

ARBITRATION CASE STUDY

PSL Advocates & Solicitors

PSL Advocates & Solicitors is an award-winning boutique disputes practice headquartered in New Delhi with offices in Mumbai and Chandigarh, India. The Indian firm were tasked with an urgent, high-profile arbitration being conducted under the aegis of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.

The preliminary estimate of damages for the claim stood at £38 million and PSL, acting for the Claimants, had a team of three lawyers dedicated to the dispute. However, the scale of the review was huge and had to be timely and efficiently managed: the data set contained over 750,000 documents which were written in a mixture of English and other languages. This large data set needed to be combed through in order to put together their statement of claim; thus the team decided that “it was inefficient go through all of that data manually - that’s when we partnered with Luminance.” By using Luminance, the firm’s team tasked with reviewing the documents completed their investigation in four weeks, far more expeditiously and efficiently than originally anticipated. The team of lawyers were impressed with Luminance’s powerful search, filtering and culling capabilities that helped them to quickly find key data in such a large data set, and exclude irrelevant information.

The lawyers were aiming to find all documents where the respondents were in breach of the original agreements. Anant Gupta, Associate, explains that the exercise was: “essentially a fact-finding hunt to find relevant documents as per the strategy decided; we had a few issues/persons which we knew were relevant to the dispute.”

KEY FINDINGS

- Using Luminance, the team of three lawyers were able to complete the review of 750,000 documents in just four weeks compared to a projected four months - a time saving of 75%
- Despite working from three separate locations, Luminance’s ease of deployment, user-friendly interface and project management capabilities facilitated a seamless review process

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Using Luminance, the team were able to scan the entire database using relevant keywords, but even more powerfully, Luminance was also able to bring them conceptually similar results, ensuring that all key documents had been reviewed and included in the claim. The team found the way Luminance threaded emails to be intuitive, logical and meant that “we could easily trace the entire history of emails and their attachments.” Indeed, Sameer Jain MCI Arb, Founder & Managing Partner, believes that such thorough document review across the entire data set would in “no way have been possible in a record time without Luminance”.

Luminance’s ease-of-use and intuitive design removed the need for extensive training and user onboarding, meaning the firm could gain insight into their data set on day one of the review. Indeed, when any issues did arise, the team liaised with their dedicated Account Manager, who Anant Gupta said were “always quick to respond and follow up.” Due to the timing of the dispute, PSL’s team had to go through the documents during the lockdown due to Coronavirus, and therefore it was of critical importance to the team that technology facilitated remote access to the documents and allowed collaboration between project members. Indeed, Luminance’s built-in project management and collaborative tools were a key reason for PSL’s adoption of Luminance, with Anant Gupta commenting that, “we wouldn’t have done it better if we were physically in the same office.” Using Luminance, PSL were able to gain complete insight into their data set at speeds that would be simply impossible using manual review processes.

PSL estimated if they sat down for 24 hours a day it would have taken 4 months to complete the project, which they didn’t have. Instead, using Luminance, it only took four weeks from deployment to filing the SOC. PSL’s innovative approach in using technology has further deepened their relationship with their client, with Anant Gupta stating that, “I would have needed at least 6 resources on this particular project just for this data mining activity... by using Luminance, it results in less billable hours for the client and more accurate well researched information”.

For PSL, by saving resources on this project, the firm could allocate them to additional projects – as Sameer Jain MCI Arb, Founding & Managing Partner, says, “Luminance works well for us and I’m sure we will be using this technology for our future disputes.”

“Tech won’t make lawyers redundant- it’s just going to make them more efficient”

SAMEER JAIN, MANAGING PARTNER

About Luminance

Luminance is the leading artificial intelligence platform for the legal profession, with over 250 customers in more than 50 countries. Luminance’s machine learning technology reads and forms an understanding of documents, helping lawyers to perform the most thorough and rapid document reviews across practice areas including due diligence, contract negotiation, regulatory compliance reviews, property portfolio analysis and eDiscovery. Luminance has offices in London, Cambridge, New York and Singapore.