

Dorsey & Whitney Leverages Ringtail Legal 2005 for Web-Based Litigation Document Management

With 20 offices strategically located around the globe and nearly 640 lawyers, Dorsey & Whitney LLP (Dorsey) is among the largest law firms in the world. A perennial AmLaw 100 firm, Dorsey has enjoyed gross revenues in excess of \$300,000,000 in each of the last several years. Founded in Minneapolis in 1912 and still headquartered in the Twin Cities, the firm has a long history of corporate representations in transactional and contentious matters. Dorsey boasts an equally long-standing commitment to public service, including Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun and Vice President and Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale among the firm's many lawyers to have served on the bench or in government over the past century.

Dorsey is consistently rated among the top firms in M&A deals and has established a trial practice in the U.S. and abroad offering unparalleled service in litigation and regulatory investigations based in major commercial jurisdictions worldwide. In recognition of an important facet of that capability, Legal Business awarded the firm's London office "Tax Team of the Year" in 2006 for Dorsey's ground breaking litigation in the U.K. and European Union culminating in the landmark victory on behalf of one of the U.K.'s leading retailers in the European Court of Justice.

Client Satisfaction via Litigation Support Technology

Dorsey demonstrates the utmost commitment to exceed client needs. To that end, the firm routinely teams with clients to focus on delivering high quality legal services in a timely and cost-effective manner, increasingly with the assistance of cutting-edge technologies and technology services. Its desire to leverage technology to provide client value prompted Dorsey to find a litigation support technology to manage various document reviews and productions that originate from the firm's New York office and are likely to require teams spanning Dorsey's offices globally. Consequently, Dorsey chose FTI Consulting's Ringtail Legal 2005™ to accomplish the job.

Over the past 12 months, Dorsey has been utilizing Ringtail Legal 2005—a web-based litigation document management and review platform providing geographically dispersed legal teams with instant access to every relevant case file—for tasks relating to data collection and harvesting from various sources, processing document collections and reviewing them, as well as producing the documents for court trials. After Dorsey's deployment of Ringtail Legal 2005 to manage the highly complex and diverse disclosure requirements carried out under a brisk discovery schedule for a \$1.3 billion federal class action litigation consolidating four suits against the U.S. subsidiary of a Japanese global technology concern, Dorsey's client obtained an order from the Southern District of New York in September 2006 denying class certification and strongly pointing toward the ultimate disposal of the litigation.

In another recent case indicative of the power inherent to the Ringtail platform, Joseph Perkovich, who directs Dorsey's New York based electronic evidence and discovery practice, gathered together more than 270,000 files from 44 e-mail custodians, had them loaded into Ringtail Legal 2005 in their native format, and began an expansive document production in the span of a weekend.

Problem:

Law firm with commitment to delivering high quality legal services in a timely and cost-effective manner looking for cutting-edge technologies and technology services to manage document reviews and productions that originate from the firm's New York office and span to other offices.

Solution:

Use Ringtail Legal for an array of matters including a \$1.3 billion federal class action litigation because of the ease of getting to all data in the system, the ability to review and search native files, the web-based nature of the platform and FTI's support.

Results:

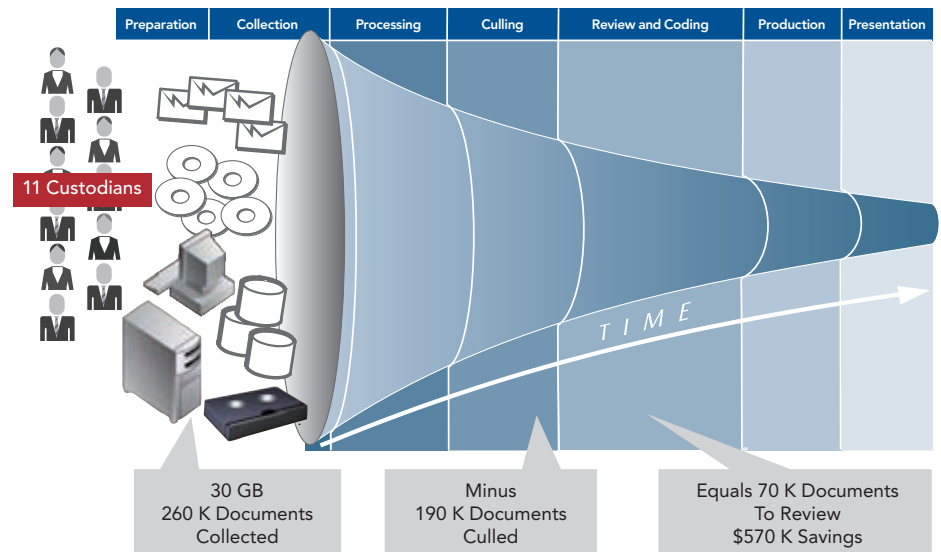
The selection of Ringtail Legal and FTI translated into both time and cost savings and enabled Dorsey & Whitney to achieve its goal of exceeding client expectations.

"We chose Ringtail Legal 2005 because it is SQL based and can scale to meet our firm's needs. Having all documents within one central web-based repository allows our staff and clients to access critical documents and case information via a web browser, regardless of physical location."

— Joseph Perkovich, Dorsey & Whitney

Cutting Costs and Shortening the Review Process

Mr. Perkovich and his colleagues relied on Ringtail Legal 2005's sophisticated native file review capabilities for processing thousands of e-mail files from both Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes. The firm also used Ringtail to process and deduplicate non e-mail files such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other Microsoft office files and user files, and then extract full text and metadata. Once all these files were loaded, Ringtail Legal 2005 searches based on selected key words condensed an original document and file volume of more than 2 million into a document just shy of 400 pages. The Dorsey team saw the precision searching capabilities in Ringtail Legal 2005 shorten to a few days an entire process that previously would have taken the firm a month or longer to complete, enabling them to meet all discovery deadlines with a production ensured to be limited to only the relevant and not privileged documents within the scope of the litigation.



