

## Monitors: What's the Difference?

*A December 2010 discussion on SoloSez, the email listserv for general practice, solo and small firm lawyers*

It's time to upgrade the 17" monitor that came with my now 4 year old Dell (I'm not upgrading the computer at this time; works just fine for my office needs.

I've been looking at ads, and I just admit to not knowing the difference among the various styles: HD, non-HD; Flat Panel vs Flat Screen.

I just need a bigger monitor to do my legal work. I do use the browser and occasionally watch news and law-related clips; I occasionally edit photos; my most sophisticated programs (so I know I'd like a wide screen) are CaseMap and SmartDraw. I don't have room on my desk for anything much bigger than 21.5 (and that will be pushing it slightly); I don't plan to run 2 monitors, again because of space considerations.

What should I consider under these circumstances?

---

I don't know about the photo editing, but when I last looked at this (a few years ago) an analog monitor was way cheap and I was told it would be just fine for office work. I bought it and it has been. If it is cheaper than others I would not hesitate (again, not sure about the photo editing which I don't do).

Shell Bleiweiss, Illinois

---

Suggest you consider going with dual monitors if your computer and graphics card will support same. Once you get used to duals you will never go back to a single monitor.

Michael L. Boli, California

---

How serious is your photo editing? If it's just snapshots for the web and email, any of the panels will be fine. If color accuracy is important, look into getting one that is specifically an IPS panel.

Most of the cheap LCDs are TN panels which are fine for most tasks, and can look great. I'd stick with dell. There are other good brands but the Dells are solid.

If you aren't pressed for time, just browse/monitor this site and wait for a good deal.

<http://slickdeals.net/>

Joseph D. Dang, California

---

and dealnews.com

Jake C. Eisenstein, Colorado

---

You can always look to going vertical with the second monitor to save desk space. Look to TigerDirect for a suggestion and samples.

Charles J. Cochran, Jr., Ohio