

# A Magical revolutionary product



*Jason Schoolmeester,  
Treasurer, Law Society Northern Territory  
Department of Justice*

Finally, it is here. No more disappointment, no more being fooled on the 1st of April. I have been caught a couple of times by posts like the one at 3 Geeks and a Law Blog which was updated in 2009 for the Kindle 2 (<http://www.geeklawblog.com/2009/04/all-lawyers-and-paralegals-to-get.html>).

What Greg Lambert at 3 Geeks and a Law Blog and I shared once a year was a dream that one day we would see eBook style technology used by lawyers. This eBook would give lawyers a portable law library like no other ever before; online access to your subscription resources like LexisNexis; distribution of journals, news and other materials. I also wanted access to the firm archive of opinions and agreements.

Could this legal eBook device ever be real? It was always plausible but still far off. Devices like the Kindle kept the dream alive by making the technology platform real. Then on 10 August 2009 LexisNexis launched a pilot program

introducing legislation e-books for use by legal professionals, law enforcement officers and law students (<http://www.lexisnexis.com.au/media/press-releases-au/2009/10.aspx>). That was an exciting day and another step closer to the dream.

On 27 January 2010, Steve Jobs unveiled the latest Apple product, the iPad. Described by some as a large iPod Touch or iPhone without the phone, I believe that this could be the one device that takes the legal world by storm. With wi-fi and 3G capabilities, the iPad will give lawyers an experience with online research materials like no other.

Whether you are in the office or on the road, you will be able to access all your materials. But it won't stop there, the iPad is not an eBook, it is a computer. It will immediately have access to 140,000 plus applications developed for the iPod Touch and iPhone. There is already a docking station with a full keyboard.

The development potential of the iPad with its large tablet screen will see a host of new applications designed for use on the iPad, many of these will be legal applications. These might start off simply with Citrix clients enabling access to corporate systems but they will expand to dedicated applications built to take advantage of the many features of the iPad.

Finally, to Greg Lambert of 3 Geeks and a Law Blog: fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice shame on me, but at the end of April in 2010 there will be no more fooling. The iPad is here and it promises to make the dream real.

## Links:

To keep up-to-date with the iPad and what it means for lawyers, check out: <http://tabletlegal.com/>.

To learn more about the iPad and watch some video presentations check out: <http://www.apple.com/au/ipad/>. !

## Court Boxes

The Law Society provides Court Boxes at the Supreme Court in Darwin and the Court House in Alice Springs. Annual rental is \$385 (inc. GST) for government departments and \$192.50 (inc. GST) for sole practitioners or per partner for firms (to a maximum of \$1,925 inc. GST). Court boxes are billed annually in advance or pro-rata for the remainder of the year at the time the court box is rented. Replacement keys are available from the Society at a cost of \$11 (including GST).