“For high stakes litigation and regulatory work, I would be hard pressed to envision proceeding a different way. Over the past several years, the tandem of Ringtail and FTI has clearly proven, to my mind, to be among the premier options in the industry.”

— Joseph Perkovich, Dorsey & Whitney

More generally, Ringtail Legal 2005 has proven to Dorsey to be equally agile and robust in handling massive corporate litigation entailing discovery from an array of parties and custodians and including a broad range of software applications. In a separate case, Dorsey routinely needed to utilize Ringtail Legal 2005's production module to systematically cull and isolate relevant documents and database records in response to aggressive discovery tactics advanced in relation to class certification in the recent federal action concerning the U.S. subsidiary of the global technology concern. With Ringtail's enhanced, easy-to-use interface, the Dorsey team was able to navigate and administer the application in a streamlined fashion with few technical difficulties.

In the past, Dorsey had routinely encountered slow document review and production response times with previous litigation support systems, specifically when the firm needed to harvest massive document populations and review and produce them in a timely matter. Considering his firm's experience with these various systems to warrant an accurate comparison with the Ringtail Legal 2005, Mr. Perkovich praised key attributes of the platform as instrumental in enhancing processing performance and speed. “Based on Ringtail Legal 2005's updated user interface and intuitive administrative setup, document loading occurred much faster than alternative products of this kind on the market and even the previous versions of Ringtail, which I had worked with in connection to investigations and litigations involving terabytes of data,” he says. “The SQL-backend and the availability of any and all data from within one central, relational database are important when producing documents on-demand across multiple locations and time zones. From a consulting and expertise standpoint, the FTI team assisted us on constructing specific queries and searches, as well as producing various reports out of the Ringtail database. The ability to easily move any volume of data in and out of Ringtail's SQL database, combined with the reliance on a very skilled and responsive third party consultant such as FTI, is invaluable. For high stakes litigation and regulatory work, I would be hard pressed to envision proceeding a different way. Over the past several years, the tandem of Ringtail and FTI has clearly proven, to my mind, to be among the premier options in the industry.”

Dorsey's Ringtail Legal 2005 Benefits At-A-Glance

Ringtail Legal™ relational database. Built on a Microsoft SQL Server for scalability, FTI's software solution can handle hundreds of users simultaneously and sort through thousands of cases and millions of documents quickly and accurately. The secure technology employs a regular web browser to allow collaboration, rather than a cumbersome installed program or Citrix access. Dorsey has harnessed the power of the Ringtail platform—through its robust SQL database.

Extended native file review and content searching. Ringtail Legal 2005 delivers new and rich search and reporting capabilities, including cached searching and multi-column sorting. It also renders results in HTML format while retaining native files for review. The platform supports more than 250 file types, such as Microsoft Word and Excel, WordPerfect, Adobe PDF, and TIFF imaged files. For Dorsey, Ringtail's ability to search, review and produce any files in their native format greatly reduced the time that the firm had previously spent on the document production process.

Web centric administration. Ringtail Legal 2005 was built as a web application so that system management that includes users and groups, document security, review workflow, and production management will occur directly from a web browser. Dorsey now relies on this native web architecture to administer and facilitate collaboration between its 20 global offices.

Improved usability. Ringtail Legal 2005's graphical user interface has been significantly enhanced for easier navigation and improved performance, with more advanced functions, greater efficiency, and easier navigation to swiftly access key areas of the application. This "ease of use" accelerated the typical acclimation process for new technologies, allowing Dorsey attorneys to quickly adjust to the introduction of the Ringtail system and thereafter tap the resources of FTI Consulting to great advantage.

FTI expertise. On average, FTI consultants have more than 10 years of litigation support experience. With their wide breadth and depth of knowledge, these consultants are adept at helping firms make the most of their Ringtail investment. Dorsey experienced consistent success whenever it leveraged FTI's consultants on several complex litigation occasions. Reliance on the FTI team enabled Dorsey to immediately maximize their benefit from the many advanced features of the newest version of the Ringtail software.

Conclusion

The Ringtail Legal 2005 web-based litigation technology delivered tangible benefits for Dorsey & Whitney. This top global law firm discovered, in particular, that Ringtail's native file review capabilities, intuitive user interface, and powerful relational database, along with FTI Consulting's deep litigation consulting expertise, translated into both time and cost savings and enabled Dorsey & Whitney to achieve its goal of exceeding client expectations.

About Dorsey & Whitney

Dorsey & Whitney LLP is among the largest law firms in the world. With 20 offices strategically located and nearly 640 lawyers and 750 support staff, Dorsey sustains its premier client service by fulfilling its vision of leading in the legal profession by leveraging core strengths worldwide.

For More Information or to Schedule a Demo

www.ftitechnology.com

ftitechsales@fticonsulting.com

North America +1 (800) 959-8001 or

+1 (206) 373 6565

Europe +44 (0)20 3077 0500

Australia +61 (2) 8216 0814

FTI Technology is a business segment of FTI Consulting that is dedicated to helping organizations protect and enhance enterprise value in an increasingly complex legal, regulatory and economic environment. Our clients rely on our software, services and expertise for matters ranging from internal investigations to large-scale litigation with global e-discovery requirements.