Dentons Düsseldorf leverages AI technology in contract review

The Düsseldorf branch of world-leading law firm Dentons were recently tasked with a high priority review by a major client, a car manufacturer. The client wished to review their existing contracts with car dealerships, in particular focusing on the provisions regarding the dealerships' use of the manufacturer's signage.

They needed to understand their existing contractual position and any discrepancies between their contracts, but with over 2,100 documents in German and English to search through, this was a potentially challenging task. Conscious of the potential of technology to reduce time and cost while improving the quality of the review, the car manufacturer requested a technology-enhanced review. Drawing on their successful previous experience with Luminance, both in Düsseldorf and in other offices, Dentons decided to use Luminance to provide an unmatched insight into the documents that would reveal any potential deviations in the contractual provisions around signage rights.

Luminance's pioneering core intelligence, the Legal Inference Transformation Engine (LITE), uses a combination of cutting edge supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms to instantly read and form an understanding of documents. By employing a flexible machine learning approach, legal teams do not have to spend months creating rules and search terms, or invest time training the machine on what they want to find. Instead, Luminance can be rapidly deployed via the cloud and most lawyers begin their first review in Luminance within hours of installation.

Dentons estimated that a full manual review of the documents would have taken a week for the team of two lawyers to complete. Using Luminance, the team were able to cut this by over 50%, with the entire review and report generation completed in under two and a half days. This significant time saving was achieved despite it being the first time that the team had used Luminance.

KEY FINDINGS

- Lawyers using Luminance were able to review the data set in less than half the time required for a manual review
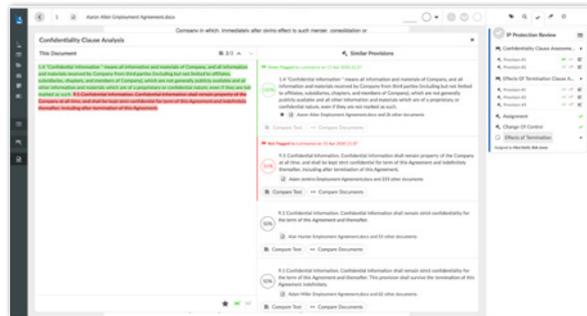- Luminance's advanced AI identified a crucial variation in wording

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Luminance proved of critical importance for Dentons during the review, as it allowed them to understand their documents quickly and comprehensively. Key information about the documents was clearly displayed to them immediately after upload. Luminance's unsupervised machine learning automatically clustered the documents based on conceptual similarity. Dentons could then select the cluster of approximately 800 documents which contained the relevant signage provisions. In a few clicks, therefore, they were able to narrow the scope of the review to only the relevant documents rather than investing a considerable amount of time searching through the dataset.

Once those documents containing the relevant clauses were identified, Dentons then used Luminance to identify any differences in meaning between them. Luminance's unique Automatic Document and Clause Compliance technology is a powerful way of allowing lawyers to dictate the parameters of their review. With one click, Dentons were able to select their desired standard version of a signage provision against which all other documents were compared. Luminance then instantly highlighted the way all other versions of the provisions complied or differed from this chosen standard. Using this, Dentons found that one of their clients' contracts contained a signage provision which differed in a substantive way from all the others.

Luminance enabled Dentons to provide their client with key information about their contracts in a faster and more cost-effective manner than a traditional manual review.

About Luminance

Luminance is the world's most advanced AI technology for the legal processing of contracts and documents. Founded by mathematicians from the University of Cambridge, Luminance's AI reads and forms a conceptual understanding of documents in any language. Luminance uses this understanding to augment the spectrum of legal matters, from AI-powered contract drafting, negotiation and review to investigations and eDiscovery. Luminance is used by over 400 customers in 60 countries, including all of the Big Four consultancy firms, a quarter of the world's largest law firms and multinational organisations such as Tesco and Ferrero.

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