
Dear Defenders and CJA Panel Attorneys,

As announced earlier this year, a contract for an Evidence Review Platform (ERP) for the Defender Services program was awarded to EC America, a subsidiary of immixGroup, Inc., in partnership with AccessData (see January 13, 2012 announcement). AccessData is a nationally-renowned company in the areas of litigation support and computer forensics and they host AD CaseVantage, their secure Internet database review tool for case data and e-discovery.

We are pleased to announce that for CJA panel attorneys and federal defender offices, space is available on the web-hosted version of Summation, CaseVantage, for select cases. If approved, some or all case materials can be hosted on the CaseVantage platform for free, with a discounted rate available for larger cases needing to host additional data. Using a secure, legal review web-hosted platform such as CaseVantage is advantageous for multi-defendant cases with large volumes of information so that case materials are located in one central repository and easily reviewed, tagged and accessed by all defense teams from wherever they are as long as they have an internet connection. This greatly alleviates the need for panel attorneys to have specific hardware, software or IT support usually necessary to utilize similar Evidence Review Platforms on your local office network, and it allows defense teams to capture, organize, analyze, and review case-related electronic data. Along with the hosted space, AccessData provides project management expertise and training for all users of the system.

Please note that legal review software platforms such as CaseVantage differ from online storage services such as Dropbox or Box.net. Those services are built for cloud storage and sharing of files, whereas CaseVantage is a tool designed for legal work. Its online database links to the case data which allows you, among other things, to keep private notes about the case data; bulk tag, filter, annotate and code information about the files which you can share with others on your defense team; review the electronic data without changing the underlying background information about them; and open and view many computer file types even if you don't have the underlying software on your computer (e.g. you would not need to have Microsoft Excel to view an XLS spreadsheet).

In order to assess whether your particular case qualifies for free, secure hosted space, please do the following:

1. Have an attorney on the case contact the National Litigation Support Team at 510-637-3500 to discuss the particulars about the material you wish to have hosted. Make sure to identify whether the local federal defender office is involved as well and whether or not there are any retained counsel. Consider whether any of the discovery should not be web-hosted, even on a secure platform, due to its confidential or sensitive nature (see the Recommendations for

ESI Discovery Production in Federal Criminal Cases at http://www.fd.org/odstb_esi.htm for further guidance regarding ESI security concerns). To assist you prior to your call, it may help you to review the "Initial Discovery and 3rd Party Data Assessment Checklist" on fd.org at http://www.fd.org/pdf_lib/Initial%20Discovery%20and%203rd%20Party%20Data%20Assessment%20Checklist.pdf as these are some of the questions we will ask you in order to determine the volume and the technical nature of the data that you are seeking to host.

2. Schedule a demonstration of CaseVantage for all parties with Brooke Oppenheimer our designated project manager at AccessData to ensure that the web-hosted service fits your need. Please submit your request in writing to FPD_CJA_services@AccessData.com. This special email address has been set up to draw her attention to your request and to facilitate tracking for AccessData.

3. Discuss the option of using CaseVantage with all defense teams and identify any parties who do not wish to participate and have access to the document platform.

Hosted space will be prioritized in the order that granted requests are received. Space is limited and this is a service for all CJA panel and FDO attorneys, so we cannot guarantee that there will be space available for every case. If space is not available, AccessData will provide a reduced rate for CJA panel attorneys and FDOs.

Please do not hesitate to contact either Kelly Scribner (kelly_scribner@fd.org), Alex Roberts (alex_roberts@fd.org) or Sean Broderick (sean_broderick@fd.org) at 510-637-3500 if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Sean Broderick
National Litigation Support Administrator
Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, Office of Defender Services
Federal Public Defender
555 12th Street, Suite 650
Oakland, CA 94607-3627
510-637-1950 Direct
510-637-3500 General
510-637-3507 Fax
sean_broderick@fd.org

