

# The Last WORD

By Edward J. Walters, Jr.

IPSE DIXIT: ITEMS FOR BLACK'S LAW?

**H**ere are a few new words, phrases and definitions that should be in *Black's Law Dictionary* but aren't . . .

**Anti-Social Media.** Postings of either embarrassing drunken debaucheries or hateful threatening texts which your client thought were good ideas at the time, but which eventually find their way into evidence.

**App.** A means of transferring your attention span and your money, in small but frequent quantities, to Apple.

**App Stinginess.** The act of mulling over whether you should really spend a whole \$1.99 to install an app you want when you don't think twice about doling out \$4.45 for a Grande half-caf Caramel Macchiato.

**"Are You Sure?"** The message your computer gives you that challenges your prowess at the computer. "Am I sure? Of COURSE I am sure!"

**AutoCorrect.** Software that automatically corrects spelling era — ears — erratic — areas — hell, mistakes, as you typical (*oops, missed one*).

**Circular Texting Squad.** The act of all four people at a table looking at their cellphones and totally ignoring each other. (In a standard table setting, does the cellphone go to the left of the bread plate or above the water glass?)

**The Cloud.** A remote server in which unicorns insecurely protect your files from hackers using only rainbows and pixie dust.

**Counselitis.** The constriction in the throat and inability to speak during oral argument when the judge asks you that one question you hoped she wouldn't think of.

**Cyber Insecurity.** An ever-present worry about whether you can get hacked or come down with a virus by someone in a foreign country or whether your kids will do it to you at home.

**Delete.** The act of making absolutely sure you will never find that document again, but the government can.

**Deliberata.** The useless small talk you engage in with the other lawyers, witnesses, defendants, plaintiffs and court personnel while the jury is out.

**Depobortion.** The unfortunate problem that prohibits any deposition from actually being held on the original date it was set.

**Electronic Filing.** The act of soliciting error messages from a court computer.

**ESI.** Evasively Stored Information.

**Friending.** The act of telling someone on Facebook that you actually DO want to see endless pictures and videos of their fun vacations, weddings, drunken reunions, and, of course, posts of what THEY find funny, especially a cat riding on a Roomba.

**Futillation.** The act of saying "May it please the court" when you know that nothing you do does.

**Insecuritization.** The act of turning your car around and driving back home because you forgot your cellphone and can't even take a 10-minute trip to the damn grocery store without it.

**Internet Browser.** An attendee of a CLE presentation.

**Lexing.** Communicating with another lawyer by text because he or she doesn't return emails.

**Nocturnal Editions.** Waking up in the middle of the night, dutifully checking your email and groggily responding.

**PACER.** Paralegal-only Access to Court Electronic Records.

**Password.** Must have an UPPERCASE letter, a lowercase letter, a numb3r, a symb\*! and a wingding, none of which you will ever remember or write down.

**Person-to-Person Voice Mail.** That awkward conversation you have with someone when you call them at 6 p.m. trying to leave them a voice mail.

**Post-Meridian Caps.** When autocorrect infers the end of a sentence after you type 1 p.m. In a sentence.

**Reply All.** That action you accidentally take when you REALLY only wanted to

respond to the person who sent you the email, but now everybody knows.

**Save.** Place the document in a computer file at a location which you will never again find.

**Save As.** Save the document in a new name which you will never remember.

**"Save Changes?"** The question your computer asks you when you didn't make any.

**Scanning.** The act of turning paper into an electronic document to be lost forever in the electronic case file.

**Social Media.** Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other sites you access while you are on a conference call or telephone deposition.

**Texting.** Email that u don't have 2 spellcheck.

**Undo.** A key that undoes nothing.

**Upgrade.** The act of your IT guy changing everything on your computer system so that only he knows how to use it and you will have to be retrained.

**Voice Mail Relief.** That feeling when you called someone and got the voice mail, because you really didn't want to talk to them anyway.

**Website.** A place where lawyers can list all of the firm's grandiose, almost-truthful accomplishments, flattering, but not current, pictures of the firm members, and lists of the types of legal work they wish they had.

**Wi-Fi.** An invisible and magical computer aura which no one understands and which, when not working, brings the office to a complete standstill.

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