

Your Office – Don't Leave Home Without It: Working Remotely

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Your Office - Don't Leave Home Without It! Mobile Lawyering

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Mobile Lawyering

I. **MOBILE LAWYER DEFINED:** For purposes of this seminar, a mobile lawyer is any lawyer that works outside of the office. This is becoming increasingly common. Some lawyers have home offices, some prefer to work at home or somewhere other than the office. There are also many lawyers who prefer to work part of the year from another location (i.e., beach house). Even if you rarely work outside of the office, you'll find some mobile technology beneficial.

II. **NOTEBOOK COMPUTER:**

A. **Types of Notebook Computers:**

1. **Netbook:** Netbooks are small portable notebooks which typically weigh 3 lbs. or less and have 10" screens or smaller. Most are \$400 or less and they are designed primarily for Internet browsing, email and light computing tasks like word processing. In a word, they are *small*. In spite of their limited power and capabilities, they are wildly popular because frankly, most people use computers for exactly what they do - internet, email and word processing. Note that most netbooks do not have an optical drive or a major software suite like Microsoft Office. Therefore, you may need to buy an external DVD drive and the word processor you want separately.
2. **Ultra Portables:** Defined as lightweight models (usually under 4 lbs.) with 11 and 12-inch screens -- are a bit of a dinosaur, almost totally replaced by Netbooks costing about one-third as much. There are still a few high-end models worth a look, and the next generation of low-end processors, such as the Athlon Neo, may bring 12-inch prices down in the coming months.¹ Ultra portables probably don't merit consideration for a lawyer at this point. Instead, get a desktop replacement *and* a netbook so you have the right tool for any occasion.
3. **Thin and Lights:** Thin and Light notebooks are all about striking a balance between performance and portability, with an extra emphasis on battery life. You won't get the performance and screen size of a desktop replacement, or the three pound carrying weight of a netbook, but you will get a great blend of features, performance, and portability at a reasonable price. Bigger notebooks mean bigger screens. Most thin-and-lights have 14-inch displays, which is fine for viewing everything from e-mail and web pages to Word and Excel docs.² Thin and Lights typically weigh 4 - 6 lbs.

¹ Dan Ackerman, Senior Editor of www.cnet.com.

² This description from www.thelaptopauthority.com.