CRIMINAL COURT CASE DEFENCE PREPARATION

The 36 Group

Leading London barristers' chambers, The 36 Group, recently deployed Luminance Discovery for in advance of a high-profile and historic murder trial. An investigating team of 20 people, including forensic experts, former police officers, solicitors and barristers needed to review over 10,000 documents in order to decide the defence argument and evidence ahead of the murder trial.

With all of the team working remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The 36 Group needed a solution that would allow them to gain insight into the entire document set from any location. Previously The 36 Group had relied on the Crown Court Digital Case System (CCDCS), an online platform used by instructing counsel in England and Wales, to access, prepare and present information for court proceedings, but in this case the team found the CCDCS unable to provide a centrally-accessible platform offering the necessary remote access to evidence, unused material, correspondence, court orders and other defence materials. Moreover, the CCDS lacked the intuitive and collaborative tools this complicated case required, since it needed to be accessed by a large defence team with little opportunity for training or on-boarding.

The 36 Group began looking for an alternative way of storing and searching their data, and soon found Luminance to be the optimal solution. Luminance's easy cloud-deployment ensured that within a matter of minutes, The 36 Group were able to upload the entire dataset to the platform, meaning that each team member could easily and securely access all of the documents. Luminance's unique blend of supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms were then able to quickly read and form an understanding of the diverse documents within the case, which included unused evidence, witness statements and even mobile

RESULTS

- Using Luminance, the team saved four working weeks between the beginning of the review and the disclosure phase
- Luminance's automatic document bundling tool was "invaluable", creating vast time-savings for the team
- Luminance's advanced collaboration tools allowed the 20-person team to work seamlessly and efficiently

phone communications. This provided the investigation team with an all-encompassing oversight of the dataset which was displayed in the form of an intuitive, interactive 3D visualization, allowing the team to quickly pinpoint which material needed to be reviewed in preparation for the court hearing. Indeed, The 36 Group were most impressed by Luminance's intuitive and easy-to-use interface, meaning that despite the fact that the team had no experience with Luminance before, they were able to review their documents quickly, with ease and confidence.

Luminance's powerful data culling and filtering functionalities including de-duplication and email leafing tools further enhanced the review, allowing the team to cut irrelevant data in just a few clicks, shaving weeks off the team's review time. As The 36 Group continued to interact with the documents, Luminance's advanced supervised machine learning algorithms and Deep Coding was able to learn from these interactions to accelerate the review even further. This includes the ability to surface conceptually similar documents, making sure that the team were able to find relevant information quickly whilst also ensuring that no key information was left undiscovered. The 36 Group noted that when they conducted similar searches in the CCDS, not only did this take considerably longer than in Luminance, but the CCDS failed to pick up key information that Luminance was able to instantly identify.

Further, Luminance's advanced collaboration and project management tools such as document and task allocation features enabled the team to work in a seamless and coordinated manner. Luminance's ability to track work progression was also invaluable for The 36 Group, ensuring that there was no duplication of work or wasted resource across the 20-person team.

Using Luminance, the team saw vast-time savings. One of the barristers leading the project, Sally Hobson, estimated that between the beginning of the review and the disclosure phase, the team were able to save around four working weeks. And when it comes to later phases of trial preparations such as compiling court bundles, Sally Hobson says Luminance is "invaluable", since "this phase of trial preparation takes a very long time using only manual methods. By using Luminance, we're able to pull together the relevant material for cross-examination bundles within a matter of minutes".

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> SALLY HOBSON, BARRISTER