

Control the Flood of Information in Any Case

Overview

Firm: Law Offices of Daniel J. Siegel, LLC

Location: Havertown, PA

Industry: Legal Consulting.

Customer Profile: Small law firm (two full-time and one part-time attorneys)

Business Situation: After 24 years as a partner with two law firms, an attorney opened his own solo practice in which he also provides litigation support services for other attorneys' law firms..

Solution: Siegel uses CaseMap®, TextMap®, TimeMap®, and NoteMap® software from LexisNexis®.

Benefits:

- Faster analysis and insight into cases
- Greater productivity, more collaboration
- Faster creation of more effective presentation materials

Product Summary:

Litigation Services

- CaseMap®
- TextMap®
- TimeMap®
- NoteMap®

Litigator Daniel J. Siegel knew that he would need to combine efficiency with cost-effective technology to provide his clients with the same level of representation they had received when he was a partner in a prominent mid-sized law firm. Siegel also knew that, because many of his clients would be fellow attorneys who would utilize his services to prepare cases for trial and handle their appeals, he would be required to:

- Prepare chronologies that include the people, places and things in every case
- Review documents and other things provided during discovery
- Analyze testimony
- Determine the issues in each case, and create links between/among issues, people, places, documents, testimony and other aspects of the case
- Prepare outlines for testimony and trial
- Create visual timelines
- Compile questions and legal concerns, linking them to facts and issues in the case
- Create a central repository for all statutes, rules, regulations and other legal research
- Author easy-to-understand comprehensive reports outlining the results of his analyses
- Prepare to file or defend pre-trial motions, including motions for summary judgment
- Determine and preserve issues for appeal

To meet these demands, Siegel uses the LexisNexis® CaseMap® suite of products to prepare cases for litigation, including discovery, depositions, pre-trial proceedings and, ultimately, trial.



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Situation

Products liability, medical malpractice, personal injury and commercial litigation matters have become far more complex, and routinely involve thousands of pages of documents, with the electronic exchange of documents becoming far more routine. Many lawyers feel overwhelmed when reviewing electronically produced data, yet they also acknowledge that printing thousands of pages of documents is neither efficient nor cost-effective. Consequently, they have contacted attorney Dan Siegel to assist them with their litigation.

“The traditional ways of handling cases just do not work as well when the volume of documents produced is enormous,” says Siegel. “Instead, lawyers try a variety of ‘work-arounds,’ which are no better than putting a finger in a leaky dike and hoping that the flood stops.” In addition, Siegel notes that even in small cases, reviewing and analyzing documents and cases on a computer provides far better and more user-friendly results than pen and paper or other rudimentary methods, including compiling data using word processing or spreadsheet software.

“As I analyzed my own cases, regardless of the size” Siegel says, “I quickly realized the CaseMap suite of products provided the ideal complement in virtually every situation. While every case does not require each of the products, it is clear that without those products, it would take longer to prepare most cases, and the results would not be as thorough or helpful.” Siegel uses the CaseMap suite of products—CaseMap, TextMap, TimeMap and NoteMap—in all types of cases, including personal injury, workers’ compensation, Social Security disability, products liability, commercial litigation, medical malpractice, and in any other matters in which he needs to review data, create timelines, outline information or review and summarize testimony.



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Solution

Attorney Dan Siegel needed tools that would allow him to review large amounts of information and digest it in a manner that he and his clients— lawyers and non-lawyers alike—would be able to understand. Fortunately, Siegel realized that the CaseMap, TextMap, TimeMap and NoteMap software products from LexisNexis® Litigation Services were the “Swiss army knife” his office needed. CaseMap case analysis software is a central repository for case knowledge, designed to organize information about the facts, documents, people, organizations, proceedings, issues and law in a given case. Users can enter information directly in CaseMap or transfer to it from more than 25 other programs, including general-purpose software such as Microsoft® Word and Adobe® Acrobat® as well as specialized software such as CT Summation and Concordance®. In addition, data from CaseMap can be easily used with trial presentation programs transferred to other programs, including trial presentation programs such as Sanction® and TrialDirector®.

