

Tabellion Times

Autumn Moon Softworks

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A Journey of Innovation!

Welcome to this special edition of our Tabellion newsletter. Today, we are taking you on a journey back to where it all began, the early adventures of Will McPeake's law career and the origin story of Tabellion. Discover the inspiration, vision, and ground breaking innovations that turned an ambitious idea into the software that's transforming how attorneys are approaching indigent case management. Tabellion is a case management solution developed by Will McPeake and Kevin Malone, aka. Autumn Moon Softworks. Tabellion is specifically targeted to help attorneys track timekeeping and documentation for appointed cases in the State of Tennessee. In this ninth issue of Tabellion Times, a newsletter dedicated to Tabellion, we are presenting the story of how Tabellion came to be.

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

Case management
for indigent clients



The Story of Tabellion

In 2015, while working at United Health Care developing insurance claim reconciliation software, my passion for software engineering, nurtured by years of experience across various fields — from operating room software to mortgage and insurance — was well-established. Despite my strong affinity for technology, with a degree in software engineering and two decades of diverse professional experiences, I felt an insistent need to exercise a different part of my brain. My long-standing interest in the law beckoned, compelling me to pursue a legal education. Driven by a desire to blend my technical skills with legal acumen, I embarked on the journey to law school, aspiring to contribute meaningfully in a new domain.

My journey into the legal field began with three transformative years at the Belmont School of Law in Nashville, TN. Graduating in 2018, I found myself deeply connected not only to the institution's traditions but also to my classmates and professors who enriched my understanding of the law. The comprehensive curriculum and immersive experiences at Belmont made these years incredibly fulfilling and invaluable. As my tenure at Belmont was drawing to a close, a serendipitous event greatly influenced my professional trajectory. A close friend and fellow classmate suggested I attend a seminar in Williamson County focusing on court appointments. Intrigued by the prospect, I decided to join. There, a seasoned attorney named Harry Boyko captivated the audience with his insights on Veterans Court. During a break, I approached him to express my interest. With encouraging words, he invited me to shadow him at court the following Wednesday. I eagerly accepted the invitation and soon found myself in the courtroom, where Judge Thomas Taylor entrusted me with four cases, marking the start of my hands-on legal experience.

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Immersed in the courtroom environment, I quickly realized how much I enjoyed the practical aspects of working on court appointments. Harry Boyko, my mentor, imparted his tried-and-true method: an old-school approach that involved copious note-taking on yellow legal pads, repeated trips to the copying machine, and diligent filing in manila folders. This meticulous process laid the groundwork for my legal practice, combining organization and attention to detail. With each passing day, the number of cases I handled steadily increased. Some cases were victorious, while others served as lessons learned. Every single case, regardless of the outcome, contributed to my growth as a lawyer. As my caseload expanded, so did my collection of files and used notepads, eventually numbering in the hundreds. This accumulation became a testament to my dedication and the experiences that shaped my journey within the legal field.

As my caseload continued to grow, I quickly realized that my traditional method of tracking information needed an overhaul. The sheer volume of files and notes was becoming overwhelming, and I knew there had to be a more efficient way to manage everything. Determined to streamline my workflow, I began experimenting with more modern approaches. I started by scanning documents and taking notes electronically, and I tracked case hours in spreadsheets. This new method helped me keep my data organized and accessible. However, the final step of transferring case hours into the state's claim system, ACAP, remained a cumbersome process. Leveraging my background in software engineering, I developed a solution to bridge the gap between my spreadsheets and ACAP. I created a system that allowed me to easily transfer case hours from my spreadsheets directly into ACAP, significantly reducing the time and

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effort required to input data. When I shared my innovation with Harry, he was thoroughly impressed. He encouraged me to share my solution with others, recognizing its potential to revolutionize the way court appointments were managed.

With a clear vision of the impact my innovation could have, I realized there was a golden opportunity to leverage all my skills toward creating something that could truly make a difference. This wasn't just about making task tracking easier for attorneys; it was about benefiting their clients and the State of Tennessee through more accurate and timely tracking of activities.

To turn this vision into reality, I reached out to an old friend and schoolmate, Kevin Malone. Having collaborated on numerous software projects during our school years, I knew Kevin's brilliance as a software engineer made him the perfect partner in this endeavor. When I shared my experiences in Williamson County court and my idea of developing a mobile application to track everything from hours and court documents to notes from client interviews, Kevin was immediately on board. Our goal was to create a solution that would be friendly to new attorneys fresh out of law school, who might also be working on court-appointed cases and seeking a better way to manage their information. After sharing this vision with Kevin, we decided to make it a reality, and thus, Tabellion was born! Within a week, we filed the necessary paperwork to establish our software firm, Autumn Moon Softworks.

With the vision of creating an efficient and user-friendly application, I wanted to ensure Tabellion catered to the unique needs of attorneys working on court-appointed cases. Here are the key features I was determined to incorporate:

- **Mobile Usability:** The application needed to be fully functional on both phones and tablets, ensuring that attorneys could easily use it on-the-go.

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- Case and Activity Time Tracking: A system to accurately track cases and the time spent on various activities.
- Document Capture with Device Camera: The ability to use the device's camera to capture documents.
- Editing and Cropping of Captured Documents: Tools to edit and crop the captured documents for clarity and precision.
- Affidavit of Indigence Management: Capturing affidavits of indigence for each case, ensuring they are properly redacted.
- Client Interview Notes: A feature to take and store notes from client interviews directly on the device.
- Direct Submission to ACAP: The capacity to submit case claims and activity times directly to ACAP, including the previously captured affidavit of indigence.
- Efficiency and Speed: The entire process needed to be streamlined to reduce input time per case. The ultimate goal was to allow attorneys to submit cases to ACAP before even leaving the courtroom.

By focusing on these features, we aimed to create an application that significantly enhanced the efficiency of attorneys, especially new ones, navigating court-appointed cases.

My desire to help indigent clients and the attorneys who serve them has been immensely rewarding. Many colleagues adopted Tabellion early on, providing

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invaluable material support, testing, encouragement, and feedback. Among these are Larry Drolsum, who provided our first Apple MacBook for development; Everette Parish, who encouraged and tested on circuit court cases; Nathaniel Alexander, a stringent ally and co-speaker at TACDL events; Tushar Prabhu, who brought the energy of a gamma ray and has completed over 2000 cases using Tabellion; Joe James, who lent the seasoned perspective of a former prosecutor; and Shane McNeill, always quick with new ideas and enthusiasm. Most of all, I want to thank Kevin Malone, my lifelong friend, fellow student, and scholar of computer science. Kevin has been my steadfast partner, spending countless late nights and weekends writing software, harking back to our graduate school days in computer labs at East Tennessee State University. To these friends and all the other adopters and contributors of Tabellion, I offer my heartfelt thanks for everything you've done to help bring this software to life. Without you, Tabellion would not be what it is today. Kevin and I continue to work diligently on Tabellion every week, striving to bring new features that streamline case management and make it easier for everyone involved. We're excited to see what the future holds for this journey we embarked on together.



We hope you enjoyed the story about the beginnings of Tabellion.

Thank You!

To all of our current users a big thank you! We couldn't do this without your support. To all of our potential customers, we appreciate you taking the time to read this and consider using our product. We look forward to interacting with you in the future!

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<https://autumnmoonsoftworks.com/tabnewsletter>



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