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November 2009's Favorite Thing

This month we have two favorite things (again). Susan Macpherson and Ted Brooks offer their favorites for your exploration!

Susan Macpherson:

I like a blog called Presentation Zen that sends out regular examples of powerful ways to communicate visually and to motivate audiences WITHOUT bullet points. Many cases don't have the budget for professional graphics and this site gives a huge boost to those producing the visuals on the "do it in house" cases. The plus is that there are a host of links to other provocative resources on information processing and retention. For anyone looking to improve and innovate in the realm of visual communication this site and its regular updates is a fantastic free find! See Presentation Zen here: <http://www.presentationzen.com/>



Susan Macpherson is a jury consultant with [National Jury Project's](#) Midwest Regional Office in Minneapolis.

Ted Brooks:

YouSendIt (<http://www.yousendit.com>) is an excellent tool for sending large files electronically, without clogging your email system. The basic versions are free, and are limited at 100MB with a 7 day, 100 downloads limit per file. It can be used directly via their website, a small application (YouSendIt Express) or from a plug-in on your computer. There are also upgraded (paid) versions available for larger files, more downloads per file and other options.

Ted Brooks is a Trial Presentation Consultant and President of Litigation-Tech LLC, and publishes the Court and Trial Technology Blog (<http://trial-technology.blogspot.com/>).

Editor's Note

This is a very cool issue of *The Jury Expert*. We have an array of articles we think you'll find interesting, thought-provoking and fun to read. First, we have a look at gender and race in the courtroom over time and recommendations for how litigators might use this information with reactions from two trial consultants. Then a look at how the internet has been intruding into the courtroom (it isn't just with jurors) and recommendations on how litigators and judges can minimize the impact through clear and specific education and instruction. Third, we have an article on how research into damage assessments can inform settlement negotiations. Following that, we have an introductory bibliography on the GBMI/NGRI verdicts with thoughts from three trial consultants on learning about this specialty niche, educating jurors, and voir dire. We all pay attention when jurors nod. But what does it mean and when should you really pay attention? Read our fifth article and find out. Our sixth article takes lessons an experienced trial consultant has learned over two decades about communication in the courtroom (and in life). Learn about common mistakes and best practices as well as the identity of Konstantin Stanislavski.

Most of us already know who Antonin Scalia is but did you know it's not a good idea to 'poke Scalia'? What can litigators learn from observing our Supreme Court in action? And finally, an instructive piece on 3D animation (with lots of examples) accompanied by an overview of the 3D animation process and recommendations on when to use 3D and when to not use it.

November's issue of *The Jury Expert* also features advertising for the very first time. Publishing this journal has been a very exciting undertaking for the American Society of Trial Consultants (ASTC) but not one that has been without cost. We are grateful to our growing readership base and we are especially grateful to those advertisers who believe in us and show their support by advertising on our website and in the downloadable pdf version of [The Jury Expert](#).

Please join us in thanking [ByDesign Legal Graphics, Inc.](#), [Consumer Centers of New York and New Jersey](#), and [Savitz Research Solutions](#) (and visit them on the web via these links or their ads in TJE)! And thanks for reading and commenting on our website.

Rita R. Handrich, Ph.D., Editor
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