# Basic Training & Beyond Day-Two

**Client Relations** 

Marketing

Productivity & Technology

# Who is your <u>ideal client</u>?

Why good client choice is vital

What are the characteristics of your ideal client?

Where are they & how do you talk to them?

We are licensed to solve the problems of others for a fee

#### LAW IS A RELATIONSHIP BUSINESS

#### The business decision you make:

Taking anyone & everyone who walks in the door

or

Being selective and discerning

## Client Vetting

 Advance fee (when is the need for your problem-solving ability at its peak?)

The interview process & using a <u>questionnaire</u>

Social media & public data bases

Credit report: <u>Experian's service for lawyers</u>

# When you need to close

Are you talking to the decision maker?

Can you solve this problem?

Are there contingencies?

Ask for the work.

# Now that you have said "Yes"

Start work in their presence

Make sure they "see" you solving their problem

 Create a system of informing & educating that is personalized to each client

# The challenging client

Allow for sufficient time & attention

 Document the effort; (This becomes part of the client file: LEO 333)

If you need to withdraw: Rule 1.16(b)

# Real listening

How it works

Why it works

The problem we are solving has an emotional component

# Client expectations

What are they?

How do we address them?

A big factor in satisfied clients who will refer new clients

## **Setting Boundaries**

• It starts at intake & is reflected in the fee agreement

Some client have to be trained & reminded

Boundaries keep us professional

The lawyer who takes no unscheduled calls

# A small client can refer a big client

Every client should feel like your most important client

Informing & educating is essential

Contact the client before the client contacts you

#### The New Client Checklist

- Am I competent & efficient?
- Is this an ideal client?
- Is this work in my Plan?
- Will the fee be reasonable now, during & at the end of the representation?
- Are expectations addressed?
- Can I finish the work?
- Will I need help?

# Opportunities to make a good impression

- The appearance of the client file
- The office experience for the client
- The client's interaction with you
- Meeting them quickly using Zoom

# Clients to avoid

The liar

Exquisitely angry client

Serial litigant who is pro se or has fired counsel

The unrealistic person

The person who ignores boundaries & directions

The person who does not value your effort

The person with the *unsolvable* problem

#### You are on thin ice when . . .

- You are working outside your expertise
- You are too busy or afraid to communicate
- Your office is chaos and client data is exposed
- Your invoices are inaccurate
- You have big receivables & sue to collect fees
- You take on new work just to cover overhead
- You represent friends & family for free

# Evaluate your client's experience

Request our *Client Satisfaction Survey Form*From <a href="mailto:PMAS@dcbar.org">PMAS@dcbar.org</a>

Use <u>SurveyMonkey.com</u>

More information on *Client Relations* is at Page 77, e-Manual

## How to avoid a problem using a survey

When staff have significant client contact, survey the client both during and at the conclusion of the representation.

Encourage feedback about how the client is being handled.

Make sure the survey results come to you.

#### Here's what to ask

What should we keep doing?

What should we stop doing?

What did we not do that we should do?

# Marketing

Applicable Rules:

<u>7.1</u>

<u>7.5</u>

# Codes, regulations & other jurisdictions can also apply.

# Example:

Bergman v District of Columbia

DC Court of Appeals 08-CV-859

Marketing is anything we do that changes the culture for the better.

- Seth Godin



The first step . . .

Start from what is real & true.

l act on the basis of my self-image.

Is your <u>inner-critic</u> negative or positive?

# Lawyers and imposter syndrome

Niki Irish on Imposter Syndrome

Own who you are.

Own where you are.

# Move from "I have to market,"

To
"I get to market."

# Our choice . . .

-to talk about us
 or
 -to talk about the problem we
 solve

# You cannot impact a feeling with a fact.

You can only impact a feeling with another feeling.

Experiences that involve little emotional intensity seem to do little to arouse focal attention and have a higher likelihood of being registered as "unimportant" and therefore of not being easily recalled later on. Events experienced with a moderate to high degree of emotional intensity seem to get labeled as "important" (probably by anatomic structures in the limbic region and closely aligned areas, such as the amygdala and orbitofrontal cortex, which are discussed in more detail later in the book) and are more easily remembered in the future.

