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Review of FactBox

By Joshua Auriemma

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Many litigators use practice management software, Outlook, or even a spreadsheet to manage their cases. These are all fine tools for storing information but not for analyzing it. In this issue of *LitigationWorld*, appellate lawyer Joshua Auriemma reviews case analysis software FactBox. Josh reports on FactBox's learning curve, supported data types, timeline generator, collaboration tools, reports, price, and more.

It's a great time for small law firms like yours (and mine) to shop for litigation software. When I led the charge at my previous firm, our options were limited to a few incumbents in the space. Now, with the cloud software boom in full swing (cloud software development costs less and is thus more accessible to entrepreneurs), we can pick and choose the solution that works best for how we manage our cases.

Take FactBox by Lynx Workflow for example, case analysis software that runs in your web browser. FactBox organizes your cases based on their unique facts. In full candor, I was skeptical. But it turns out that because I think about my cases so procedurally, this fact-centric approach to organizing matters ends up working well for me — and perhaps for you too. Let's find out in this review.

Speaking of this review, the editors of *LitigationWorld* arranged for a free FactBox subscription for me.

Unparalleled On-The-Fly Flexibility

What I like most about FactBox is that, without hours (or weeks) of learning

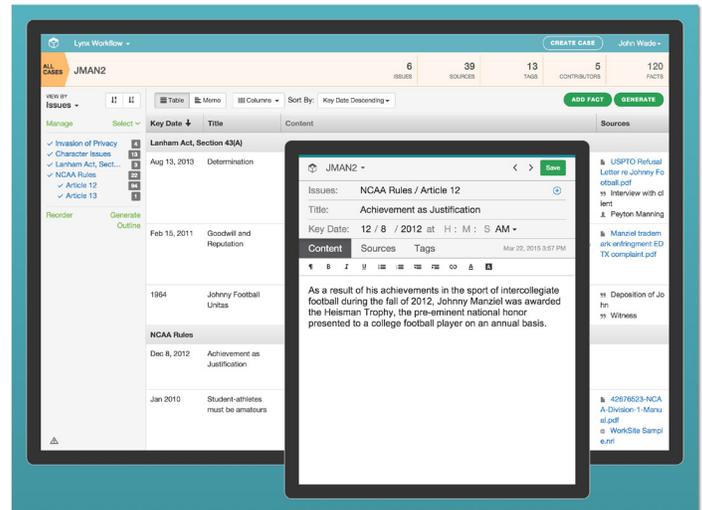
how to design or script the software, I could make it do what I wanted. After watching a few introductory videos, I felt fully qualified to start building my own matters. This struck me because legal-specific software usually requires a lot more training.

Once you create a case, you'll primarily enter what FactBox generously labels "Facts." (I use air quotes because it turns out one of the first items I entered as a "fact" was deposition testimony from an opposing witness. This is a disputed fact at best but I'll concede the nomenclature argument to FactBox with some minor objections.)

To start, I decided to design a timeline for my case. I created an "Issue" called "Timeline" and began adding facts to my timeline. Beginning with something along the lines of "D stops at stoplight and V leaves car to approach." I also set the time and date this allegedly happened, and set the source to be the relevant deposition (which I uploaded to FactBox).

This is where FactBox's flexibility becomes really useful. I decided to add two sets of tags to allow me to dynamically edit the timeline. I added tags for "Corroborated" and "Uncorroborated" to indicate whether additional testimony supported this item, and "Positive" and "Negative," to indicate whether the testimony was good or bad for my client.

In the end, this meant that when my timeline was developed, I could



take a look at what it would look like if the fact finders believed only the negative facts versus only the positive facts, or what the case would look like if they elected not to believe uncorroborated evidence.

What I like most about FactBox is that, without hours (or weeks) of learning how to design or script the software, I could make it do what I wanted.

Moreover, thinking forward, I can generate timelines given any of these scenarios. If the judge rules that some items are inadmissible, excluding only those items from my timeline will literally be as easy as clicking a button.

Collaboration

I'm a solo without support staff so collaboration features don't mean much to me unless they in some way involve my clients. FactBox is on its way to providing this, but it could use some improvement.

In any matter, you can add whomever you want as a “Contributor” — or what most software vendors call a “User.” Law firms would of course add all litigators, paralegals, and anyone else who works on litigation matters within FactBox.

The power of organizing by source is apparent when preparing for a deposition.... I can easily generate a document listing off all the facts pertaining to that person in only a few seconds.

For a solo like me, I could give access to and collaborate with contract attorneys and paralegals. But a more likely type of collaboration for me is to share information with clients. If I wanted to share information with clients and restrict their access to certain issues or limit them to only viewing and not editing, I likely would not opt to use this feature.

I appreciate that FactBox is currently designed for the legal team working on a matter and not for their clients. However, I would like to see FactBox offer more customization of user types. If I could allow clients only to login and add new items to a particular issue, for example, I could use FactBox to help with intake.

The current lack of such a feature isn't a deal breaker since FactBox

affords a lot of control over generating reports based on the information contained within the app.

Organizing Your Facts

Thinking about your case as a set of facts coming from many different sources should come naturally since that's actually how a case comes about. To this end, FactBox gives you the ability to assign facts to several different types of sources such as Files, Links, Notes, and People, as well as documents from Box, Dropbox, and Worksite.

The power of organizing by source is apparent when preparing for a deposition. If I do a good job listing specific facts as having originated from certain people, I can easily generate a document listing off all the facts pertaining to that person in only a few seconds.

Currently, you can only filter facts by issues, creation date, key date (the date you indicate the fact implicates), tags, sources, or contributors. Although filtering by any of these categories is useful, I hope to see FactBox add filtering by multiple categories. For example, it would be incredibly useful to see only facts from a specific witness I have tagged as “potentially negative” occurring after a certain date.

TechnoScore

FactBox is a relative newcomer to the case analysis space long dominated by CaseMap, but it has done a wonderful job shaking things up. The features already implemented are extremely polished. The fact editor in particular looks like an improved,

minimalist version of Word. I have yet to experience a bug.

I encourage fellow litigators to incorporate this super flexible product into their practice.

The pricing is refreshingly simple. Solos like me pay \$49 per month (\$41 with an annual commitment). Significant discounts begin to kick in at 5 Contributors, which costs \$179 per month (\$152 with an annual commitment). No matter how large your firm, the most you'll pay is \$499 per month for unlimited Contributors (\$424 with an annual commitment).

The FactBox team has already updated the app several times, and I have no doubt they're going to add a lot of great features in relatively short order. I look forward to watching FactBox continue to improve, and encourage fellow litigators to incorporate this super flexible product into their practice.



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