



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHUCK'S iPhone

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Okay. I admit it. I drank the Apple Kool-Aid. Big deal, right? Well, for me it was. I'm the kind of person who is very loyal to brands. When I find something I like, I stick with it. I was a Microsoft junkie for many years. Danny Porter used to joke that like the old Pepsi commercial, I had a zipper in my back that if opened revealed Bill Gates underneath a Chuck costume. As someone known as an early adopter, I had begun using Windows Mobile Smartphones when Blackberry only had one model, and it didn't come in color, and the iPhone was some secret project Steve Jobs had yet to announce. I even



resisted buying the first generation iPhone when it came out. I thought it was more form over function. Nevertheless, I found myself outside an AT&T store the day the iPhone 3G went on sale and never have looked back. So what does this have with being a lawyer, well, plenty. I can honestly say that having an iPhone has made me a more productive lawyer. Let's see how this plays out on a typical day.

First thing in the morning (after using the iPhone's alarm to wake me up), I like to check my email and schedule for the day. Since the iPhone syncs with my office server, I get all of my email instantly. Also, anything I type on the iPhone is automatically synced with Outlook on my desktop computer at the office. On my way to work, rather than listening to XM or morning drive radio, I listen to a technology or legal Podcast through my car stereo. A Podcast is a

recording much like a radio show or recorded CLE that automatically downloads and updates every time you sync your iPhone with your computer. Some mornings I even listen to foreign language Podcasts so hopefully one day I can read a Spanish witness statement for myself.



Once I get to the office, I use my iPhone to connect to the Electronic In/Out Board and sign in for the day. Now, as a private practitioner, you might not have to do this. However, I bet you have some form of time management software on your computer. Many of the popular time-management programs such as Timeslips have iPhone applications. This way, if you go to interview a client, you can accurately track your time by just clicking the iPhone when you get there and again when you leave and the billing will be updated automatically. The next thing I do is check my "To-Do" list which has also synced automatically. Anytime I need to remember to do something, I can enter it either on my iPhone or my desktop, and it will magically appear in both places.

Not long after getting to the office, I head to court. Sometimes I may be sitting idle whilst one of my co-workers handles one of their cases. Not wanting to waste a productive moment, I check my email and see that I have Microsoft Word documents to be



reviewed. Using a program called Documents to Go, I am able to review and edit the document while I normally would just be sitting. This application just saved me at least fifteen minutes. Think about how many times you have handwritten an order in court, or had to run down to the law library to print it out. Wouldn't it have been easier to access your order template on your iPhone, fill in the blanks, and email it directly to the Judge on the Bench? With an application such as Box.net, you can store all of your documents "in the cloud," and access them whenever you need to.

Now, it's my turn in front of the Court. I have all of my notes right on my iPhone. If I have a question about the law, I can easily connect to Lexis, Casemaker or even Google Scholar which is a great free repository of Court opinions.

After Court, it's lunchtime. I'm always in a hurry, so today I use the Chipotle restaurant application to place my order from my iPhone and run in and pick it up. While I'm at Chipotle, I bump into an attorney I haven't seen in a while. He gives me his business card. When I get back to the office, I use my iPhone to take a picture of the card and scan and convert it directly to my address book both on my iPhone and Outlook.

In the afternoon, I need to go in the field to do an interview. I call the witness using an application called Google Voice. With Google Voice I have a telephone number that I can give people that I want to be able to call me but don't necessarily want them to have my personal number. When they call the Google Voice number, it routes the call to any phone I tell the program to use. For me, if it's during business hours, the call will go to my iPhone and my

desk phone. If it's after 6:00 pm, the program automatically switches to my home phone. Of course, it also features caller ID and call screening so I can choose to pick up or let it go to voice mail. Did I mention this application is Free! From there, I use the Google Maps application which works with the iPhone's built-in GPS to give me directions to the witnesses' house. Once I arrive, I turn on the audio recorder application and record the entire interview for playback later. If my trial partner or investigator need to be present for the interview, but can't make it, I can live-stream the



interview using an application called Qik. Qik allows them to watch the interview as it occurs. This would work for depositions as well. If you

needed to make an international call, you could also use Skype which provides free communication to other Skype users worldwide, and sounds really good. Skype can even call landlines for a fraction of the cost of a traditional cell or landline call.

Back at the office, I simply check my desk for any notes of things that need to get done tomorrow. I can then add them to my "To-Do" list which syncs up everything and then I'm homeward bound. But my wife calls and tells me that she is out by the Mall and the kids are hungry. I quickly hit Yelp! on the iPhone, type in Buford and give her a list of kid friendly places in the area, complete with menus (of course, my wife has her own iPhone, but since she's driving, I handle this job). While we wait for a table, the kids watch YouTube or play games on the iPhone to keep them occupied. That may not improve my productivity, but it certainly enhances my



sanity. After we eat, I whip out the Tip Calculator app. to make sure my estimation was correct. Before leaving the parking lot, I run the



Cheap Gas application and see who's got the cheapest gas close by. I stop at Kroger and use my Cardstar application which contains a picture of the barcode for my Kroger Plus card and I get my 10 cents a gallon discount. No longer do I have a keychain filled with every customer appreciation card I have gathered. They are all entered into the application and you can just hold the screen up to the scanner. I stop at the mega bookstore on the way home and check out a new book. Before purchasing, I hit my ShopSavy icon, scan the barcode and find that Amazon has it for eight dollars less. I figure I can wait two days to get started anyway. I might even just download it as an audiobook and listen to it in the car.

Bedtime, I have one last check of my email (because I am a control freak), then set the alarm and plug my iPhone in to sync with iTunes so that I will have the newest podcasts when I get up the next day. You may call me an iPhone addict, but for me, it makes my life as an attorney much easier. And that makes all the difference. Oh, did I mention that I dictated this entire article using the free Dragon Dictate application?

