

By Dave Glynn, Director of Product Development for  
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The Who song, "Goin' Mobile" characterizes the new age that affords lawyers the ability to be road-worthy facilitators of their clients' needs. Anytime, day or night, a lawyer has access to all of the information they require, i.e., legal research, document drafting/assembly, courthouse retrieval, client billing information, the firm diary, or previously authored documents. Access is made via laptops, home PCs, personal information managers/personal digital assistants (Palms, Blackberrys, etc.) and cell phones. Bond, James Bond. Yes, indeed, Sean Connery would be proud of the new gadgets available to the lawyer on the go. We visited with some of the mobile lawyers in Chicago to find out what technologies they're using, why they're using them and how effective it is for their practices.

**We're finding the most techno-savvy like to travel light, and the PDAs (personal digital assistants) and lighter laptops are affording them this ability.**

# Goin' MOBILE

*James Bond Would Be Proud of the Under 40 on the Go*

**Todd Rowden**, a partner specializing in commercial litigation with Quarles & Brady in Chicago, says he won't go anywhere without his laptop. "I can connect to my desktop using Citrix to respond to e-mail and to do document revisions and research." Todd looks forward to the day when eFiling is possible in all of the courts. "I look forward to downloading transcripts and video depositions and the full electronic integration of court systems to law offices. There's no reason not to be able to link from briefs to full cases. Why shouldn't you be able to eFile directly from the desktop?"



For research, Todd uses the Web-based version of Lexis/Nexis and uses Google on the Web to search for news articles and other items of importance to his practice. Todd also subscribes to daily e-mail digests like Law Bulletin's CourtBriefs. "Every modern litigator should have CourtBriefs in the quiver, it's essential

and timely to know what cases are being filed at the local courts that are pithy and informative."

**Brent Kidwell**, a partner with Jenner & Block and Chairman of the firm's Litigation Technology Committee, is a case study of the advanced mobile lawyer. Brent, a litigator focusing on technology cases, swears by his Blackberry that replaced his Palm VII. He claims the Blackberry has "dramatically better features than the Palm." He says that due to Blackberry's integration with Microsoft Exchange and instantaneous two-way email capability, "the Palm has no where near the capabilities of the Blackberry." With the wireless capabilities, Brent is always connected to the firm's Microsoft Exchange server to receive e-mail and view his calendar. Jenner & Block recently installed the Law Bulletin's DM2000 Docket Management program's Exchange interface so the lawyers in the firm, including Brent,



can receive docket and diary notices directly in their MS Outlook calendar.

Brent has a cell phone, but with the power of the Blackberry and ease of portability, he doesn't need the electronic messaging features on the phone, only the voice mail. Brent lugs the laptop with him when he travels, otherwise the Blackberry is his commuting device of choice.

For research, Brent's favorite search engine is Google and if he's conducting background investigations, he will usually begin by kicking off a Google search. For case law, he prefers Westlaw, but does not currently use the wireless capabilities. In the past, he took advantage of wireless Westlaw with his Palm VII. He also utilizes the Federal Government's Patent and Trademark Office website.

Brent is utilizing the electronic filing capabilities of the U. S. District Court in the Western District of Michigan. "I enjoy the ease of use and the instant gratification one gets from eFiling," he says. Brent's not afraid of using

► **"From the laptop I can access anything from office desktop and I have multiple ways to connect, i.e., Citrix option and direct dial-up. It usually depends on my connection, whether it's T1, DSL or dial-up."**

PACER/RACER for obtaining docket sheets and other items from court electronic dockets.

Even Brent's home office is mobile. His 'wireless' home network allows him to work in any room of his house and still be connected. His DSL connection allows him high-speed access to the firm's Cyberdocs (document management system) and he is a switch-hitter, using both Word and WordPerfect for drafting. If Brent starts a fresh document, he'll use Word instead of WordPerfect as Brent sees the writing on the wall for the most popular word processing product for Chicago law firms, with Word edging out WordPerfect. Brent connects to JennerNet (the firm's intranet) for intraoffice employee contact information, employee evaluation forms and other human resource needs.

**Alan Dalinka**, a Partner at Piper Rudnick, who focuses on intellectual property litigation is a technology hobbyist. "My comfort with technology comes from having been a hobbyist and finding ways over the years to work



technology into my practice to make it more efficient," explains Alan. Although Alan's travel comes in waves, he spends about 25,000 miles in the air each year. For short trips, Alan carts along his 'wireless e-mail device' (brand name withheld on request). Alan uses his device for "wireless e-mail, calendar contacts, and the notepad which is great for saving passwords" and connects to the firm via the Microsoft Exchange server. Alan

finds that he has almost "real time access" as a result. He also boasts that his coverage is pretty good across the country with his wireless network. Because of limitations with his 'wireless e-mail device', Alan can't read attachments but will often ask his staff to cut and paste the shorter ones into the e-mail. However, he claims, "I can always forward the attachment to a PC at our client's site and view it on a client's PC."

