

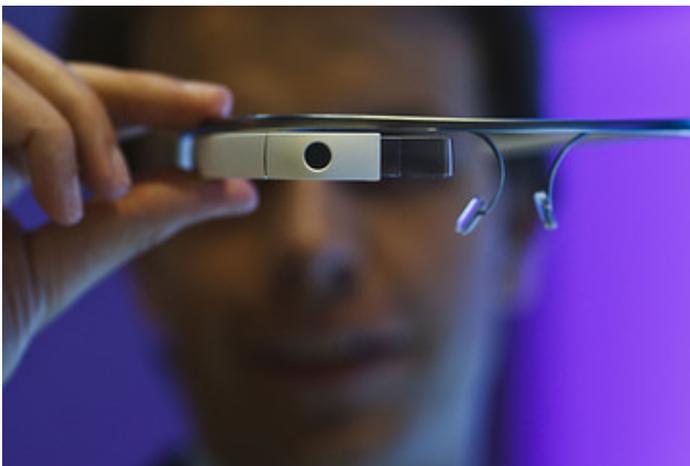
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Glass Action: Google Glass Chronicles Personal Injury Struggles

By Clint Boulton

What businesses do or don't do to protect people from injury may soon be used against them in a court of law — by claimants wearing [Google Glass](#). Clients at law firm [Fennemore Craig P.C.](#), including a double amputee, are wearing Glass to chronicle their personal injury struggles, generating evidence that can bolster their legal claims. It's another example of how businesses are creating uses for Google's wearable computer, which briefly went on sale to the public Tuesday, before a mass consumer release expected later this year.

"One of the challenges we have.... is to most effectively show jurors and judges what our clients go through," said James Goodnow, a partner in Fennemore Craig's personal injury practice. Glass, whose camera enables users to capture and access video with their voices, was the answer.



Angel Navarrete/Bloomberg

An employee holds a pair of Google Glass connected glasses at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, Feb. 26, 2014.

Glass' hands-free capability helps Fennemore Craig client Gary Verrazono, who in 2012 lost his right arm and leg when a forklift fell on him at a racetrack, capture his personal struggles. Since January, the wheelchair-bound Mr. Verrazono has been using Glass to record the daily challenges he now faces such as washing dishes with one hand, moving a grocery cart, and physical therapy to buttress his case, a civil claim against third parties whom he alleges are responsible for his injuries. Mr. Goodnow said he expects to show jurors the Glass footage, which will be downloaded to a laptop, edited and played on court TVs, to show a more personal side of Mr. Verrazono's plight

Ordinarily the firm would use a videographer to track a client's struggles, Mr. Goodnow said, but the first-person perspective delivered by the head-mounted computer removes the "element of distance" that would prevent the viewer from relating to the client. Using Glass also saves the firm the tens of thousands of dollars in costs to pay a videographer.

Mr. Verrazono also uses Glass to read legal documents sent by Fennemore Craig attorneys via email. His case is still wending its way through the legal process and has not gone to trial. Three other Fennemore Craig clients are using Glass to help buttress their cases.

Broad adoption of Glass has been curtailed by privacy concerns — some people see it as a creepy spying tool — and the fact that Google has limited availability of the device. For a limited time Tuesday [Google offered the device for \\$1,500](#).

Glass has been popping up in various industries. [Hospital physicians use it to treat patients](#). [General Electric Co. is testing Glass for field service work](#). The [New York Police Department](#) is also experimenting with the prototype device.

If Fennemore Craig can demonstrate that Glass helps them win cases, more legal firms may use it.

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