

A Directory of the Best iPhone Apps for Lawyers

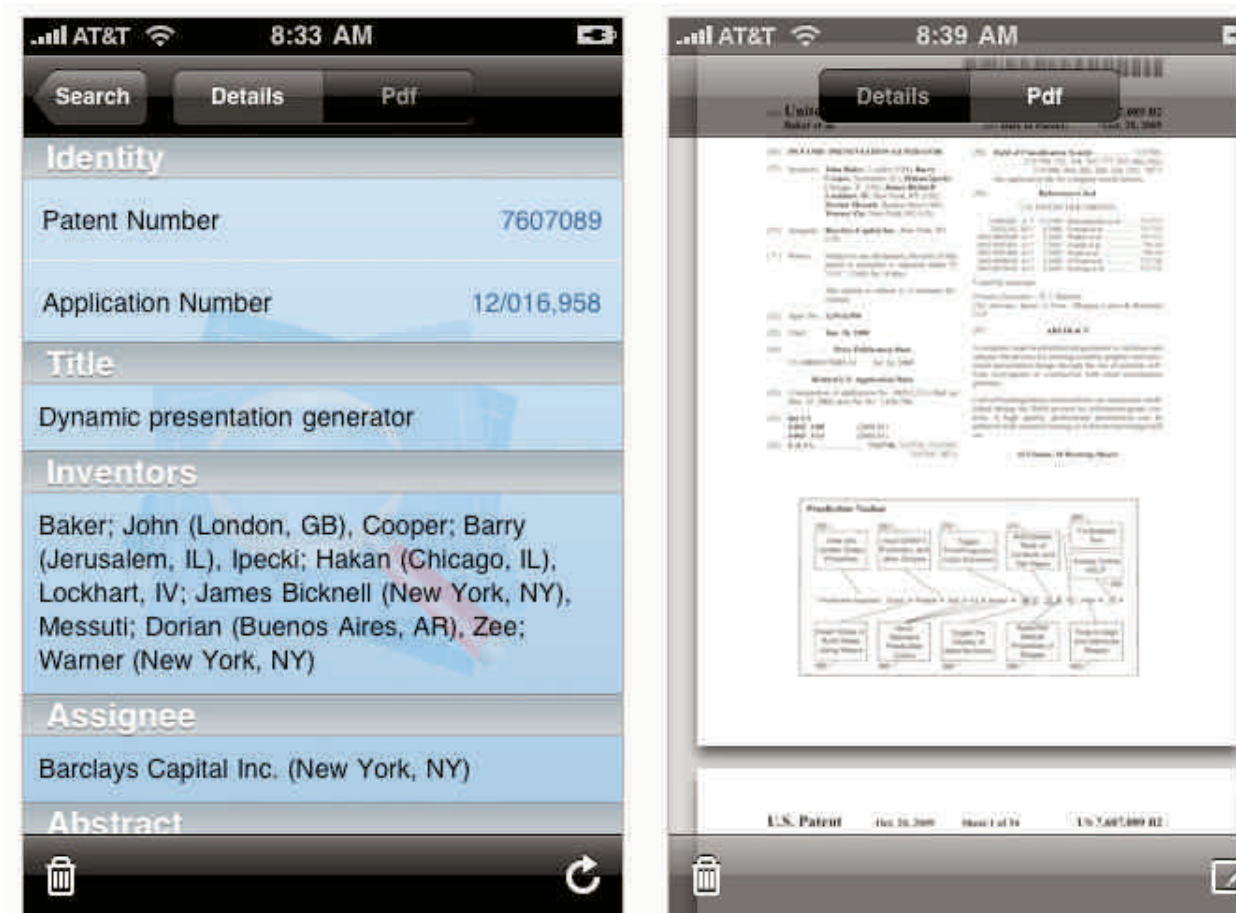
By Jeremy T. Brown

Although the iPad is the current media darling, the iPhone will, according to some estimates, eclipse 100 million users by the end of 2011—which is more than double the projected amount of iPad users. This continued growth is due increasingly to the adoption by professionals, including lawyers, who know or soon realize that the iPhone can be used as an effective business tool with the right apps. But that is often the problem—finding the right and best apps among the thousands offered in the iTunes App Store. Therefore, I've attempted to eliminate some of this legwork by creating a short directory of useful apps for attorneys, especially IP attorneys, which I have grouped into three categories below—intellectual property, legal reference, and productivity tools.

