

Using New Technologies *

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Abstract

Technology has changed at lightning speed the way law is practiced, and new technology will continue to make major impacts on both attorneys and the courts in the near. Despite this, law is one of the last professions to adopt technology in its operations, and it is estimated that law firms adopt technological advancements at least three times faster than the judiciary.

This paper catalogues many technologies that have been tested and proven to have very significant cost and time saving potential. The first major category covers technologies and reforms that aid the judiciary, such as case management systems, electronic documents and data interchange systems. These advances offer many opportunities to improve the speed and economy of courts by making case and document management more efficient. The second category covers technologies that can be implemented in the litigation process, such as video conferencing electronic delivery of pleadings and other documents and advanced data processing of trial materials. These advances may allow attorneys to work more efficiently and track elements of their cases more effectively.

* This paper is one in a series of six papers in this volume on issues relating to reducing litigation costs. The other papers are: *What are the Costs of Litigation?*, *Discovery Reform*, *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, and *Appeals*.