

You Can Never Go Back



A few weeks ago, I bought a new cell phone. There wasn't anything *wrong* with my previous phone – it made calls just fine, and when I bought *that* phone I became a text-messaging maniac thanks to its nifty keyboard – but after a while I realized that what I liked most about that phone was its name: the Samsung Rant. Best name for a phone ever, if you ask me, but clearly not a sufficient reason to keep it.

So, I upgraded to the phone you see here: a Samsung Moment. Sure, the phone's name isn't nearly as cool (Moment? Really? Who came up with that?), and I occasionally experience service issues (the phone sometimes randomly thinks I'm on an airplane when I'm not and drops the signal), but I still like it a lot more than the Rant. I can now make witty Facebook posts and check the score of the latest Chicago Cubs loss quickly and easily.

But you know what I love most? I now get my work e-mail messages on my phone! While there are drawbacks to this – my ALA colleagues now know I'll always receive their e-mails, even while I'm sitting in the bleachers at Wrigley Field, booing Alfonso Soriano and trying to *not* be working – it's still great to be able to handle "work stuff" on the go. If someone has an urgent matter while I'm out of the office, I can still review it, reply, etc. Now, after only a few weeks using the magical Moment, I find myself asking, "*How did I ever survive without this?*"

There's always a little trepidation when it comes to adopting and utilizing a new gadget or technological tool, but I've found that feeling typically goes away as soon as you realize all of the benefits you're getting from it. And once you figure that out, you can never go back. I still have that Rant, but I'll never use it again because it's simply not as useful as the unfortunately named Moment.

Technology keeps changing (and fast), and keeping pace is a challenge we'll continue to face in our personal and professional lives. So, we may as well deal with it. Understand that technology simultaneously makes our lives easier *and* more complicated, but that dichotomy shouldn't prompt us to hide out, ignore it and hope it goes away. We must step up and embrace the challenges that technological advances present.

In this special issue of *Legal Management* devoted exclusively to technology, we have a plethora of articles about tech topics that legal professionals need to be addressing now: from e-discovery and records retrieval to how law firms can best adopt and utilize Microsoft Office 2010 and Windows 7. We even have an article on smartphones like my Moment, and how firms need to have related policies in place that minimize the potential for security breaches, but also enable lawyers to work remotely. And don't miss Paul Burton's "Final Thoughts" article on the back page. As happy as I am to be able to access ALA e-mail on my phone, I learned a few things from Paul's take on e-mail and how we need to take control of it, instead of allowing *it* to control *us*.

Enjoy this issue, and I welcome your feedback. If you e-mail me, rest assured I'll get the message!



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