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SF Legal Real-Time Solutions:



SF Legal Helps Law Firms' Client Save \$150,000+ by Facilitating 100 GB Environmental Data Review

Situation: A state utility was subject to an environmental law suit and was being defended by two law firms. Even after a targeted collection based around keywords, the law firms still had approximately 100 GB of data to review and faced the task of getting to the documents that mattered in a defensible, logical and cost-effective way. The law firms' initial idea was to de-duplicate the documents and then run a linear review in one of the firm's in-house review platforms. The firms contacted SF Legal's Discovery Solutions team to discuss their ideas.

Process: SF Legal's Discovery Solutions Consultant spent time talking with the lead attorneys at each of the two law firms about the case and their planned review strategy. SF Legal also ran some analysis on the data that had been collected to propose the best data culling strategy. SF Legal advised the firms to load and view the data in their early case assessment tool, Clearwell.

Initially, only a sample of the data was loaded for initial review by the two lead attorneys. One of the attorneys sent the following email to SF Legal, "After playing around with Clearwell for a short time, I was able to tag 1,900 documents in less than half an hour."

The attorneys immediately requested that the remaining data be loaded, which SF Legal did in less than a day. Beyond basic functions like de-duplication, the attorneys took advantage of a number of extremely powerful Clearwell functions that enable rapid data culling – including sorting by email domains, viewing relevance ranked search results, advanced key term search capability, and email threading.

In a very short time, the attorneys were able to remove almost 90 percent of the data population – nearly 90 GB of data – in a defensible manner. In comparison, traditional "blind" data culling reduces data by only 30 to 40 percent.

Benefits: SF Legal presented a coherent data culling and review strategy that focused on process, rather than processing. This ultimately helped the law firms' client to realize a significant savings in the most expensive part of any litigation action – document review. By using Clearwell's tools to cull out documents at a rate of nearly 4,000 documents per hour, the review team was able to spend their time with documents that were most likely to be relevant to the case. Overall, the law firm's client saved more than \$150,000 on data processing, hosting and review costs, thanks to the SF Legal approach.