Intellectual Property

If one was asked to identify a group of attorneys who are most likely to be “early adopters” or most technologically savvy, IP attorneys would probably be at the top of the list. It's no surprise then, that unlike other legal practice areas, several iPhone applications have been designed specifically for IP attorneys.

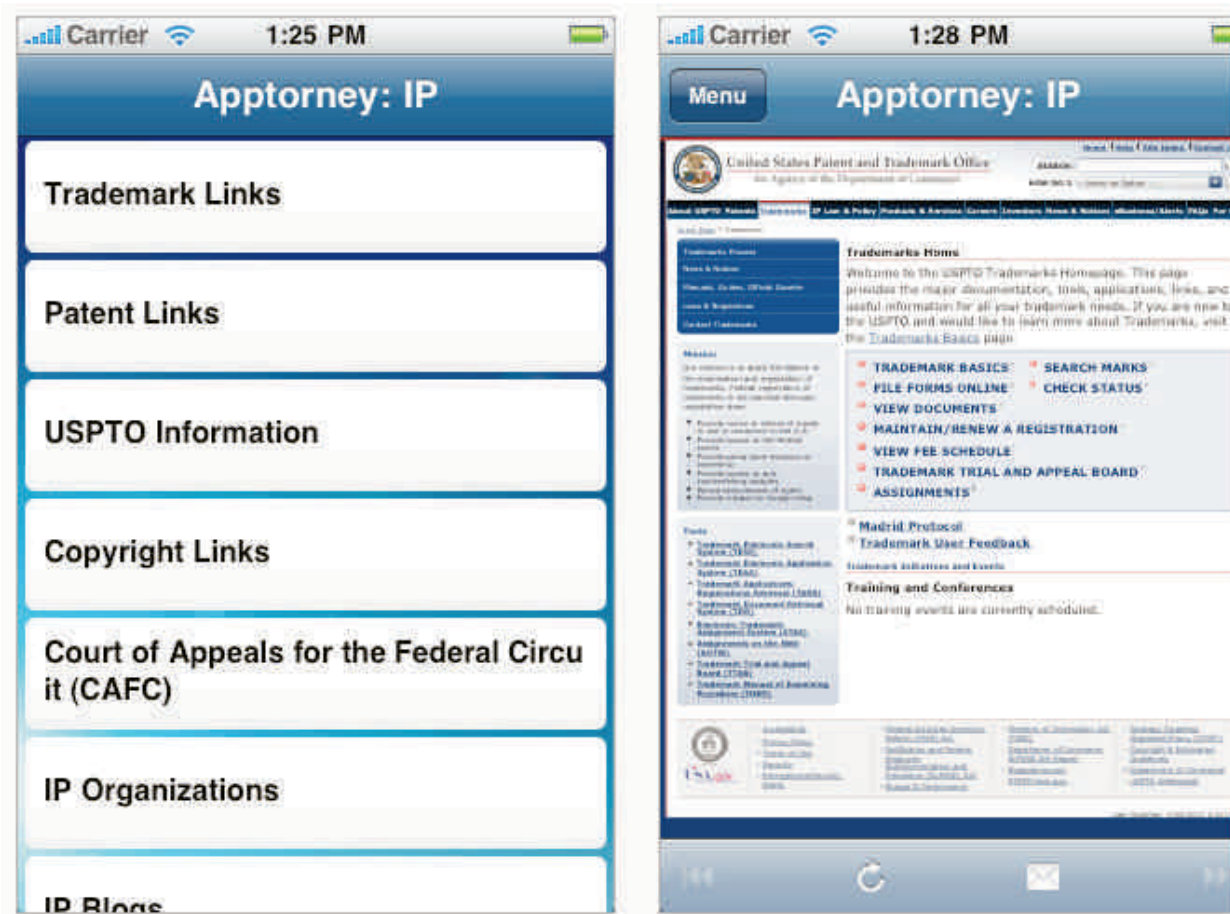
Patent Finder (\$4.99) allows you to search the USPTO for patents and patent applications and then view those patents and applications directly on your iPhone.



