

## BUSINESS &amp; CAREERS

# Smartphones a handy tool for lawyers

Have you ever met prospective business contacts while surfing (at the beach, not on the net)? Jared Jacobson has. "I put their information in my BlackBerry," says the Philadelphia, Penn.-based solo attorney.

James Baron, a Waltham, Mass.-based special education lawyer who has used BlackBerrys since 2000 and switched last



HI-TECH

**LUIGI  
BENETTON**

year to an iPhone, goes a step further. "I scan in business cards through my phone, perform optical character recognition and

add the contact to my phone contacts," he says.

Baron and Jacobson typify a growing group of lawyers who are increasing the amount of time they work on phones when away from the office as they reduce the time they spend using computers.

Little wonder. Today's phones enable people to do most of the

things they use computers for, via native or third-party applications or websites designed with smartphone screens in mind.

So what else can lawyers do using smartphones besides acquiring contact information? You might get a shorter list if you turn that question into a negative. Lawyers use smartphones to: research law, read documents,

edit documents, manage documents, attend meetings remotely, run background checks, read publications (like *The Lawyers Weekly*, of course), dictate memos and quickly send those memo recordings to transcribers.

In some places, law students use smartphone apps to prepare for their exams.

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Ontario

**JUDICIAL VACANCY  
ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE  
CORNWALL  
BILINGUAL POSITION**

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee advises the Attorney General of Ontario on the appointment of Judges to the Ontario Court of Justice, and invites applications for a bilingual judicial position in Cornwall.

This appointment, while primarily a criminal law position, may also involve presiding over family law matters and could also involve travel within or beyond the regional boundaries as assigned by the Regional Senior Justice and/or the Chief Justice.

The minimum requirement to apply to be a Judge in the Ontario Court of Justice is **ten years completed** membership at the Bar of one of the Provinces or Territories of Canada.

All candidates must apply either by submitting 14 copies of the **current** (Jan 2011) completed Judicial Candidate Information Form in the first instance or by a short letter (14 copies) if the current form has been submitted within the **previous 12 months**. **Should you wish to change any information in your application, you must send in 14 copies of a fully revised Judicial Candidate Information Form.**

If you wish to apply and need a current Judicial Candidate Information Form, or if you would like further information, please contact:

Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee  
Tel: (416) 326-4060. Fax: (416) 212-7316  
Website: [www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/en/](http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/en/)

All applications, either sent by courier, mail or hand delivery, **must** be sent to:

Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee  
c/o Ministry of Government Services Mail Delivery  
77 Wellesley Street West, Room M2B-88  
Macdonald Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N3

Applications must be on the current prescribed form and must be TYPEWRITTEN or COMPUTER GENERATED and RECEIVED BY 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2011. CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 14 COPIES OF THEIR APPLICATION FORM OR LETTER. A Fax copy will be accepted only if 14 copies of the application or letter are sent concurrently by overnight courier. Applications received after this date WILL NOT be considered.

The Judiciary of the Ontario Court of Justice should reasonably reflect the diversity of the population it serves. Applications from members of equality-seeking groups are encouraged.



Ontario

**POSTE À POURVOIR AU SEIN DE LA MAGISTRATURE  
COUR DE JUSTICE DE L'ONTARIO  
CORNWALL  
POSTE BILINGUE**

Le Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature conseille le Procureur général de l'Ontario sur les nominations de juges à la Cour de justice de l'Ontario et invite les personnes intéressées à présenter leur demande au poste de juge bilingue à Cornwall.

Bien que cette nomination porte essentiellement sur le droit criminel, elle peut aussi porter sur des instances de droit de la famille et pourrait exiger des déplacements à l'intérieur ou au-delà des limites régionales, selon les directives du juge principal régional et/ou du juge en chef.

Pour pouvoir poser sa candidature à un poste de juge à la Cour de justice de l'Ontario, il faut, comme condition minimale, avoir été membre du barreau de l'une des provinces ou de l'un des territoires du Canada **pendant au moins dix ans**.

Tous les candidats et candidates doivent poser leur candidature soit, dans le premier cas, en présentant le Formulaire de renseignements sur le candidat/la candidate à la magistrature **courant** (jan 2011), soit en envoyant une courte lettre (en 14 exemplaires) si le formulaire courant a été présenté au cours des **12 mois précédents**. **En cas de changements à apporter à un formulaire déjà envoyé, le candidat ou la candidate doit envoyer à nouveau 14 exemplaires du formulaire de renseignements corrigé.**

Si vous voulez poser votre candidature et que vous avez besoin d'un Formulaire de renseignements sur le candidat/la candidate à la magistrature courant, ou encore si vous souhaitez obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature  
Téléphone : (416) 326-4060 Télécopieur : (416) 212-7316  
Site Web : [www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/fr/](http://www.ontariocourts.on.ca/jaac/fr/)

Toutes les demandes envoyées par service de messagerie, par la poste ou en main propre **doivent** être soumises à l'adresse suivante :

Comité consultatif sur les nominations à la magistrature  
a/s Ministère des Services gouvernementaux - Services de distribution du courrier  
77, rue Wellesley Ouest, salle M2B-88  
Édifice Macdonald, Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1N3

Les demandes de candidature doivent être déposées par l'entremise du formulaire prescrit courant et DACTYLOGRAPHIÉES ou CRÉÉES PAR ORDINATEUR et **recues au plus tard à 16 h 30 le vendredi 11 mars 2011**. **LES CANDIDATS ET CANDIDATES DOIVENT FOURNIR 14 EXEMPLAIRES DE LEUR FORMULAIRE OU DE LEUR LETTRE DE CANDIDATURE**. Une télécopie ne sera acceptée que si 14 exemplaires du formulaire ou de la lettre de candidature sont également envoyés par service de messagerie de 24 heures. On n'accordera **AUCUNE** considération aux candidatures reçues après cette date.

