

Events

SMALL LAW FIRM LUNCHEON Law Firm Operational Technology

March 16, 2006 12:30 - 2 pm

What Small Firm Practitioners Need to Know About Today's Technology

The Internet, email and wireless communications are revolutionizing the ways small and solo practices can do business, but it seems as if the technology choices are more confusing than ever. This panel's entrepreneurs, with years of experience in technology, will attempt to clear up the confusion by answering such questions as: How can a small or solo law practice effectively use technology? What should you be doing to ensure the security of your systems and data? How do you choose the right backup solution for your needs? What technology solutions are affordable for the solo and small firm?

Moderator:

Gerald T. Edwards, Esq.
Gerald Edwards & Associates, P.C.

Speakers:

Ian Jackson, Esq.
Inspired Professionals LLC

Lenny Shostak, President
L&D Computer Consulting Corp.

Registration by March 9th is necessary.

The fee, which includes lunch, is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. Please register online at www.nycbar.org.

Supported by LexisNexis.

SAVE THE DATE

April 6, 2006, 12:30 - 2pm

SMALL LAW FIRM LUNCHEON Business Plans For Law Firms

The Effective Use of Business Plans for Small Firms

New Benefit for Members - ABA Books at a 15% Discount

The Small Law Firm Center is pleased to announce that members of the New York City Bar Association are now able to purchase any book published by the American Bar Association at a 15% discount off the regular price. This special discount allows even ABA members to receive additional savings (ABA members only receive 10% off) when ordering through NYC Bar.

Please note, that to take advantage of this offer you must place your book order through the NYC Bar. Books will be shipped to you directly. The NYC Bar will invoice you for the cost of the book plus any applicable shipping & handling charges and/or sales tax.

We are currently in the process of updating the website to allow online book orders. In the meantime, anyone who wishes to order an ABA book may select a book by visiting www.ababooks.net and then send an email requesting the book to aroytberg@nycbar.org.

The Value of Pro Bono Service to a Solo Practitioner

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mohandas Gandhi

When I started my solo practice after five years of work in commercial and personal injury litigation, one of the greater challenges was how to help clients with questions involving other areas of law. Since my natural "niche" was the Russian speaking community, questions of immigration and political asylum applications frequently arose. My personal knowledge database on the subject was limited to one basic Immigration course and a seminar on International Human Rights at Fordham Law School years earlier.

My clients' questions and concerns were often quite compelling: "What do I do if I failed an interview for political asylum? Will I be deported? I gave \$2,000 to an office in Brooklyn and they filled out forms with a concocted story that the INS examiner did not believe... But I have the real reason about why I am afraid of persecution..."

Although I did not intend to practice in the area of immigration law, I certainly knew that I needed to learn more about it in order to assess the needs of my clients and to direct them toward a correct course of action. I did not have much money to spend on CLE classes, but I saw that the NYC bar offered training for its Refugee Assistance Project - a pro bono clinic run by its Justice Center. The training was free, but you had to commit to at least one case. I signed up. After completing the training, the quality of which I found to be superb, I received my assignment. It was a case of a middle aged Russian woman from Riga, Latvia who was afraid to return, due to the then prevalent discrimination against Russian nationals in the Baltic States. The woman came from a Russian military family every member of which has been threatened since Latvia's independence. The client had failed previous interviews due to a "fake story", written on her behalf by an "immigration mill" in Brooklyn. Her real story was much more

Forms and Information

CD-ROM Forms at the Library

Just click on the desktop icon "CD-Rom Titles for Members" at any library computer terminal and you can obtain current federal tax information and forms; federal practice treatises and formbooks such as Moore's and Bender's forms; American Jurisprudence legal forms; NY Codes, Rules and Regulations; West McKinney forms; New York Supplement 2d cases; real estate transaction information and many others. Access to this online information as well as the FREE lexis and Westlaw access will make researching a snap.

Your Comments Are Welcome

If you have any comments concerning the Small Law Firm Center facilities, the Small Law Firm Center portion of the New York City Bar Website, or suggestions on how the New York City Bar could better address the needs of Small Law Firm Practitioners, please send an email to the Small Law Firm Center Director, Alla Roytberg at aroytberg@nycbar.org.

Small Law Firm Center Facilities - A Unique Benefit to Members

The Small Law Firm Center facilities operate as a free benefit to members of the Association. They include a Conference Room in which attorneys can privately meet their clients and a separate Attorney Work Space equipped with computers, printers, copier and a fax machine. Lexis has sponsored the renovation of the Conference Room, which should be completed in early 2006. The Center is located on the third floor of the Association's House. While Attorney Work Space is available on a walk-in basis, members should contact the Library reference desk (212) 382-6666 to reserve the conference room. For questions about the Center, you may contact Ronald Mirvis at (212) 382-6748 or rmirvis@nycbar.org.

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compelling, but she was now faced with deportation proceedings. I handled the client's case for approximately 2 years, learned the ins and outs of Immigration Court and its procedure, and found the experience to be invaluable.

The pro bono legal project of the City Bar Justice Center provides an excellent opportunity for solo practitioners to gain valuable experience and earn CLE credits by helping those who desperately need but cannot afford to pay for legal representation.

The City Bar Justice Center addresses the needs of immigrant women and children who are subjects of domestic violence and refugees who have suffered persecution and seek political asylum in the United States. It helps financially struggling New Yorkers with bankruptcy filings and aids the low-income elderly with preparation of wills, living wills and health care proxies. It provides free legal assistance to the homeless and free consultations to low income pro se litigants in contested divorce cases.

In addition to gaining valuable training and experience through the New York City Bar's pro bono opportunities, attorneys may earn one CLE credit for every 300 minutes of eligible pro bono legal service (but not more than 6 pro bono CLE credits per two-year reporting cycle). For more details you may visit the appropriate section of the New York City Bar's website at <http://www.nycbar.org/CityBarFund/ProBonoVolunteer.htm>.

Besides the excellent training and experience associated with doing pro bono work at the New York City Bar, there is yet another precious component – the enormous sense of satisfaction one gets when helping another human being. The clients of pro bono cannot pay their bills. Some of them barely speak English and are unable to navigate the murky waters of our justice system.

I remained in touch with the Russian woman from Latvia for a few years after the end of her case. She referred a couple of clients and we periodically spoke about her family, life and plans for the future. Representing her was certainly one of the highlights of my legal experience.

CLE Programs of Interest

Estate Planning Primer: Everything You Need to Know About Estate Planning, but were Afraid (or didn't Think) to Ask, March 1, 2006 6-9 pm

So Little Time, So Much Paper: Organization & Time Management Techniques for Lawyers, March 7, 2006 9-4:30 pm

Basics of Mortgage Foreclosure & Beyond, March 16, 2006 6-8:15 pm

Everything you ever Wanted to Know about Uncontested Divorces - & Now can Ask, March 20, 2006 6-8 pm

Trademark Basics for Attorneys, March 21, 2006 6-9 pm

Hot Topics Affecting Cooperatives & Condominiums 2006, March 27, 2006 6-9 pm

For information on the Association's CLE programs visit www.nycbar.org.