

Top-Ten Must-Have iPad Apps for Lawyers



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While any "top-ten" list can be subjective, this list can be especially tricky since everyone is going to have their OWN top-ten favorite apps for the iPad. I've created this list based on the usefulness that each app has for lawyers and legal professionals that use an iPad.

In preparation for the presentation, please make sure your iPad is updated to the latest operating system which is currently iOS 7.0.4. You will be fine if you are still using iOS 6.0 or lower, but most of the presentation will focus on iOS 7.

If your iPad is already on iOS 5.0 or higher, you can update the iPad by going to the Settings app on your iPad, tap "General" on the left and select "Software Update" on the right.

If your iPad is running iOS 4.2, you will need to physically connect your iPad to a computer running iTunes in order to update the iOS on your iPad.

1) **GoodReader** (\$4.99) www.goodreader.net



GoodReader is best described as a universal "document viewer" although it arguably works best with the PDF file format. GoodReader provides excellent annotation tools for PDF files, including the ability to highlight text, insert text boxes, post "sticky notes" comments, compose freehand drawings, lines, arrows, rectangles, etc. These tools are extremely useful when you're reading a court opinion or law review article.

2) **PDF Expert** (\$9.99) www.readdle.com



Similar to GoodReader, PDF Expert will let you read and annotate PDF files. But PDF Expert offers a few additional features that are hard to find in other apps and that certainly appeal to legal professionals. PDF Expert supports PDF forms and allows you to fill-in PDF forms containing text fields, check boxes, radio buttons and other form elements. PDF Expert is also an excellent app for obtaining a graphical signature on a document.

3) **Documents To Go Premium** (\$16.99) www.dataviz.com



There are a handful of "office suites" for the iPad that basically take the place of Microsoft Office on your computer. One of the top choices for legal professionals is Documents To Go Premium which allows you to view and edit Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files. No word processing app is a full replacement for Microsoft Word on a computer (yet) but Documents To Go offers some of the best functionality that can be found on the iPad.

4) **Evernote** (FREE!) www.evernote.com



Evernote can be described as an "online-note-taking" service. There are apps available for every computing platform (Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, BlackBerry, etc.). A note created on one platform will be synchronized to all of your other computers/devices. Free account at www.evernote.com.

5) **Noteshelf** (\$4.99) www.fluidtouch.biz



Noteshelf offers the ability to write notes on the iPad similar to the way you would write notes on a traditional yellow legal pad. Noteshelf comes closest to providing the similar experience of handwriting notes on a piece of paper. You can use your finger to write notes on the iPad, but I would highly recommend that you invest in a stylus (such as the Wacom Bamboo Stylus) so that the writing experience is as similar as possible to writing with pen on paper.

6) **Atomic Web Browser** (99¢) www.atomicwebbrowser.com



The Mobile Safari web browser that comes pre-installed on the iPad is useful & functional. But there are times when you need to use another web browser on the iPad. The Atomic Web Browser boast a numerous set of features including the ability to "identify browser as..." another browser such as Internet Explorer or Firefox.

7) **LogMeIn** (FREE!) www.logmein.com



As much as the iPad can do, there will inevitably be a time when you need to work on your office computer, or you need to access a file that is only located on your home computer. Fortunately, there are several apps in the App Store that allow you to remotely control a computer via the iPad. One of the best is LogMeIn. Free account at www.logmein.com.

8) **LawStack** (FREE!) www.lawstack.com



LawStack provides a legal library right on your iPad that gives you immediate (no-Internet required) access to rules and regulations. LawStack comes with some free pre-loaded rules (e.g. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, etc.) and you can purchase more sets inside the app.

9) **Keynote for iOS** (\$9.99) www.apple.com



On the Mac, Keynote is Apple's equivalent to Microsoft PowerPoint. Apple has created the iPad equivalent of the presentation software called Keynote for iOS which does an incredible job of presenting both Keynote files as well as Microsoft PowerPoint files.

10) **TrialPad** (\$89.99) www.trialpad.com



Designed to be a trial presentation platform for the courtroom, TrialPad can be used in a myriad of scenarios when you need to show a document or picture and call attention to a specific sentence or paragraph. Like other trial presentation software on Windows computers, TrialPad allows you to easily "zoom in" or magnify on a section of text, and then you can draw a yellow highlight around other text.