

Courtroom Concepts

Leading litigation support firm gives attorneys the upper hand with visual presentations created using Adobe® Acrobat® and Adobe PDF

COURTROOM CONCEPTS

www.courtroomconcepts.com

INDUSTRY

Legal

CHALLENGES

- Keep juries engaged
- Protect integrity of documents and evidence
- Share case materials among legal teams

SOLUTION

- Document generation
- Trial presentation

Courtroom Concepts uses Adobe Acrobat and Adobe PDF to create compelling visual trial presentations that combine digital comments, text, images, and video.

RESULTS

- Engaged juries better in lengthy trials
- Improved jury understanding of complex evidence
- Streamlined sharing of case materials
- Enhanced lawyer performance during trials

Presenting the facts visually

Courtroom decisions can affect peoples' destinies in profound and lasting ways. At the same time, it can be difficult for judges, mediators, and juries to sift through and absorb relevant information to reach intelligent opinions during legal proceedings.

One of the best ways for attorneys to educate and persuade people is to tell their client's side of the story using visual media. Through visuals, attorneys can connect the themes of the case to the evidence and draw attention to relevant details contained within documents and other case materials. This is Courtroom Concepts' forte. The full-service litigation support company helps law firms nationwide prepare presentations for cases using Adobe Acrobat Professional software, an ideal tool for combining and presenting materials in compelling visual ways.

"We standardized on Adobe Acrobat Professional because of its ease-of-use and cost-effectiveness—plus it has other outstanding benefits for courtroom presentations," says Keith Cartwright, partner, Courtroom Concepts. "There are many trial presentation software packages on the market, but only Acrobat offers the ability to quickly organize, search, view, and present hundreds of documents and to combine multiple document types—photos, video, medical records, and written reports—into a cohesive courtroom presentation."

Growing use of visual presentations

Several factors are spurring the increased use of visual presentations in courts. Traditionally, trials have consisted of hours of spoken testimony and verbal arguments. This can become monotonous, causing the concentration of even the most enthusiastic jurors to stray.

During trials, arbitrations, and mediations, participants are expected to assimilate volumes of information contained in everything from faxes and e-mail to photos and videos. They also must grasp complex concepts quickly. Considering the proliferation of media and complexity of trial information, the nature of how evidence is presented is changing rapidly.

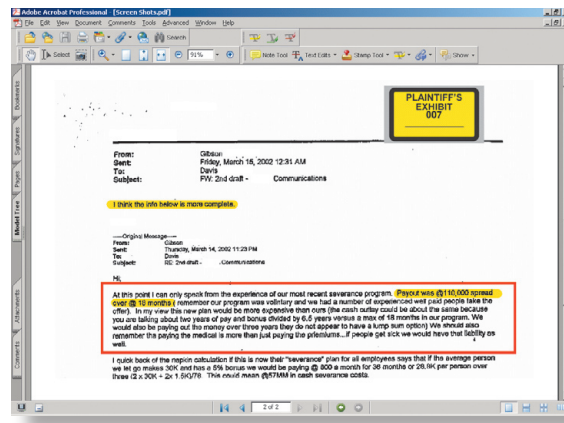
Courtroom Concepts uses Adobe Acrobat software to create visual presentations that combine a variety of media types, keep juries engaged, and help everyone involved in legal proceedings understand subjects. The company identifies key themes, strategies, and evidence in a case and presents them visually.

Effectively presenting multimedia case materials

When an attorney in court needs to present evidence that originated on paper, Courtroom Concepts scans the paper documents, converts them to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), and displays the documents on a screen that the jury and judge can view with ease. Acrobat is ideal for courtroom use because the resulting Adobe PDF files retain the integrity of the original documents.

The same procedure of scanning documents and converting them to Adobe PDF files can be used to present evidence such as digital photos that have been analyzed and enhanced using imaging software. When attorneys refer to specific sections within a document or photo, they can enlarge, highlight, underline, or circle relevant text or imagery using commenting tools in Acrobat.

Courtroom Concepts uses Adobe Acrobat to help law firms prepare presentations for cases. The company scans paper documents and converts them to Adobe PDF. Relevant text or imagery can be enlarged, highlighted, underlined, or circled using commenting tools in Acrobat. Bookmarks and hyperlinks can also be added to relevant case details so that information can be presented in court in an instant. With typical cases often involving 200 or more exhibits, the ability to quickly retrieve, view, and present materials in Adobe PDF is a significant advantage.



“Acrobat and Adobe PDF provide a cost-effective alternative to expensive trial software. What’s more, the Adobe solution is the perfect way to create effective presentations that draw decision makers to a clear conclusion.”

Keith Cartwright,
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Courtroom Concepts also adds bookmarks and hyperlinks to relevant case details so the right information can be presented in court in an instant. With typical cases often involving 200 or more exhibits, the ability to quickly retrieve, view, and present materials in Adobe PDF is a significant advantage.

Acting quickly in the courtroom

Acrobat enables Courtroom Concepts to combine text and imagery with other types of media, such as video, into a single file that can be easily presented in court. With a swift keyword search, attorneys can quickly find videos or images to refute inaccurate statements or support their own arguments. The advantage of Acrobat is that searches can be conducted instantly across a variety of media to find everything an attorney might need.

“Finding information in most trial applications can be slow, hindering courtroom performance,” says Cartwright. “When you’re in the spotlight in court and have to keep searching using multiple keystrokes, you can start to lose credibility. With Acrobat, we can find what we need in seconds.”

In addition to searching and highlighting case content in Adobe PDF, Courtroom Concepts uses the rectangle tool in Acrobat to remove objectionable content from files. When a judge or opposing counsel objects to a word or piece of evidence, attorneys can immediately white out the content, hiding it without affecting the integrity of the remaining content.

Better trial preparation

Even before attorneys go into the courtroom, visual presentations created using Acrobat help with preparation. Attorneys can collaborate with each other because all members of a legal team can open the universal Adobe PDF files easily and reliably—both internally and at client sites.

When Courtroom Concepts has assembled presentations in Acrobat it becomes clear which evidence is supported visually, an important factor in helping juries better understand complex topics. Based on these insights, attorneys can, for instance, develop more pointed questions for use in cross-examining witnesses.

Creating a clear advantage

Visuals that are well developed and presented create a significant advantage for attorneys inside and outside the courtroom. For Courtroom Concepts and its clients, there is no better solution for assembling, presenting, and highlighting case materials than Adobe Acrobat.

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SYSTEMS AT A GLANCE

- Adobe Acrobat Professional

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