Patent Rules (\$2.99) allows you to browse the Patent Local Rules for five federal jurisdictions. Jurisdictions that can be selected include the Eastern, Northern (Dallas Division), and Southern Districts of Texas; the Northern and Southern Districts of California; and other district courts in New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and others.

Patent Glossary (\$0.99) is just what it sounds like—a glossary of terms commonly used in the practice of patent law. You can search by letter or by keyword.

Apptorney:IP (free) compiles internet resources commonly used by IP professionals into one application. It has links to trademark, patent, and copyright resources, such as the USPTO, as well as IP organizations and blogs.



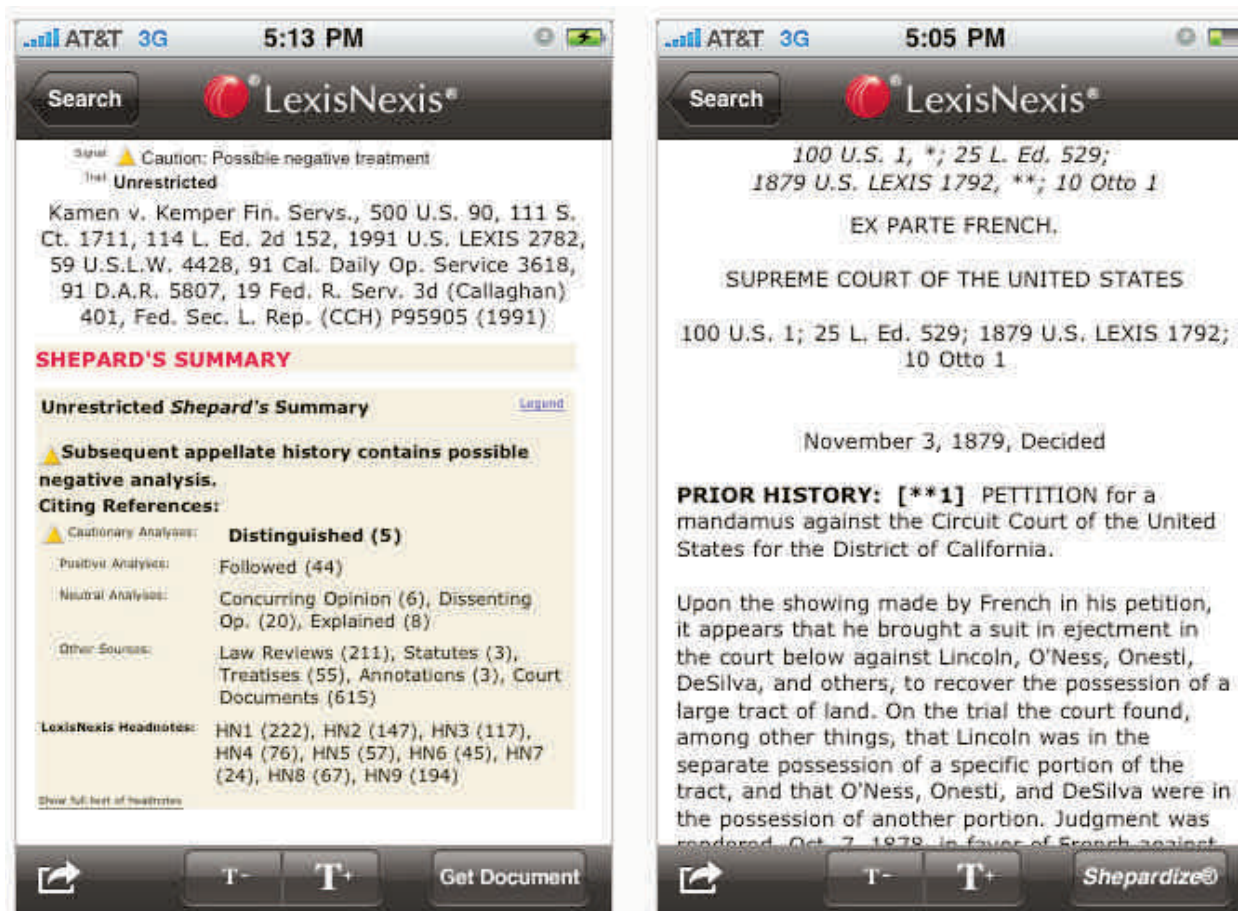
Intellectual Property (\$0.99) is a guide to the basics of patent, trademark, and copyright law and a search tool for patent and trademark filings. This might be a good app for attorneys that don't specialize in IP matters but need to be familiar with the most prominent concepts and terms.

