

# UNIQUELY iOS —

## There's a [Legal] App for That

Kevin K. Ho

With more than 50 million Apple iPhones and 15 million iPads sold and more than 350,000 applications (apps) for these mobile devices available from the iTunes store, it's time to see what apps there are for lawyers.

While most law firms use PC-based desktop computing, out of the office many lawyers can be spotted using their iPhones and iPads. The iPhone and iPad have led to increased sales of Apple's Mac desktop computers and laptop models as well. The mobile devices have acted as gateways to Apple's desktop products. Take a look around area law schools and you're likely to see many a law student sitting behind a laptop that sports a glowing apple. The same holds true in cafés and tech startups.

Whether this will mean that law firms will start going Mac is unknown, but one example of how an iPhone/iPad mobile app exposed consumers to a world of desktop products is Nuance's Dragon Dictation software for iPhone and iPad.

The mobile version of the speech-recognition and dictation software, Dragon Dictation, is free. Using the app, users can dictate a few sentences at a time, and the app will use a Wi-Fi or data connection

to transmit a recorded sound file to Nuance's 2,000–3,000 computer processors for analysis, according to Nuance Product Manager David Popovitch. There, Nuance's proprietary engine will discern common sound patterns and assign what appears to be the closest match from its vast text database. The transcribed text is transmitted back to the mobile device within seconds. This text can then be edited, shared through social media, emailed, or used in other mobile apps.

Nuance has seen its desktop versions of dictation software rise recently as well thanks to the iPhone effect. "We have had a sharp increase in Dragon sales for Windows and Mac," said Nuance's Peter Mahoney, vice president of worldwide sales. "Mobile apps [are] driving awareness and showing people how well speech [recognition] works today."

And that exposure can yield a hefty premium: Nuance sells a specialized legal version of its software for \$599 that uses a specialized legal vocabulary database. The legal versions, available for both PC and Mac, can recognize and transcribe words such as *supra* and *habeas* and will create citations such as "43 Cal.4th 757" with surprising accuracy. Other versions allow for dictation in French and German or for dictation using medical terms. The consumer version starts at \$149.



Popovitch recognized that a move forward to dictation was also a harking back to the days when lawyers regularly dictated their work. “My father is an attorney and he would go off into a quiet room and dictate,” Popovich said. “And he still can’t type! But he’s tried the software and it is faster for him.”

“Before, you’d dictate and then you’d have to have your legal assistant transcribe it,” Popovitch continued. “Now, you can dictate briefs and hand it off to an assistant just to proofread and finalize. This makes that process faster.”

That theme of convenience and increasing productivity is the appeal behind the iPhone and iPad. Having real-time access to research, documents, and vital case information is an obvious draw, but also appealing is the ability to leave reams of paper at home, find where the nearest twenty-four-hour dry cleaner is located, and hail a taxi to bring you there—all without having to place a call. These devices mark a dramatic change in how lawyers can conduct their business.

What follows are selected apps that may make a lawyer’s life much easier.

## SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

### Black’s Law Dictionary, 9th Edition

By West, a Thomson Reuters business  
iPhone (\$54.99) and iPad (\$54.99)

The online version of this resource is hefty in price but weighs and costs less than its desktop version and is further enhanced because definitions have live links to other related terms and pronunciations, and the app is visually easy to follow.

### Wolfram|Alpha

By Wolfram|Alpha  
iPhone (\$1.99) and iPad (\$1.99)

Think of the Wolfram|Alpha app as your scientific graphing calculator, a periodic table, and the *World Almanac’s* great-grandchild. The app will ask for input and will interpret that input to provide vast amounts of historic and numerical data. It also has various analytical tools such as mathematical functionality and lists citations and additional resources when possible.

### Your Rights

By Cyrus Najmabadi  
iPhone and iPad (free)

For those who have forgotten criminal procedure from law school, this app offers very rudimentary and practical tips and civil rights information for everyday interactions with law enforcement in situations such as

traffic stops and airport security. In a nod to civil libertarians the app also contains copies of the Articles of Confederation and the Federalist Papers.

### The Book of Jargon

By Latham and Watkins  
iPhone and iPad (free)

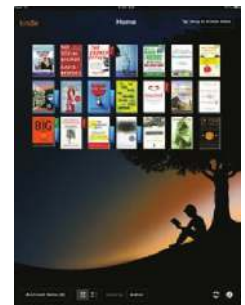
The world of finance, explained in somewhat clear English. Somewhat.

## BEING PRODUCTIVE

### Kindle for iPhone, Kindle for iPad

By Amazon.com  
iPhone and iPad (free)

Amazon’s e-book application is a visually rich alternative to its popular Kindle handheld devices. The app allows users to shop, sample, download, and read electronic versions of books. Users can customize display options like font size and background colors. Tapping a word gives access to an instant dictionary for that word. Users cannot copy or paste book pages, but users can highlight and notate text. Also interesting, users can see where others have highlighted a particular e-book.



