



#### CHALLENGES

- Urgent data request with five-day court-appointed deadline
- Process and analyze over 570,000 documents and produce only the responsive documents
- Missing deadline would lead to sanctions

#### SOLUTION

- Clearwell E-Discovery Platform for intelligent processing, analysis, and review

#### BENEFITS

- Processed and analyzed over 570,000 documents in one day
- Identified and produced 3,070 responsive documents in two days
- Met court-appointed deadline and avoided sanctions
- Delivered consistent and accurate results

*"On this case, Clearwell's technology was invaluable. Based on our experience, implementing technology for e-discovery is an absolute must, as it costs far less than the penalties of a sanction or a missed deadline. We could not have responded to this data request without Clearwell, and definitely expect to use this approach again under similar circumstances."*

Mary Pat Poteet  
Director Litigation Support, DLA Piper

# DLA Piper

Clearwell Systems Enables DLA Piper to Respond to Large Data Request in Less Than Four Days

#### OVERVIEW

In a recent case, DLA Piper, the largest international law firm, faced an astounding data request involving more than 570,000 electronic documents within a court-appointed deadline of only five days. The firm required rapid processing, search, and analytics to respond to this time-critical request from opposing counsel. Though all hard copy evidence for the case had been collected, the team had yet to process, analyze, and review hundreds of thousands of electronic documents from 11 custodians. DLA Piper decided to leverage the Clearwell E-Discovery Platform for processing, analysis, search, and review, enabling the firm to successfully respond to this last-minute, time-critical data request.

#### E-DISCOVERY CHALLENGES

Given the last-minute data request from opposing counsel, DLA Piper faced the challenge of quickly processing, analyzing, and reviewing a large volume of data in a very short timeframe. Failure to respond to the data request would likely result in sanctions. To make matters worse, the collection of evidence took longer than expected, further shortening the timeline for the critical tasks of processing and analysis.

**Time:** It would have taken DLA Piper weeks just to process 67GB of data using traditional approaches, making it impossible to meet the deadline.

**Risk:** Keyword search tools did not provide the capabilities needed to quickly and accurately respond to the complex request from opposing counsel.

**Cost:** Failure to fulfill the request in five days would likely result in costly sanctions from the court.

#### THE SOLUTION

DLA Piper required a solution that would accelerate document processing, deliver rapid analysis and culling capabilities, and provide integrated document review. In order to meet the case's challenging requirements, DLA Piper utilized the Clearwell E-Discovery Platform.

The product provided the following capabilities:

- **Rapid processing:** Clearwell processed all 570,000 documents within a single day, providing enough time for analysis, review, and production of data. Clearwell's incremental processing capabilities enabled DLA Piper to start the analysis process for initial custodians within 25 minutes.

*"The Clearwell E-Discovery Platform allowed us to effectively respond to the data request from opposing counsel, and avoid a costly penalty. We definitely see ourselves using this approach again under similar circumstances."*

Mary Pat Poteet, Director Litigation Support, DLA Piper

- **Intelligent culling and analysis:** Clearwell's communication flow analysis enabled the legal team to quickly find all emails to specific individuals and to specific organizations (i.e., email domains) within a confined date range. Clearwell's organizational discovery automatically identified all variations of a custodian's email address, ensuring that no data for a custodian was missed.
  - **Rapid searching and tagging:** Relevance ranked search results were computed across the entire dataset and delivered in under five seconds, speeding the analysis process. Once a responsive email was found, reviewers were able to see the entire discussion thread with the click of a button, ensuring that all related emails were tagged quickly and consistently, and review the document directly within Clearwell's integrated review interface.
  - **Reliable and accurate results:** The team found 3,070 responsive documents in a dataset of 570,000, culling-down the dataset by 99.46 percent in just two days.
  - **Flexible export:** Clearwell enabled DLA Piper to export the 3,070 email messages and attachments by custodian in PST format and send them to outside counsel, meeting the request in four days and avoiding sanctions.
  - Provided detailed analysis tools for document filtering and email threading that enabled rapid culling and accurate identification of responsive documents.
  - Delivered transparent search capabilities that enabled search refinement and enhanced defensibility through sampling, testing, and automatic reporting.
  - Quickly identified 3,070 responsive documents from over 570,000 documents, culling-down the data by 99.46 percent in just two days.
  - Accelerated the early case assessment by providing immediate visibility into case facts.
  - Met court-appointed deadline with the most cost-effective approach, eliminating the risk of sanctions.
- "Once the data is indexed in Clearwell, you can slice and dice it a million different ways to get a really good picture of what you have," said Mary Pat Poteet, Director of Litigation Support at DLA Piper. "This made it possible for us to conduct case analysis quickly and respond to the request with the confidence that we were producing the most comprehensive and accurate dataset."

#### BUSINESS BENEFITS

DLA Piper was able to fulfill a request in four days, and avoid sanctions. The solution cost far less than a sanction for not meeting a deadline. The Clearwell E-Discovery Platform provided the firm the following benefits:

- Processed and de-duplicated over 570,000 documents in less than one day, ensuring ample time for document analysis, review, and production.

To learn how Clearwell Systems can deliver value to your organization, contact an e-discovery expert at: [info@clearwellsystems.com](mailto:info@clearwellsystems.com), or call us at: 877.727.9909.



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