The Developing Mind, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Dr. Daniel J. Siegel

# Which message is more effective?

#### Juvenile Defense

Experienced former prosecutor who now focuses on the problems of juvenile defendants.

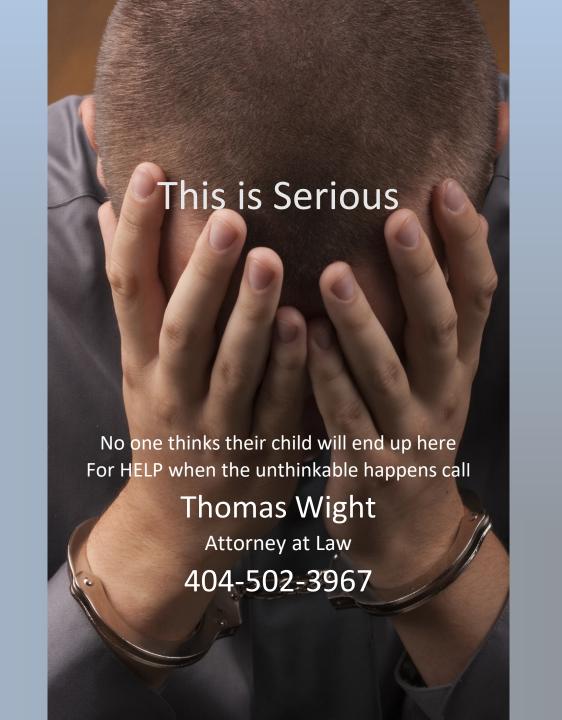
Thomas Wight, Esq.

Lawyer

136 Pryor Street SW

Atlanta, GA 30303

www.juveniledefense.xxx



# Imagine your client's earliest thoughts about the problem . . .

If you had the chance to provide information at that moment . . . What would you say?

# The problem the client lives with is often deeper and wider than the part you will solve.

# How can you inform and educate your ideal client

at each stage of their

problem recognition process?

## The information you would provide

is content for marketing messages.

Inform . . .

Be careful not to give legal advice when marketing.

The Miranda marketing example . . .

You have the right to remain silent.

VS.

Never talk to the police.

## The ideal client's problem recognition process

- I think I've got a problem . . .
- Maybe it will go away . . .
- Can I solve it myself . . .
- Do I need a lawyer . . .
- Who is the right lawyer for me . . .

# The old Yellow Pages ads are aimed at the last stage of the problem recognition process:

Who is the right lawyer for me?

Legal Zoom is aimed at the early stages

# What do process focused websites do?

# Some examples of process focused sites:

DiPietro Law Group

VirginiaDivorceAttorney.com

Rosen.com

JerseyEstatePlanning.com

http://www.bobbattlelaw.com

http://www.oginski-law.com

http://www.paestateplanners.com

# Marketing focused on "me"

Tax, Business Law, Business
Formation and Finance,
Computer/High Tech/Biotech Law,
Intellectual Property, Trusts, Estates,
Wills, Probate, Estate Planning, Real
Estate, Civil Litigation, Mediation.

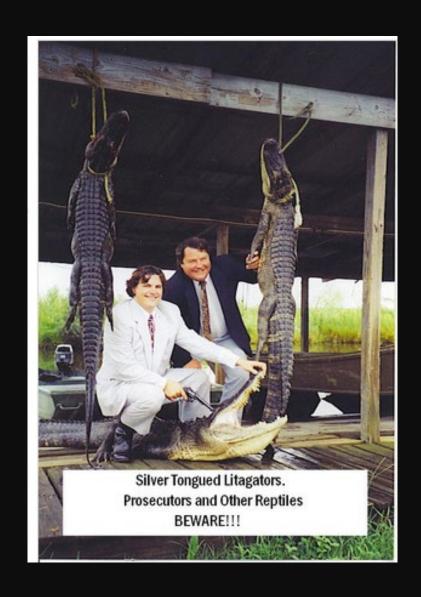
Attorney and accountant, Notary Public. Former IRS attorney and former tax/business transactions attorney for a major corporation (Freddie Mac®). Education: University of Maryland (B.A., 1977); St. John's University School of Law (J.D., 1980); Georgetown University (M.S. Accounting, 1981); New York University School of Law (LL.M., 1987). Practice serves individuals, business, trusts, estates, partnerships, nonprofit organizations, etc. in regional, national, and international legal matters. Licensed to practice law in Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, and New York. Admitted to U.S. District Court-District of Maryland, U.S. District Court-Northern District of New York, U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Court of Appeals-Fourth Circuit, and U.S. Supreme

