

At the Crossroads of Law and Technology

Technology is supposed to make our lives easier, allowing us to do things more quickly and efficiently. But too often it seems to make things harder, leaving us with fifty-button remote controls, digital cameras with hundreds of mysterious features and book-length manuals, and cars with dashboard systems worthy of the space shuttle.

James Surowiecki, staff writer, *The New Yorker*

As the result of the convergence of four major technology innovations – cloud computing, analytics, mobile devices and social media – we are increasingly inundated with data and content. We are now on the cusp of a new period of technological advancement and economic transformation based upon collecting, analyzing, synthesizing and commercializing the data and content that is so pervasive in our daily lives.

We are pummeled each day with thousands of bits of data, pithy and purposeful, snarky and smart, factual and funny. Every second over 7,000 tweets, 50,000 Google searches and 2.4 million emails are sent. There are nearly 1 billion websites; each day, bloggers post almost 3 million blog posts (<http://internetlivestats.com>).

And predicted for the future is more, lots more. Larger databases, bigger archives and more computing power, to use, manipulate, integrate and analyze the vast amounts of data available in a digitized world, as well as virtual court appearances and virtual depositions. Increasingly, lawyers will get their information, manage their practices, and be found by clients online. The organized bar must lead the profession to help lawyers leverage technology in their practices and connect the underserved with lawyers.

For lawyers, who are sponges for information, getting on the Internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant. The ABA's Legal Technology Survey Report 2015 noted that 73% of lawyers regularly access the Internet outside of the office, most likely on a mobile device. The mobile device of choice for 90% of lawyers is the smartphone, followed by the laptop (79%). Eighty percent of respondents report that they have telecommuted, and 11% of solos describe their practice as "virtual."

Not surprisingly, one of the major topics of discussion at the Annual Meeting of our Bar Association was how lawyers can control the onslaught of information. Even if we filter down to just the legal information being tweeted, linked-in, emailed or list-served, it is overwhelmingly difficult to find the information we really need. As litigators who engage in discovery know, having too much data is almost as bad as having no data. Further, because the flood of information is instant and ongoing, our clients have come to expect instant responses to their questions. But competent legal advice can't be parceled out in 140 characters or less.

The convergence of technology with content has created a nearly overwhelming stream of information. Our Bar Association alone produces *over 80 million pages* of documents a year.



While this may overwhelm us as attorneys, it makes us indispensable to our clients. Lawyers decipher the flow of information and filter out what is most important to properly advise and counsel our clients. To do that, we have to be able to harness, manage, and curate the content so we can find what we need, when we need it. Once we gain a firm grasp of that information, we must communicate clearly to effectively serve our clients.

Solo and small-firm practitioners are the fastest-growing segment of our Bar Association, and we have formed a solo and small-firm team so we can address their needs and provide relevant resources to our members. We recognize and understand the problems lawyers confront when organizing and curating information, and managing our practices. To address our members' desire to get the information they need for their practice, NYSBA developed LawHUBSM in partnership with USI. LawHUBSM is a comprehensive and personal online dashboard, and NYSBA is the first bar association in the nation to develop such a product.

LawHUBSM, a cloud-based software platform, will help transform your practice by prioritizing, organizing and

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

streaming the information you need. It is a free member benefit designed to help members save time, increase practice efficiency, and make it easier to connect and network with others in your legal community. LawHUBSM is a game changer because, unlike other technology tools, it filters the clutter. It sorts through incoming information and gives you what you've asked for. Everything you need, at your fingertips.

LawHUBSM is designed so NYSBA members can customize their dashboard to their own interests and practice, so you get only the information and resources you want. And, anytime, you can move beyond your curated content and access all the resources NYSBA has to offer.

LawHUBSM makes it possible to access NYSBA content for free, including recent ethics opinions, CasePrep-Plus, reports, *Law Digest* and *Journal* articles, and other publications. You can do in-depth research with Fastcase or view a list of upcoming CLE programs

specific to your practice. Section members can join the conversation in online communities, and take advantage of resources that include events, publications and forms, and other information specific to their Sections. LawHUBSM takes outside vendor tools – like Clio for practice management and LawPay for billing – and integrates them for those members who need additional resources to help manage their practice. All in one place, all on the same screen. Now, instead of a flood, you get a specific stream of information that's most relevant to your own pursuits.

LawHUBSM is only one example of how NYSBA is leveraging technology to offer value to you, our members, and help you in your practice. Today, you can get your CLE online, webcast, streamed or downloaded. You can bundle programs for deep discounts or purchase individual segmented program topics that are most relevant to your needs right now.

To help your practice, NYSBA also offers a wide array of downloadable

forms in 22 practice areas, covering everything from arbitration to zoning and land use. With NYSBA, you can carry your law library in your briefcase – because our publications are downloadable as e-books.

We are developing an access to justice Internet connection, where those in need can post legal questions and participating attorneys can answer questions within their area of expertise. NYSBA will help you fit pro bono into your busy schedule, so you can do the public good, using your expertise to provide guidance to the underserved, when you can, where you can.

NYSBA has also instituted online communities so you can have the advice and counsel of New York's finest lawyers. Whatever your area of practice, NYSBA is your specialty bar, focused on you and your legal needs. We are the largest voluntary state bar association in the nation, and we are working every day to make it easier for you – our members – to practice law and serve your clients. ■

NYSBA
New York State Bar Association



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