TimeMap timeline graphing software creates highly visual and intuitive customizable timelines in just a few seconds when the information is imported automatically from CaseMap. Users can also create timelines in TimeMap quickly and easily by entering their data directly into the program. The TextMap transcript summary tool allows attorneys to quickly annotate transcripts, linking testimony with the issues in a given case and preparing reports in just a few seconds. TextMap users can also send testimony directly to CaseMap, linking the testimony directly to CaseMap facts and issues. The NoteMap outlining tool is a simple-to-use and highly customizable software tool that permits users to create detailed outlines on the fly, and easily transfer the results to Microsoft Word and numerous other programs.

“Big Brother” for your litigation

For Siegel, CaseMap represents a case’s institutional memory, allowing users to locate any fact, document or issue in just a few mouse clicks. “Every time I use CaseMap, I am amazed at how easily it allows me to see everything about a case, and analyze the matters in ways I had never conceived,” says Siegel. “For example, as I was reviewing documents in an insurance bad faith claim, I noticed gaps in the chronology. These gaps represented periods when the insurance company should have been investigating the case and instead was doing nothing. The delay was more visible when I reviewed all of the facts chronologically and in context.”



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Preparing cases is like assembling a puzzle, Siegel notes. Traditionally, all of the documents would be stored in one location, all of the transcripts in another and so on. With CaseMap, every fact, every document and every issue can be linked so that relationships between all of the players become much clearer. Facts, people, documents and other case-related items can be entered directly into CaseMap or imported directly from another program. Unlike with traditional paper systems, each CaseMap fact can be linked directly to the document (e.g., a Cast of Characters, Case Chronology, Deposition, etc.) from which it came, and any user can view any document as long as he or she has the native software that opens the particular item. Thus, with one click, a CaseMap user can view a given fact and see the document to which it is linked, as well as any related testimony from TextMap.

The ability to analyze relationships (links) between facts and people and documents is crucial to CaseMap. “There is so much information in every case that it is easy to overlook a relationship or fail to see its importance,” says Siegel. “With more traditional methods, it was more difficult to quickly retrieve information and it was easier to miss things. There were no shortcuts to help see patterns in case information. With CaseMap, there are, and it is easy to retrieve and review information.” Another important aspect of CaseMap is its ability to narrow information. For example, with a few clicks, a user can see each fact related to any individual, place or event, allowing him or her to analyze data in different ways.

Other aspects of CaseMap provide less obvious but equally helpful benefits. The program has a summary judgment tool that generates reports outlining the areas in which there are disputes, or there are no disputes, about given facts or issues. This screening tool allows users to generate quick reports of disputed or undisputed facts essential to supporting or opposing a motion for summary judgment. CaseMap also stores and links research, questions and other items with entries listed anywhere else in CaseMap. “CaseMap eliminates those yellow pads that everyone wrote on,” says Siegel. “They were great when you were writing, but you couldn’t share the information with others, and over time, those pads often got lost or no one could read the handwriting, and the analysis was essentially for naught.”

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Linking TextMap with CaseMap

“Most lawyers were taught to read transcripts, and then take notes on a legal pad or on sticky notes. Unfortunately, as time passed, most people couldn’t read their own notes, and the sticky notes would lose their adhesive and fall off,” Siegel recalls. “With TextMap, all of those notes are preserved forever. More importantly, the notes can be linked to issues in the case, and exported to CaseMap, where they can be analyzed in the context of other facts from other sources.” Just as important, Siegel notes, is the fact that some attorneys, such as workers’ compensation practitioners, may not need CaseMap, but should use TextMap to help review and annotate testimony more effectively. “Every person who works with me who has not used TextMap or a similar program asks why he or she should use a transcript review tool,” Siegel says. “Then I show them TextMap, and its ability to link testimony with issues and then generate reports, and they quickly become converts. Plus, when preparing briefs, motions or appeals, it is far easier to copy text into Word or WordPerfect® from TextMap than it is to dictate the testimony or type it yourself.”