La magistrature provinciale doit refléter raisonnablement la diversité de la population qu'elle sert. Nous encourageons les membres de groupes de promotion de l'égalité à présenter une demande.

**totallegaljobs.ca**

Canada's legal online job board.

## BUSINESS &amp; CAREERS

# Smartphones part of technology tool belt

## Phones

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This list isn't exhaustive, and excludes the ordinary email and personal information management apps (calendar, contacts, task list) smartphones have.

Given the lucrative and quickly evolving nature of the smartphone market, big-name technology corporations are competing for supremacy. Apple's iPhone may currently lead in mindshare, but Google's Android operating system is coming up fast. Windows Phone 7 is off to a promising start, and Hewlett-Packard is rumoured to be rejuvenating the WebOS of Palm, which it bought in 2010. And RIM's BlackBerry, the traditional favourite among lawyers, is stepping up its game.

All this competition benefits customers as well as accessory makers, who are accelerating the transformation of smartphones into mobile offices. For instance, since the BlackBerry runs Microsoft PowerPoint, RIM offers the BlackBerry Presenter to connect a BlackBerry to a projector, making a computer unnecessary.

In a throwback to the halcyon days of Palm PDAs, Bluetooth keyboards make typing on smartphones far easier than the typical two-thumb tap dance. Baron uses a keyboard to prop up his phone and type notes during meetings. "Without a large screen between me and clients, I think there's much less separating us," he says.

"When traveling overnight, I used to bring my laptop to get email and documents," Baron adds. "Now I no longer travel with my laptop."

The "double-holstered" Marlene Monteleone carries both a BlackBerry Bold and an Apple iPhone with her. "The BlackBerry is the workhorse for my office," says the New York-based senior partner with Bivona & Cohen, P.C. about its email and phone capabilities.

Monteleone loaded her iPhone with research and reference tools like WebMD, Wikipedia, Epocrates and other medical reference apps. "I like the ease of use of the iPhone interface," she explains.

While Baron has also downloaded research apps to his phone, he rarely uses them. "I rely on Google to get the stuff I need," he explains.

Monteleone figures leaving her computer at the office when she leaves for business meetings makes her more productive. "With a phone, you can immediately respond," she says of the instant-on performance. "By the time you start up a laptop, the moment to act may have passed."

Baron runs a paperless office. He scans his documents and backs them up to the Internet from where he can read them when away from the office.

Baron takes mobile scanning beyond business cards. He scans whole documents in courts and libraries using his phone. "Copies in court can sometimes cost as much as one dollar per page, so I avoid that if possible," he explains.

He also notes a security argument against laptops. "I've heard of attorneys having laptop bags stolen while in court," he claims, noting his iPhone always sits in his pocket.

Relying on a smartphone does have its drawbacks. In spite of the hundreds of thousands of mobile apps available for smartphones, some tools simply haven't gone mobile (yet). "We do not have mobile versions of our billing and case management tools," Monteleone notes.

Smartphone users rely on Internet

access to a greater degree than laptop users. "It isn't common, but certain buildings block access for me, and I can't get to my documents," Baron admits.

His backup? Printouts, which he stuffs into his case in the spot he used to reserve for his laptop.

The fact that smartphones enable a certain type of work doesn't mean people use them to do that work. For instance, Monteleone doesn't view email attachments on her BlackBerry since it's a "cumbersome" process, one she considers a major weakness. "When you're dealing with a time-sensitive issue, you don't want to waste time," she says.

And, as lawyers know, smartphones can become tethers. Jacobson wants to take a week's vacation with his family, and he's wondering what to do about incoming list emails. "I want to block them, not read them while I'm away," he says.

"CrackBerrys can be habit-forming," Monteleone admits. "You think you're missing something if you don't look at it every 30 seconds."

Every smartphone's small size comes at a price: cramped keyboards and tiny screens that can put off anybody used to working on "full-sized" computers. "I wouldn't work on a long document, like a brief, or commercial lease, or operating agreement among investors," Jacobson says.

That's a common refrain. For all the power, apps and overall ability of today's smartphones, the small screens and keyboards on pocket-sized devices continue to limit their overall usefulness.

Maybe tablet devices will help lawyers keep their load light. Tablets rival or better smartphones in just about every department other than size. And if the Apple iPad is any indication, tablets may cannibalize sales of low- and mid-market laptop computers and incent more lawyers to leave their laptops at the office. ■

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Ecojustice is seeking a lawyer for our Vancouver office. Applicants must be committed to public interest environmental law, have litigation experience and an interest in litigating to protect the environment, have excellent communication, research and writing skills, and have knowledge of relevant law and policy. Applicants must also have the capacity to thrive in a non-profit environment where legal responsibilities will be supplemented by communications and fundraising roles.

Ecojustice is dedicated to using the law to protect and restore Canada's environment. Since its inception in 1990, Ecojustice has become an integral part of the environmental protection movement, providing free legal expertise to help Canadians achieve significant gains. Ecojustice is a growing organization that currently has offices in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa and Alberta.

Please submit a letter of intent and resume in confidence by February 28, 2011 to Carol McDonald [cmcdonald@ecojustice.ca](mailto:cmcdonald@ecojustice.ca)

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## Announcements

### THE CLAUDE AND ELAINE PENZA LECTURE IN HUMAN RIGHTS



#### Chief Phil Fontaine

*"Legacy and Future:  
First Nations, Human Rights and  
Canada's Responsibilities"*

Thursday, March 3, 2011  
at 7:30 p.m.

Rm. 38 Faculty of Law

The University of Western Ontario

Reception to follow. All are welcome to attend.

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In any case.

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