Computer law, high tech law, biotech law, software/product development agreements, consulting services agreements, software/product licensing agreements, software/product maintenance agreements, domestic and international software/product distribution agreements, e-commerce and web development agreements, joint ventures, teaming agreements, subcontracts, confidentiality agreements, litigation, etc.

Intellectual property (trademarks, service marks, and copyrights), applications, protection issues, infringement issues, domain name and web content protection, online brand protection issues and resolution strategies, domain name recovery and acquisition processes, unfair competition, trade secrets, trade dress claims, litigation, etc. Identifying and inventorying intellectual property assets, buying and selling intellectual property assets, etc.

Trusts, estates, wills, probate, estate planning and administration, general and special powers of attorney, health care power of attorney and advance medical directives/living wills, revocable living trusts, incurance trusts, charitable trusts, special people.

### An example of "it's all about me" lawyer marketing . . .



### Marketing focused on the lawyer

https://www.texaslawhawk.com/

The Texas Law Hawk takes on covid

### Marketing focused on the problem you solve

What not to do if you are involved in a federal criminal investigation

What to do if you are under investigation

<u>DiPietro Law Group videos</u>

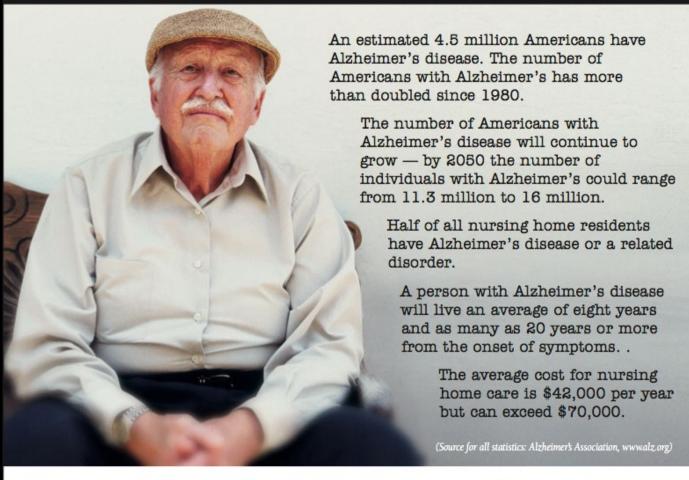
You are an estate planner or elder lawyer and you know your ideal client has a process.

How do you talk to them

while they are working their way through

their process?

#### "Dad Couldn't Remember How To Get Home."



The answers to the legal and financial challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease can only be answered on an individual basis by an attorney whose practice is concentrated on elder law, Medicaid planning, and estate planning.

The Elder Law Firm of Marshall & Associates is known throughout Pennsylvania for the expert help they provide seniors who are faced with long-term care needs.

#### Take The First Step

Call today to reserve a place at one of our free seminars for seniors, their families, elder care professionals, and caregivers. Each presentation lasts about 90 minutes, including a "Question & Answer" session.

### Elder Law Firm of Marshall Associates

Jersey Shore Office

303 Allegheny Street, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-1405 (570) 398-7603 (800) 401-4552

Williamsport Office

49 E. Fourth Street, Suite 200, Williamsport, PA 17701-6355 (570) 321-9008

Wilkes-Barre Office

Cross Creek Pointe, Suite 402, 1065 Hwy. 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 (570) 822-6919

Reason To Make An Estate Plan #10

Your son-in-law, Fred

- Hasn't had a job since 1999
- Belongs to a religion that you consider a cult
- Sells t-shirts at concerts by a band called "Phish"
- You suspect he is fond of chemical substances
- Thinks it's great that he has rich in-laws

Is he going to get half of what you leave to your daughter?

