

Tech Trip

Look at How Far We've Come!

In the process of editing the technology-related articles for the special section in this issue of *Legal Management*, we quickly realized how much of our everyday work is reliant upon technological tools. Where would we be without our trusty office PCs and all of the software on them? And what would we do without Internet access and e-mail? (Our guess: Not much.)

In today's hectic workplaces, we utilize computers so much that it's hard to believe we once asked ourselves if we even needed computers at all.

In the Spring 1982 edition of *Legal Administrator* – which changed to its current name, *Legal Management*, in 1989 – writer Maurice Patrick Sullivan asked: "Are You Ready for a Computer?" The article, Sullivan wrote, was "intended to show how to determine whether a computer is justified for a law firm." After a lengthy analysis, he concluded (quite smartly, we think) that the issue was not "whether" to get a computer, but "when" and "how."

Later in the same issue, writer Deborah A. Shore tackled the tough issue of "word processing" and its pros and cons.

"As the Electronic Age explodes in the eighties, we can predict the day when this revolutionary technology will dominate every facet of our life style," Shore wrote. "For lawyers, however, electronic typewriters (a/k/a word processors), still remain the catalyst to the technological evolution in the office."

Astonishingly, these bold proclamations were made less than 25 years ago! Imagine, then, what we might be saying in 2030 about the many technologies we use today. ✱

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