Legal Reference

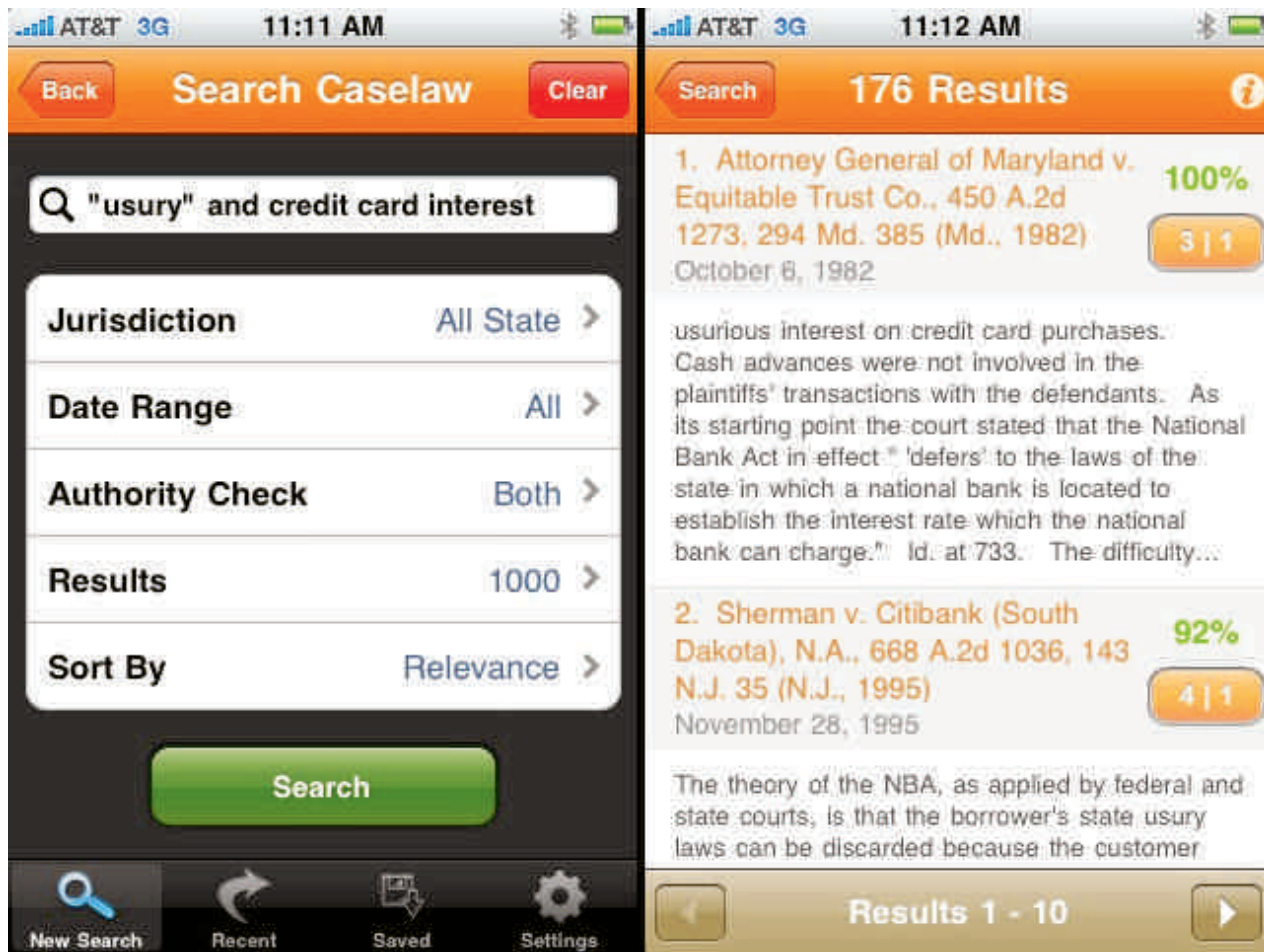
Ever been in court and found yourself without a copy of a particular case, rule, statute, or regulation? There's an app for that. Actually, there are many, many apps for that. Here are some of the best.

