've got the next big idea, you should definitely tune in to this episode. Featured presenters include Lawble, dealWIP, DocStyle LLC, Connective Counsel, WarRoom, JurisBytes, OurChildInfo.com, TrialLine, Kinnami Software Corporation, Fixi Subscription Plans, Documate, dtour.life, EffortlessLegal, Your Firm App, and Contract.one.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Collaboration Using Tools You Know[22]

In today's legal practice, much can be gained through collaboration software whether you are collaborating with fellow attorneys or clients. Charity Anastasio, practice management advisor to AILA, and BigLaw trainer and consultant Annette Sanders join host Kelly Street to talk about their favorite collaboration tools.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Collecting and Preserving Discovery from Mobile Devices[23]

Host Sharon Nelson sits down with ABA TECHSHOW 2019 chair John Simek and 2015 chair Brett Burney to discuss methods for preserving and collecting data for discovery on mobile devices.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: All About Drones: Legal, Practical, and Educational Applications[24]

University of Oklahoma College of Law's Kenton Brice and Russ Cochran of the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control stop by to talk about drones, their use, and finding information about regulations governing their flight.

ABA TECHSHOW 2019: Clio's Launch//Code Contest[25]

Could your legal tech startup use $100,000? Clio's manager of product partnerships Andrew Gay sits down to discuss their Launch//Code contest for tech developers. ∎

After receiving his JD and MBA, Laurence Colletti went into solo practice, concentrating in general business and commercial real estate. He has always carried a strong passion for web-based media with a particular interest in podcasting and video. He combines his legal background with that passion to help bring sophisticated, relevant content to Legal Talk Network podcasts. You can follow Laurence on Twitter at @LaurenceEsq.

ENDNOTES

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