#### Do not miss this FREE seminar! Two days only. Seating is limited.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006 10:00am-11:30am

The Lodge at Rancho Mirage 68-900 Frank Sinatra Drive Rancho Mirage Thursday, February 16, 2006 6:30pm-8:00pm

The Lodge at Rancho Mirage 68-900 Frank Sinatra Drive Rancho Mirage

#### **Refreshments Served**

Reserve your space today. Call: 760-776-9977





74-916 HIGHWAY III INDIAN WELLS, CA 92210 PHONE 760-776-9977 FAX 760-406-5053 WWW.LEELAWYERS.COM

# Who is **Zamani & Associates** talking to in this video?

### Who is O'Neil Wysocki talking to here?



### SmartMarketingNow.com

### What are the questions

in your ideal client's mind?

# What is the intent reflected in this video?

BenGlassLaw

# Elements of a good, long term marketing system . . .

Prepare information about the five to ten questions you get from every new client.

Prepare a 15 to 30 minute talk to a room full of your potential ideal clients informing & educating them about the problems you solve.

### Use this same content for:

An email marketing campaign A blog post A lead generator featured on your website Your brochure Social media

Create a database of contacts in Outlook, in a spreadsheet, or in any other functional system.

# Who goes into your contacts list?

Friends, family, clients, former clients, potential clients, & anyone who can refer business.

## Sophisticated contact management software review:

Contact Management Software Reviews

SalesForce.com

Clio Grow

A basic contact management system . . .

Contact ID	Contact Name	Contact Name	Contact	Title Billing Address	City	•	State or Provi	Postal	Code 🔽 Cour
<u>                                     </u>	1 Contact 1	Contact 1	Title 1	Address 1	City		New York	12345	Unit
	2 Contact 2	Contact 2	Title 2	Address 2	New	York	New York	12345	Click the arrow
	3 Contact 3	Contact 3		If you need fewer rows than provided in the		tle	Washington	12345	heading cell in
	4 Contact 3	Contact 4	11010	sample data, just select the rows you don't		tle	Washington	12345	for sort and filt
	5 Contact 4	Contact 5		need and then, on the Tables tab of the Ribbo click Delete and then click Table Rows. Or, rig		York	New York	12345	Ont
	6 Contact 5	Contact 6		click, point to Delete and then click Table Rows. Or, ng		York	New York	12345	Unit
	7 Contact 6	Contact 7	Title 7	click, politic to believe and their click rable nov		tle	Washington	12345	Unit
	8 Contact 7	Contact 8	Title 8	Address 8	Seat	tle	Washington	12345	Unit
	9 Contact 8	Contact 9	Title 9	Address 9	New	/ York	New York	12345	Unit
	10 Contact 8	Contact 10	Title 10	Address 10	New	/ York	New York	12345	Unit
	11 Contact 8	Contact 11	Title 11	Address 11	New	/ York	New York	12345	Unit
	12 Contact 9	Contact 12	Title 12	Address 12	Seat	tle	Washington	12345	Unit
	13 Contact 10	Contact 13	Title 13	Address 13	Seat	tle	Washington	12345	Unit
	14 Contact 11	Contact 14	Title 14	Address 14	New	/ York	New York	12345	Unit
	15 Contact 12	Contact 15	Title 15	Address 15	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	16 Contact 13	Contact 16	Title 16	Address 16	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	17 Contact 14	Contact 17	Title 17	Address 17	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	18 Contact 14	Contact 18	Title 18	Address 18	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	19 Contact 14	Contact 19	Title 19	Address 19	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	20 Contact 15	Contact 20	Title 20	Address 20	Lone	don		12345	Unit
	21 Contact 16	Contact 21	Title 21	Address 21	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	22 Contact 17	Contact 22	Title 22	Address 22	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	23 Contact 18	Contact 23	Title 23	Address 23	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	24 Contact 18	Contact 24	Title 24	Address 24	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	25 Contact 19	Contact 25	Title 25	Address 25	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	26 Contact 20	Contact 26	Title 26	Address 26	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	27 Contact 21	Contact 27	Title 27	Address 27	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	28 Contact 22	Contact 28	Title 28	Address 28	Toky	yo		12345	Japa
	29 Contact 23	Contact 29	Title 29	Address 29	Pari	s		12345	Fran
	30 Contact 24	Contact 30	Title 30	Address 30	Pari	S		12345	Fran
	31 Contact 24	Contact 31	Title 31	Address 31	Pari	S		12345	Fran
	32 Contact 24	Contact 32	Title 32	Address 32	Pari	s		12345	Fran
	33 Contact 25	Contact 33	Title 33	Address 33	Pari	s		12345	Fran
	34 Contact 26	Contact 34	Title 34	Address 34	Pari	S		12345	Fran
	35 Contact 26	Contact 35	Title 35	Address 35	Pari	s		12345	Fran
	36 Contact 27	Contact 36	Title 36	Address 36	Pari	s		12345	Fran

