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A Closer Look at Liquid Lit Manager

Cloud-based Liquid Lit Manager provides service on the go.

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In the e-discovery world there's no shortage of document review platforms. But surprisingly, there's very little software to help litigators comprehensively manage their matters. That's what Liquid Litigation Management Inc. (LLM) set out to create over a decade ago¬–a platform that litigators can feasibly utilize from discovery all the way through trial.

This isn't the same as covering "the entire EDRM spectrum" that you see from other e-discovery vendors. The Liquid Lit Manager platform certainly offers data processing, document review and even technology assisted review (TAR) tools, but there are also budget trackers, deposition outlines, chronology timelines, work binders, and more.

Liquid Lit Manager is a cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) that can be accessed from any computer with a Web browser. The company has also crafted some nifty iPad apps for access to outlines and timelines on the go.

Bird's Eye View to Ground Level

Before jumping into a specific matter, you can enter the "Cross-Case Dashboard,'" which provides a powerful macro view of all the activity across multiple matters. For example, you can see what budgets were blown and the status of legal holds. When used properly with adequate input, the dashboard provides critical oversight for clients and identifies potential project snags for law firms.

Exiting out of the Cross-Case Dashboard, you can jump into a specific litigation matter. Just don't get overwhelmed with the number of folders and items in the navigation panel on the left. For example, Liquid Lit Manager separates "Discovery Portal" (documents received from your own client) from "Production Portal" (documents received from an opposing party). Everything is well-organized, but there are more folders than you might be used to.

The Discovery Portal also boasts a fascinating gizmo called the "ReviewPredictor." While all e-discovery tools will track the progress of a document review, Liquid Lit Manager's Review Predictor lets you input a date for the completed review and it will tell you if you're on schedule. If you're behind (and who isn't?), the Review Predictor will calculate how many days until completion, or tell you how many more reviewers you need to hire.

ESI is ingested into Liquid Lit Manager as "Discovery Sets", and a case administrator can then assign document groups to reviewers as "Review Sets." Opening a Discovery or Review Set populates a document list where the columns and sort order can be customized. Small details such as the "Family Summary" pop-up grant insight into the document batch through tidbits like the "AverageSizeFamily."

The "Headline" field is a consistent location for quick comments or document nicknames (e.g. "The Rejection Letter"). Anything in the Headline field is completely searchable. Quick-Notes are Liquid Lit Manager's version of document "tagging" which can be set up by a case administrator. Reviewers can also start a "Discussion Thread" for each document.

"Liquid Lit Manager supports a much broader panorama for managing your matters."

Search and Produce

As expected, Liquid Lit Manager features powerful search capabilities, beginning with the "Quick Search" box accessible at the top of the screen. Advanced Search offers fuzzy, proximity, and natural language options. Any search can be saved for later retrieval.

When I found an interesting document in the list of search results, I liked clicking the "More Like This" link, which ran a concept search to locate and show me similar documents. Once you've found a set of documents ready for production, Liquid Lit Manager walks you through the entire process from "Pre-Production" through creating a Privilege Log.

In addition to discovery ESI, every litigator must juggle a number of documents, outlines, and prep work for a matter to get ready for hearings, depositions, and court filings.

Liquid Lit Manager offers an Outlines section where you can compose questions for a deposition and link relevant documents to each question. The Timelines section is used for an event chronology or just to track the logistical activity in a matter.

Outlines and Timelines are so powerful that LLM also converted them into iPad apps so you can easily access both while you're out of the office. All of your questions, notes, and linked documents are accessible in the apps which are well-designed and extremely functional.

Beautiful Binders

The most innovative (and popular) feature of Liquid Lit Manager are "LitBinders" accompanied by the "BinderBuilder" tool. Just about any document can be sent to a LitBinder where they can be organized and sorted.

Every e-discovery platform allows users to print documents, because, well, lawyers won't stop printing. But instead of spitting out a jumbled, nondescript set of pages, the BinderBuilder compiles a LitBinder into a single PDF file complete with a table of contents and clickable bookmarks. You can even split the PDF into separate files based on the number of pages or file size for those courts with strict limits on e-filing.

There's a lot to learn and love about Liquid Lit Manger. While the platform can certainly hold its own for document processing, review, and production, it truly supports a much broader panorama for organizing your litigation strategies and managing your matters.

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