Cutting-Edge Technology for the Domestic Lawyer

with Jim Calloway

Director, Oklahoma Bar Association

Management Assistance Program



Your program materials

- Will be annotated by today's discussion, suggestions and ideas from you
- Will be posted to Jim Calloway's Law Practice Tips blog
- Go to http://jimcalloway.typepad.com/



What software tools will family lawyers be using in the not-too-distant future?

- Tools for research
- Tools for information sharing and marketing
- Tools for presentations

Cutting Edge Technology

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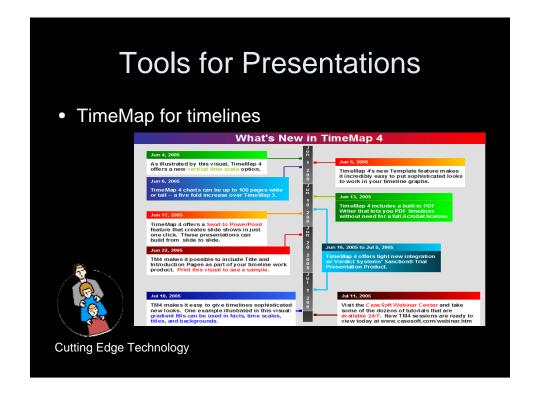
- Tools for discovery
- Tools for financial analysis
- Tools for evidence analysis

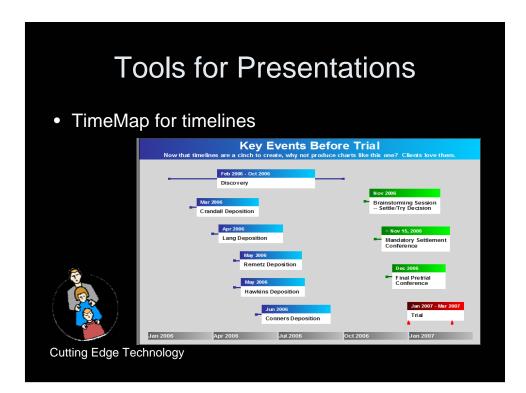


Tools for Presentations

- PowerPoint software
- Digital projectors
- Portable Screens
- There is really no easier software package to learn than PowerPoint. Local classes are available all across Oklahoma.







Remote access

- Family law clients will call you at home, at night on weekends
- You need to be able to respond and bill for this time.
- Can use remote access software like GotoMy PC or perhaps consider a laptop loaded with the data from your practice management software.

Cutting Edge Technology

Remote access

- Consider a smart phone
- PDA phone combination
- Jim has a Treo 650



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Blogs

- What are blogs?
- Why should family lawyers care?
- Research vs Marketing
- Jim's article on blogs online at http://tinyurl.com/by7v7



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A Collection of Family Law Blogs

- Arizona Family Law blog http://www.azfamilylawblog.com/
- Chicago Family Law blog http://www.chicagofamilylawblog.com/
- Domestic Diversions (Michigan) http://www.domesticdiversions.com/
- Family Law Prof Blog http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/family_law/
- Florida Divorce Blog http://www.fladivorcelawblog.com/
- Georgia Family Law blog http://www.skfamilylaw.com/blog/
- Iowa Family Law Blog http://www.iadivorce.com/
- Kansas Family Law and Divorce Blog http://gdgrifflaw.typepad.com/
- · Knight on Family Law (Tennessee) http://knightonfamilylaw.com/
- Lee's DivorceInfo Blog (Alabama) http://www.divorceinfo.com/blog/
- Maine Divorce Law Blog http://www.mainedivorcelawblog.com

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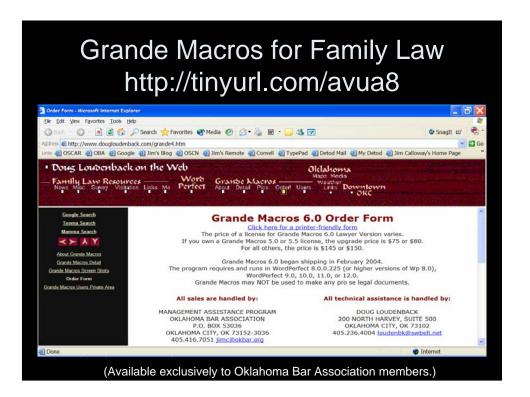
This Week the Oklahoma Supreme Court Announces its RSS Newsfeeds Do you have a Newsreader?

- Web-based Bloglines.com, My Yahoo, Rocket RSS Reader
- Browser plug in FireFox includes RSS Reader, Onfolio
- Applications- AmphetaDesk, NewsGator

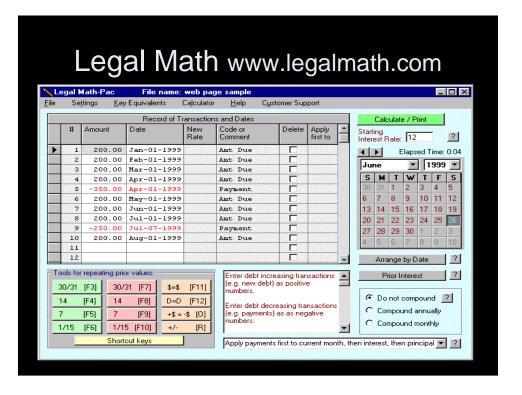
Desktop search tools

- Desktop search is a powerful technology
- Some sample products include X-1, Copernic, Google Desktop Search
- See "A Desktop Search Primer" in September 5, 2005 Oklahoma Bar Journal (also online at http://tinyurl.com/do3a7)

Cutting Edge Technology







Other Financial Software

At ABA TECHSHOW 2005 I learned of

FinPlan which apparently is the best known and most prominent financial program in the Midwest. It was recently acquired by West Group. The user selects the assumed interest rates, and can even put in items of expense that are allowed deductions for income tax purposes, but may be not allowed for the computation of child support. Child support calculations are provided for 13 states.

Although there is no arrearage calculator, I am told one is expected to be added soon.

Other Financial Software

At ABA TECHSHOW, I also learned of

Family Law Software, Inc. provides similar financial analyses tools. It is said to have a user friendly interface, but to be less flexible than Finplan. (I have tested neither product.) There is also a single user version for a smaller charge that lawyers can give to their clients to have them complete and return. It also has scenario features that allow the user to perform substantial "what if" analyses. The professional version includes an arrearage calculator.

Practice Management Software

- Several products are available depending on firm size and budget.
- Every firm needs this no matter what size.
- Many different products with different features.



Cutting Edge Technology

E-Discovery Issues

- They family lawyer cannot ignore electronic records, but ones should know what to ask for and how to ask
- Some courts have been finding some e-discovery requests overly-broad and burdensome
 - NY Opinion e-discovery costs approtioned between the parties <u>Zubulake v. UBS Warburg, et al.</u>, No. 02 Civ. 1243 (S.D.N.Y. July 24, 2003)
 - Ninth Circuit Ct App. 1/11/04 A party who serves overly-broad subpoenas on an Internet Service Provider may violate both the Stored Communications Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse

Act. Theofel v. Farey-Jones, 341 F.3d 978 (9th Cir. 2003)