# How many opportunities exist for you to be found?

How many venues can you create for your marketing message?

```
You & your presence...
      Your office
     Business card
    Website (video)
      Newsletter
          Blog
       Brochure
    Social media . . .
```

### Sources for unique & traditional cards:

Moo.com

DesignYourOwnCard.com

Crane.com

VistaPrint.com

Speaking engagements . . .

Books & free publications . . .

Useful tools . . .

#### Create a great logo



# What Every Virginia Woman Should Know About Divorce

# 7 Estate Planning Mistakes to Avoid

The concept - informing, educating & establishing yourself as the expert in your area - applies in any practice area . . .

Material for an essay, seminar, blog & newsletter are the tools.

### Marketing starts with the right mindset

Relate to Marketing like it is your best client . . .

How would you treat your best client?

You would have a plan

You would strategize

You would open a file

You would work on it every day

You would evaluate it often

### You can do the work yourself:

Rollins & Chan

Or you can use a service:

Great Legal Marketing

Mockingbird

UpwardAction.com

## Focus on the problem you solve & the questions in the mind of the prospective client

#### Why the newsletter works

Targeted to your audience

Regularity

Long-term tool

Becomes a part of your process

More cost effective

Few do it well

Hardcopy is better than electronic

GRAND JURY TARGET <comment-reply@wordpress.com>

(i) If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

#### New post on **GRAND JURY TARGET**





By Search Warrant or Subpoena, the Government Will Get Your Gmail (and the Numbers Are on the Rise)

by Kropf Moseley



#### By: Sara Kropf

I have a Gmail account for personal use. You likely do too. And nearly every one of my clients has one. In fact, Google owns about 43% of the email market. Gmail has about 1.8 billion users and about 306 billion emails are sent and received daily in 2020.

Who cares about Gmail this much? The federal government does.

That's because people still send a lot of interesting things via email. The government wants to use those emails to build their criminal cases, particularly in white-collar cases. We think about wiretaps as electronic surveillance since they happen in real time, but gathering email is a key part of how the government investigates potential crimes.

Email post links back to blog

#### GrandJuryTarget.com

#### Marketing resources

The Culture Code by Clotaire Rapaille

Influence, the Psychology of Persuasion by Robert B. Cialdini

Contagious, Why Things Catch On by Jonah Berger

You Can't Teach Hungry by John Morgan

Great Legal Marketing by Ben Glass

Primal branding: Create Zealots for Your Brand, Your Company, and Your Future by Patrick Hanlon

#### Website creators

• Mockingbird's free resource – Cockroach

GNGF

AttorneySync

Rytechllc.com

Foster Web Marketing

### Marketing goals

- Not all marketing turns into instant sales
- There are long-term benefits to marketing (Top of mind)
- Build your credibility
- Reach expert status in your practice area
- Increase your lawyer referrals
- Key: you must have a strategy
- CONSISTENCY IS EVERYTHING

### Productivity & the Small Firm

Profitability & growth are the result of a productive lawyer

It's a question of using the right tool for the job

It's stepping back, watching & creating workflows





#### 2.5 hours

The average time an attorney spends on billable work per day.