Creating Effective Graphics

If a picture is worth a thousand words, TimeMap graphics may be worth 10,000.

“Timelines are an extremely effective method of presenting information, but they used to be hard to create. Or, you could pay a service to create the illustration, but you spent a lot of money,” Siegel says. “With TimeMap, you can easily create highly customized timelines showing all or some of the facts in a case in ways that judges and juries can easily grasp information.” Siegel recalls a commercial arbitration he handled in which the amount at issue did not justify the use of expensive presentations.

The case involved a contractor who had been hired to renovate a row house. The total amount in dispute was less than \$20,000. “We analyzed the data in CaseMap,” Siegel recalls, “and noticed that our client, the contractor, had completed all of the work he was hired to perform before the buyer ever voiced any complaints. It became very clear that the buyer was just trying to save himself money.” Siegel then transferred the data from CaseMap to TimeMap, and created a timeline showing all of the work the contractor had performed, and when. He purposely created a long, multi-page timeline and taped the pages together. All of the work the client performed was shown in blue with the homeowner’s belated complaint in red. Thus, the arbitrator saw a graphic that displayed multiple pages of events in blue; the red graphic did not appear until the last entry on the last page and its import was instantly apparent. “I could have tried to explain this,” Siegel says, “but the TimeMap timeline made my job much easier. The arbitrator saw the graphic and nodded his head in assent. I knew at that point we had won.”



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Creating Reports That Contain Lots of Easy-to-Understand Information

CaseMap comes with numerous standard reports. Although most law firms will never need to customize the reports in any significant way, they will use them both internally to analyze their cases, and externally as method of convincing judges and opposing counsel of their point of view. As with other CaseMap features, with literally a click of the mouse, the software tool produces reports that any attorney, judge, prosecutor or other authority can use to understand the case and immediately identify any name, event or transaction. CaseMap reports generally include a list of all the people involved in the case, and provide clear explanations of each person’s role in the case. With CaseMap, you do not have to spend weeks creating these reports. They are literally prepared on the fly, and can be saved in a variety of formats, including pdf and html.

In a recent slip-and-fall case, for example, Siegel recalls creating a CaseMap outline for an attorney whose firm he was working with. “The case involved an accident at an oil refinery. My staff reviewed all of the documents produced by defendants and transferred them from Adobe Acrobat into CaseMap. It took less than one minute to link all of the documents,” Siegel recalls. “But more importantly, when we analyzed the documents, they showed that the oil company knew of the condition, and simply ignored it for a long time. As a result, liability became far clearer than it once had been.”

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Clients Love the Results

Dan Siegel’s clients are extremely pleased with the work product they receive with CaseMap and its related tools. As a small firm practitioner, Siegel realizes that he does not have the resources of larger firms. He compensates for what his firm lacks in personnel, however, by providing the type of quality legal analysis and representation that is not found in many traditional law firms. It isn’t only client service that is more efficient at the Law Offices of Daniel J. Siegel, LLC. Thanks to the CaseMap, TextMap, TimeMap and NoteMap software products from LexisNexis® Litigation Services, Siegel received new business as the result of clients who are pleased with the results. In particular, many of his law firm clients have told their “friends” about Siegel’s services, thereby generating new business. “The bottom line is that the CaseMap suite is a major reason the firm’s business continues to grow,” adds Siegel.

“The solutions from LexisNexis are very powerful,” says Siegel. “Plus, these tools come with free support for registered clients, and the quality

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About the Case Assessment & Analysis Suite of Products

The LexisNexis Case Assessment & Analysis suite of products—LexisNexis® Total Litigator, CaseMap®, TextMap®, TimeMap® and CourtLink®—helps you pull together all the facts, issues and research in any case to determine the best, most effective course of action; quickly and with confidence.

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