LawLibe and LawStack (free app, \$0.99-\$1.99 per code section) are similar apps that allow you to download searchable federal and state statutes. LawLibe and LawStack provide free searchable copies of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Federal rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, and the United States Constitution.

LexisNexis Get Cases & Shepardize[®] (free) allows you to retrieve cases and shepardize them all from your iPhone. This is an essential app for trial lawyers since we've all been confronted with the ambush filing that's handed to you five minutes before the hearing. With this app you can pull the case quickly and easily and be able to more fully respond to opposing counsel's authorities. This app does not allow term searching of cases but only retrieval by citation.



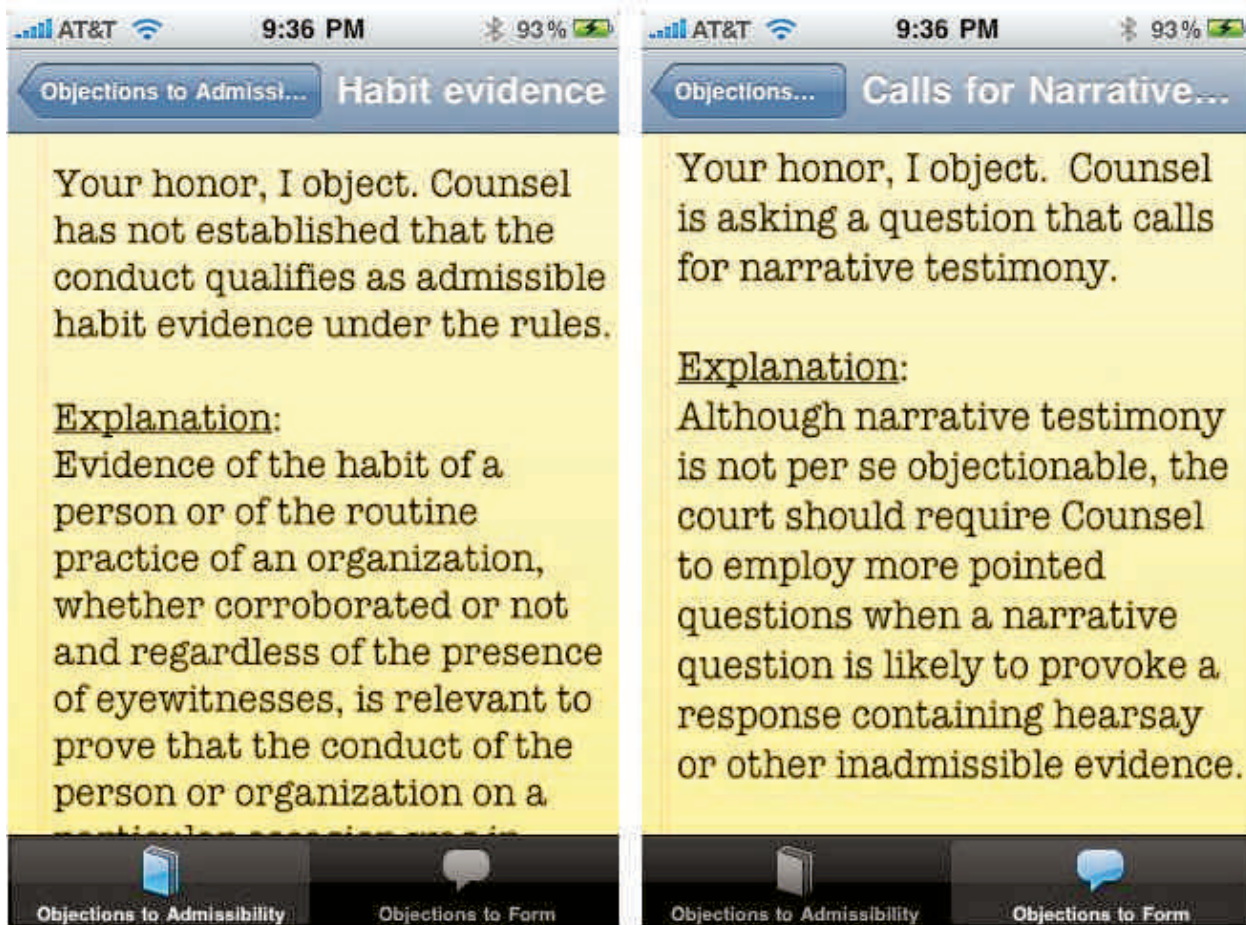
Fastcase (free) allows you to do the case searching that can't be done using LexisNexis Get Cases & Shepardize[®]. Fastcase contains cases and statutes from all 50 states and all federal jurisdictions. You can search by keyword (Boolean), natural language, and by citation. This is a must have for trial attorneys. You can also browse statutes with Fastcase so you may want to give this app a try before buying particular code sections for use with LawLibe or LawStack.



Black's Law Dictionary (\$54.99) is the leading law dictionary now on your iPhone. The app includes definitions to over 45,000 terms and provides audio pronunciations for over 7,000 of them.

Legal Terms Pro (\$2.99) is an easy-to-use legal dictionary without all the bells and whistles of Black's Law Dictionary but also without the price.

Courtroom Objections (\$2.99) is a guide to making and meeting objections in court, divided into two categories – objections to admissibility and objections to form. This guide is relatively basic, so much of the content will probably not be particularly helpful to seasoned trial lawyers. But it can be useful as a quick way to confirm that you have a proper objection or response to anticipated evidence. It can also help you more clearly articulate the explanation for your objection/response should that be necessary.