Alan uses the laptop for longer trips due to more robust technology needs. "From the laptop I can access anything from office desktop and I have multiple ways to connect, i.e., Citrix option and direct dial-up. It usually depends on my connection, whether it's T1, DSL or dial-up."

At home, Alan is connected via DSL and has a home network with 4 machines linked up and the ability to run a wireless option on the laptop. He has a Mac he uses for making home video movies using travel footage from his trips. He needs both the Windows and Mac platforms to accommodate different games. His favorite PC game is Roller Coaster Tycoon. "I love theme parks, so during the Winter months, it's the next best thing to being there."

For research Alan uses both Lexis and Westlaw, as he notes, "Each are good for certain things." He also uses Internet based legal research services like Findlaw and Martindale-Hubbe. However, for Illinois lawyers, he still uses the bound version of Sullivan's Law Directory. His favorite search engine is

Yahoo, but he also uses MSN and Google. "My philosophy has always been flexibility on the Internet. By trying different search techniques you can find a wealth of information. You don't want to limit yourself to one particular search technique."

He's most impressed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit Web site. "The 7th Circuit site

is phenomenal, posting dockets, opinions and oral arguments." He recently drafted a 7th Circuit Brief completely electronically, until at last, a colleague asked to see a print version. Alan did not file the brief electronically but mentioned that there was an eFiling pilot project available with the 7th Circuit. Alan boasts, "I will say that the computer was very accurate in getting the margins just right..." to help him pass the ruler test at the Clerk's office.

His best advice to colleagues about the future is, "Don't be scared of technology."

**"My comfort with technology comes from having been a hobbyist and finding ways over the years to work technology into my practice to make it more efficient,"**

continued on page 14

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## Goin' MOBILE

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**Rebecca Eisner**, a mother of two boys, 3 and 8 years old, and a partner in the Information Technology and Electronic Commerce practice group at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw in Chicago, has a different use for technology.



Working remote from her home allows her to be in two places at once. A typical day will involve client meetings at their offices, back home for dinner with the family and then over to the laptop in her home office to connect to the office. "I call it my second-shift lawyering time," she explains. "Lots of nights after putting the kids to bed, we're checking e-mail, returning voice mails."

She explains how she'll take a break from work to be with the family and then resume her work in the evening. "In New York, lawyers tend to do this anyway. They'll work all day, take a break for dinner and then return to the office to resume work. I do the same thing, except that I return to my office at home," she explains.

Rebecca will typically e-mail documents back and forth from her office. Even though her husband works for SBC/Ameritech, they have to settle for dial-up access, as they're out of the range for DSL connectivity. As her husband is also extremely busy and occasionally works evenings as well as days, they sometimes struggle over use

of the phone lines. "There are limited times with both my husband and I working at home that four access lines have not been enough. There are some occasions when we hit our maximum."

Rebecca's techo-gadgets of choice are her cell phone, pager and laptop. Asked if she uses a PDA (personal digital assistant), Rebecca remarks, "I'm challenged with separating business from personal work, so I don't use my PDA for work-related needs."

Fortunately for Rebecca her balance of work and home has worked out well. Most of her clients are located near her Northshore residence. Many of her clients do business with California companies. "Working with people in California is very convenient, as I can schedule evening calls with them," explains Rebecca.

As you can learn from Rebecca, quality of life, especially for the extremely busy lawyer, is a great reason for use of technology. There are many ways to employ technologies and there's enough variety available to fit the specialized needs of the practice and your personality.



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## Here are some good sources to connect you and assist you as a lawyer on the go:

### **Mobile Computing** [www.mobilecomputing.com](http://www.mobilecomputing.com)

This magazine and Web site has the latest and greatest mobile technologies with solid comparisons of cell phones, PDAs, laptops and more.

### **American Bar Association Law Tech Group** - [www.lawtechnology.org/](http://www.lawtechnology.org/)

This is an e-mail list service that provides a forum for discussion of everyday legal technology issues.

### **U.S. Courts Web Site** - [www.uscourts.gov/](http://www.uscourts.gov/)

This is a comprehensive site providing links to public access and information regarding connectivity to the U.S. Courts.

### **U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Site** - [www.uspto.gov/](http://www.uspto.gov/)

### **CourtBriefs** - [www.courtbriefs.com](http://www.courtbriefs.com)

A subscription-based email service provided by Law Bulletin Publishing Company, provides summaries of new lawsuits filed at the federal and Cook County courts with access to PDF images of the complaints filed.

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