#### 2.9 hours

The average time spent each day on admin tasks.

#### 1.2 hours

Of those 2.9 hours, the top 3 tasks are office administration (16%), invoicing (15%), and configuring technology (11%).

#### 2 hours

33% of 6 hours/day not spent on billable work goes toward business development, indicating the importance of generating new clients.





#### 23 minutes

How long it takes to recover from an interruption. Attorneys are interrupted ~6/day, so that's a ~2-hour loss per day.

#### 2 out of 3 potential clients

Folks who say their "decision to hire" is most influenced by an attorney's responsiveness to their first call or email.

#### 59 percent

People, on average, who didn't hire an attorney even after a consult.

#### 86 percent

The average amount of attorneys' earnings that is ever collected.

# Maddy Martin's full program on May 14, 2020 / Affordable Tools, Tech and Talent to Run a Small Law Firm Remotely

Recorded Lunch & Learn programs

Smith.ai

#### Where technology helps

Research & finding information

Managing data, such as time & billing, client information & firm financial information

Communication

#### **LEAD CONVERSION FLOW**



**GENERATE CAPTURE** Contact **Lead Sources** Intake & Response **Conversion** Qualification Methods (Generation) Methods **Scheduling** Good leads Basic intake Attorney Phone Referrals Reviews **Email** Delayed Instant In-house **Local Listings** Text Follow-up Transfer assistant or PPC call Call-back Web Chat paralegal Social Media **Appointment** Email drip **Content & Freebies** Receptionist (Advice, Forms, service Full intake Calculators) **Technical SEO** New client! New client Al service Link Building agreement **Future Clients &** Qualification **Good Will** 

Bad leads

Educate & Refer



Smith.ai eBook:

Are you Lawyering or Laboring?

