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The principal of a law firm originally contacted Avalon to scan hardcopy documents needed for upcoming anticipated litigation. However, in speaking to him about what Avalon offers in terms of litigation support, we discovered he also had a need for forensic collection from more than a dozen different custodians, as well as a way to ingest this data for use in discovery. As the client was a novice in the electronically stored information (ESI) model, he would need to lean heavily on our expertise regarding what to expect and who may be responsive to discovery.

The Challenge

The case involved a very sensitive subject (multiple child abuse cases, both past accusations and settlements, as well as current accusations), and the New York State Attorney General (NYSAG) office made it clear that discovery demands would have abbreviated deadlines to push the cases to resolution as quickly as possible.

Regarding the scanning project, we needed to merge hardcopy documents, some from as far back as 1960, and current digital data, into an online review platform. There were 10 to 12 boxes of legacy documents, desktops, laptops, cloud data, and cell phones to collect from, as well as hard deadlines imposed by the NYSAG office.

About a year following the initial push, and the case still ongoing, an additional law firm was brought onto the case and needed access to the same data set. We had to ensure that the data was available for two separate review processes, and that attorneys from both firms could reference the data, without affecting fellow reviewers.

The Strategy

The Avalon Utica team took care of the hard copy documents, scanning and indexing them appropriately to be spun up into Relativity. At the same time, the Pro Tech team participated in a few scoping calls with the attorneys, as

well as their clients, regarding remote collection for discovery.

When the second firm was brought into the case, an Avalon project manager with years of eDiscovery experience worked to ensure that all data was accessible to the various reviewers, but also separate per firm. That way, each firm could leverage the other's work for future discovery requests as they rolled in from the NYSAG office.

The Results

The merging of traditional litigation support and eDiscovery was seamless from the client's perspective. With the participation of the client's internal IT team, we were able to collect from all custodians and devices remotely. The data was stored per custodian and, depending on which individual's case the NYSAG was requesting discovery for, the appropriate custodians' data was spun up for review. Finally, we never experienced a delay on our end and our client did not had to file for extensions with the court.

The client appreciated that we were willing to "hold his hand" throughout the process, including teaching him how to use Relativity efficiently and effectively. The Avalon Pro Tech team was extremely responsive, answered every question he had, and supported him via several screenshare sessions to get him up and running. This level of support for this client continues to this day. 🏆



QUESTIONS?

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