

An AM Law 50 Firm Pilots IQ Review™ to Identify Responsive Documents Earlier

As data volumes increase and deadlines to produce documents remain tight, legal teams engaged in litigation, regulatory, or compliance matters are required to deliver more, faster, and on a smaller budget. Attorneys must balance these factors while ensuring a defensible document review and production.

A key driving factor for increasing costs is that many review teams default to a conventional linear review, which assigns equal value to every document in a data set. However, all documents are not of equal importance to a matter. In fact, over 80% of documents in a review are typically non-responsive, having little to no significance.

The inefficiencies involved in a linear review can be resolved by leveraging technology that enables attorneys to focus their time and resources on those documents that are actually important to the case.

Epiq Systems' IQ Review™, a combination of new technology and smart procedures, addresses the challenge of rapidly locating the documents that are responsive to a matter. IQ Review™ ranks documents by responsiveness, prioritizing those that are most responsive for immediate evaluation. Legal teams can now find important documents faster and reduce costs, while achieving a defensible review.

An AM Law 50 firm chose to pilot Epiq's IQ Review™ to assess how the technology could benefit its clients.

This case study examines the results.

THE PILOT

IQ Review's™ prioritization technology was the focus of the pilot. It was tested under controlled conditions and compared to a human-based, conventional review, evaluating three criteria: accuracy, speed, and the effect on review time and budget. Identical document sets were used to test each approach.

The Conventional Review

The data collection consisted of approximately 75,000 documents and excluded duplicate documents.

Using traditional linear review methodology, the review team completed review of the full document population in approximately 9 weeks. Without a comprehensive system in place to prioritize each document, responsive documents were identified as they appeared throughout the review—essentially at random.

The Prioritized Review

After completion of the human review, the same set of 75,000 documents was submitted to Epiq Systems for the IQ Review™ pilot.

IQ Review™ uses prioritization technology to assess and rank the responsiveness of documents.

One senior case expert was appointed to train the prioritization software. Having no prior exposure to the software, the expert was trained in less than 15 minutes and was then ready to proceed.

Training The Software

The expert reviewed and coded each document in a batch of 50 as responsive or not responsive. During this exercise, the expert was teaching the software his thought process for coding. When the first batch was completed, a new set of 50 documents was presented to the expert to evaluate. This process continued until the software was stabilized. Stabilization occurs when the software is able to predict the expert's decisions.

Once the software stabilized, it assessed the entire document population and scored the responsiveness of each document.

THE RESULTS

Speed

The software stabilized after 18 hours, over the course of 3 days. The expert reviewed and coded 25 sets of 50 documents, or 1250 documents, less than 2% of the total document population.

After learning from the expert, the software then assessed and ranked the full document population in under an hour.

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A direct comparison of the total time spent locating responsive documents shows the prioritization approach took under 20 hours to complete, while the human-based review took over 9 weeks.

Accuracy

An analysis was undertaken to determine the accuracy of the prioritized review against the conventional review. The software-enabled review and the human review team were in agreement on over 91% of the decisions.

To investigate the 9% of documents that were coded differently, we shared a statistically drawn sample of these documents with the expert. To ensure neutrality, we did not give details on the inconsistencies, just that they were coded differently. The expert made the final rule as to whether the document was responsive or not.

Of the sample documents presented, the expert ruled that the prioritization technology was correct over 77% of the time.

Minimize Wasted Time and Expense Reviewing Non-Responsive Documents

In this collection, only 10% of the documents were responsive to the case (based on both the human and prioritized review). By identifying the responsive documents before review begins and sending them to the review team first, legal teams can avoid spending valuable time and money sorting through material that has no importance to the case, and direct their focus to documents that actually matter.

IQ Review™ empowers legal teams to better manage time and money. Senior experts can focus on documents most responsive to the matter earlier while junior reviewers can handle the remaining population. Client money can be spent more effectively from the outset of a case, with less spent on irrelevant material.

Understand the Matter Earlier

Involving a case expert upfront to prioritize a small portion of documents is the fastest way to meaningfully shape the landscape for the full review. IQ Review™ workflow enables documents to be presented to the review team in order of their prioritization rating. Reviewers can access those documents more likely to be responsive to the case earlier, and the legal team can make critical decisions on case strategy faster.

Improve Consistency and Increase Quality Control

IQ Review™ enables a consistent approach to be applied throughout the review. The differing opinions, varying levels of experience, haste and fatigue that can pervade a human review team under pressure have no impact on technology.

Conclusion

Combining the right technology with the right expertise can significantly increase the consistency and speed of a review. IQ Review™ enables attorneys to gain a better understanding of data earlier to make more informed decisions. Legal teams can spend less time and money on non-productive portions of review and focus their expertise and resources on the most responsive material.

To find out more about IQ Review™ and prioritization technology, visit www.iqreview.epiqsystems.com or call Epiq Systems on a number below.



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