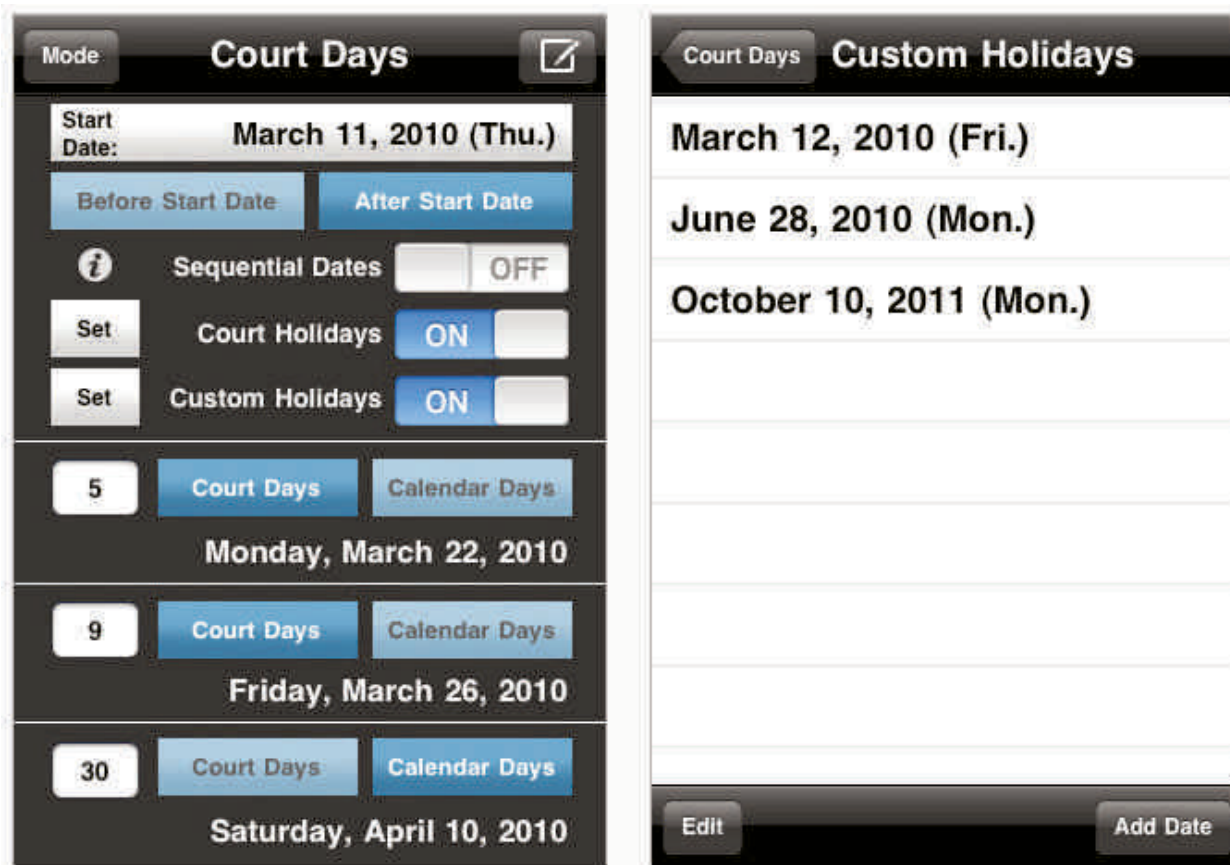


EvidPredicates (\$2.99) is a reference guide for courtroom evidentiary foundations. Like Courtroom Objections (from the same developer), this app provides basic information so its best used as a quick tool for confirming evidentiary foundation issues quickly and easily.

Legal News (\$1.99) searches the internet for legal news and compiles those stories in one location for your review.

Productivity Tools

Court Days – Date Calculator for Lawyers (\$0.99) allows you to quickly calculate the number of court days or calendar days before or after a given date. The app also contains the legal holidays from over 60 jurisdictions and allows you to set custom holidays.



scanR Business Center Scan Print and Fax (free) is a very useful app that allows you to scan documents by using the camera on your iPhone. The documents can then be emailed, fax, and searched.
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Quick Voice Recording (free) is a very good voice recorder for your app. Most attorneys have largely abandoned dictation but there are still some—shall we say “old school”—attorneys that actively use dictation in their practice. This app is for them. It allows you to dictate messages and instantly email the voice file to your support staff. But even those who don’t use dictation often will find this a useful application for creating quick voice memos and reminders for follow-up tasks.