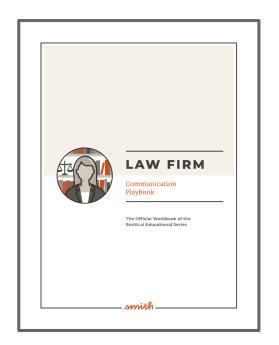


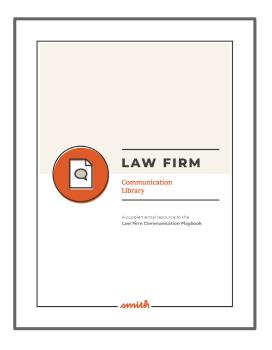


#### Free additional resources

#### **Smith.ai Guides**

# Law Firm Communication Playbook





Law Firm
Communication
Library

#### Creating systems

https://www.theformtool.com/

Automates Word documents

It has a free version

& a pro version for \$89 a year

Create a template for fee agreements

#### Free & low cost legal research

Fastcase, a DC Bar member benefit

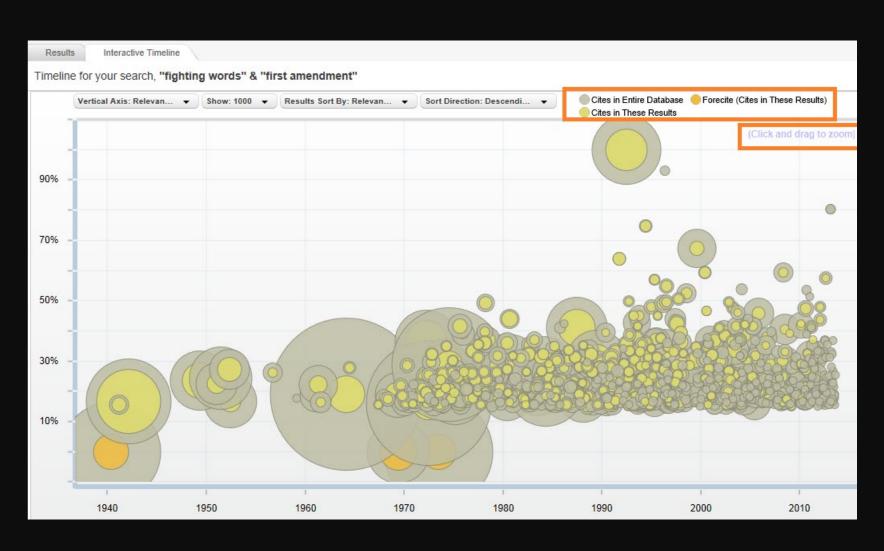
Learn more about Fastcase

DC & Federal & all jurisdictions, plus more is free as a Bar member benefit

(Non-members pay \$1000.00 annually)

Fastcase Lunch & Learn program recording

## The <u>Fastcase interactive timeline</u> – visualize search results



#### Important small firm systems

Client intake & setup – your onboarding process

 Information processing; how paper and data are handled, entered & stored

Tracking cash flow & financial information

Conflicts checking – how it's done in small firms

#### Time & Billing

• Time59.com \$199 annually for entire firm

• Bill4Time.com \$27 - \$80 monthly per user

<u>TimeSolv.com</u> \$35 monthly per user

Timeslips \$860 annually / \$925 perpetual

Prices as of 7/21/20 vendor website

#### Case Management Systems

Clio is a DC Bar member benefit

MyCase

RocketMatter

Cosmolex

Lawyerist review of case management tools

## Technology Tools

- Online booking system Calendly, Acuity, VCita
- Video Conferencing Zoom, Google Hangouts
- VOIP phone system Ring Central, Google Voice
- Case management MyCase, CLIO, Smokeball, Rocket Matter
- Project Management/Team & Task Management Asana, Trello, monday.com
- Web cam
- Lighting
- Microphone
- Scanner
- Online file storage Dropbox, Google Drive, Box

#### Things have changed during Covid

How are lawyers planning to change their ways? Consider these statistics from Clio's 2020 Legal Trends Report:

- 96% say they'll store firm data in the cloud.
- 95% say they'll support electronic documents and signatures.
- 96% say they'll accept electronic payments.
- 96% say they'll use practice management software.
- 83% say they'll meet clients through videoconferencing.

#### How are they operating now?

- 85% of law firms are using software to manage their practice.
- 79% of lawyers rely on cloud technology to store their firm's data.
- 62% of firms allow clients to securely share and sign documents electronically.
- 73% of firms allow clients to pay invoices electronically.
- 83% of firms are meeting with clients virtually

#### Examples of new firm models

Potomac Law Group

Rollins & Chan

MD Family Lawyer.com

Nakia Gray

#### Concept Mapping

A strategic thinking tool

Plain paper and colored pencils/pens

Concept mapping, a/k/a mind mapping for lawyers

The five best applications

## Tomorrow at Noon: How to Market Your Law Firm in Challenging Times

Lunch & Learn Programs are here.

## Some long-term goals

- · Build your database
  - · Sign up for a CRM and begin building your list
  - · Create a resource and have people opt in Choose
- . a niche practice area and become THE expert
  - Show up with information to educate (but don't give it all away)
  - Blog
  - Live Stream
- Establish yourself as an expert
  - Guest posts/appearances
  - Bar Association articles and CLEs
  - Media pitches
  - Host your own info sessions
  - Host a challenge
- Launch a new product, service, event online—SELL something



Download this free guide: <a href="http://beyondthebarinstitute.com/attract-clients-online">http://beyondthebarinstitute.com/attract-clients-online</a>

Join Nakia's free Facebook group for lawyers <a href="https://www.graylegalpc.com">www.graylegalpc.com</a>

### Generate Money Now

- Offer virtual consults (paid and unpaid)
- Create an information product and sell it (helpful resources are needed)
- Host online events (paid and unpaid)
- Collaborate with other professionals who serve your same audience
- Offer a special (Wills, Expungements, Strategy Sessions)

## We all want to be happy & profitable

You can do it on your own.

Some lawyers have done it with help:

How to Manage a Small Law Firm

Atticus

Affinity Consulting

PMAS