## Dragon Dictation

By Nuance Communications  
iPhone and iPad (free)

This is the mobile version of Nuance's popular dictation software. The app allows users to dictate on the go to create text that can be sent by email and SMS text message, copied and pasted, or posted to social media. Performance is tied to Internet connection speed. Currently free, the app works better on the iPad as its microphone is larger.

## Flipboard

By Flipboard  
iPad (free)

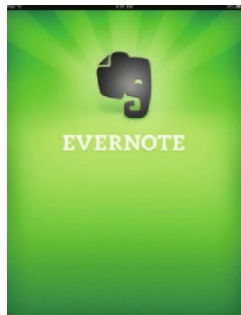
An elegant, dynamic, and visually pleasing way to read RSS newsfeeds from various website and media outlet sources. The app aggregates and paginates subscribed newsfeeds. Based on a swipe interface, the application displays text and pictures in a newspaper-style design that allows users to browse "headlines" and explore associated media or websites by simply tapping on the text displayed to go deeper. The app was so popular that when it was first released there was a waiting list.

## COMPUTING IN THE CLOUD

### Evernote

By Evernote  
iPhone, iPad, Web, PC, and Mac (free; larger data bandwidth is available by subscription)

Evernote takes advantage of cloud computing—shorthand for the process through which data is synchronized to remote servers—and enables its users to select and clip websites, pictures, and sound recordings into long-form "notes." This content resides online and can be searched and accessed by any one of a user's registered mobile



devices or computers. Users can also access their data on Evernote's website. The iPhone and iPad versions allow users to take snapshot pictures and record voice memos as well.

### PDF Reader Pro Edition

By iTech Development Systems  
iPhone (\$0.99) and iPad (\$9.99)

The full iPad version allows users to access and read email and create Adobe PDF files. PDF files can be created from photos, emails, and websites. Users can also transfer PDF files to their iPads through iTunes, USB cable, Wi-Fi, and email. The app also allows highlighting, rearranging, and notation.

### Dropbox

By Dropbox  
iPhone, iPad, Web, PC, and Mac (free)

Taking advantage of the cloud model, Dropbox is akin to having a hard drive that is both easy to use and is everywhere at once. This application allows real-time synchronized data access and storage across any number of computers, handheld devices, and iPads.



## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

### AroundMe

By Tweakernsoft  
iPhone (free)

Using the iPhone's compass and locations systems, this application allows its users to find services and businesses around them, such as restaurants, copy centers, and banks. Useful for quick business trips for its simple interface.

## Yelp

By Yelp

iPhone and iPad (free)

Like its web-based cousin, Yelp's mobile app allows users to search for businesses, filter by hours, and access user comments. The iPhone version, however, offers the Monocle "augmented reality" function that combines the iPhone's camera, compass, and gyroscope to use your iPhone as a sophisticated real-time and interactive compass that overlays Yelp's business information over your screen's display to show you which direction to go.



## Place Tags

By National Association of Realtors

iPhone (free)

For those of us based in the field or for matters that have geographically intense facts, this application—designed for realtors originally—allows you to take snapshots, enter notes, and geographically tag where those notes were taken.

## Cabulous

By UpStart Mobile Inc.

iPhone and iPad (free)

Real-time ability to spot a taxi on a map and call it or hail it.



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CREATIVELY USEFUL

## Penultimate

By Cocoa Box Design

iPad (\$1.99)

For the more visually attuned, this app gives its users a blank notepad and lets them draw on it with vari-

ous colored "markers." It can be augmented with a stylus. Ideal for sketches, the background options include graph paper and ruled paper. Notes can be emailed or shared through social media as well.

## Firefox Home

By Mozilla

iPhone (free)

This app is one of many competing products that synchronize your desktop bookmarks and login credentials across several different computers and mobile devices. Particularly useful for hard-to-remember URLs and various login credentials. Secured by login and pass-code protection.

## How to Tie a Tie

By ArtelPlus

iPhone and iPad (free)

Self-explanatory. How to Tie a Scarf is also available.

## Bump

By Bump Technologies

iPhone (free)

Allows users to exchange contact information with each other by "bumping" (that is, shaking their iPhones). This starts a synchronization routine that allows users to exchange selected profile information with each other. Replaces the business card.

*Kevin K. Ho, of counsel attorney at the Law Offices of John T. Hendricks, specializes in counseling businesses in best practices, corporate planning, and litigation matters. He is also a broker agent specializing in using new and social media (along with the apps discussed above). Follow him on Twitter @KevinHo.*