

Case Study – DeBacco Law

Litigator Loses Paper, Gains Productivity

What do you call a lawyer who has gone paperless? An Egnyte customer!

We are often treated to jokes at the expense of lawyers but there is nothing funny about the volumes of paper that are core to the practice of law. According to Thomas J. DeBacco, of DeBacco Law, “more trees are killed by lawyers than loggers.” However, with the help of Egnyte Local Cloud, DeBacco is responsible for far fewer trips through the forest.

Thomas J. DeBacco is the principal of DeBacco Law based in Port Clinton, Ohio. In addition to Tom, the firm has two junior associates and a full time administrator. The practice serves the Ottawa County area and includes criminal defense and personal injury/wrongful death matters, as well as breach of contract cases.

As a trial litigator, DeBacco spends a great deal of time in courthouses throughout Ohio and sometimes outside of the state. Prior to Egnyte that meant traveling with boxes of files for active cases and sorting through file folders for documents. The firm fights for people in trouble, but at times felt that they were waging a battle against paper. When a file or specific document was needed, staff members were tasked with pulling the information from the file cabinets. In court, DeBacco routinely went through files to pull out information needed.

In 1979 when DeBacco received his law license, first generation cell phones were only six years old and not in widespread use. The internet was unheard of and cloud computing was decades away. So DeBacco entered the paper chase typical to the law profession. Active cases were filed in manila file folders. Any files that DeBacco needed for court or for work outside of the office were packed up and carted along with him. Inactive cases were placed in bankers boxes and sent to a storage facility for a period of time.

With bankers boxes crowding their office, administrator, Lori DeBacco began researching solutions that would help the firm reduce their use of paper and provide online file storage.

Lori tried a few services but was frustrated with hard to use interfaces and internet dependency to gain access to files. Tom spent a great deal of time in courts and police stations without internet access but still required access to case files.

After reading about Egnyte’s Local Cloud, Lori knew that the service would meet their needs and signed up a trial.

Now the firm scans paper documents into the computer to transfer to Egnyte. The Local Cloud syncs with the online cloud file serve providing them with anytime, anywhere access to files with or without the internet.

DeBacco has eliminated a lot of paperwork and believes that Egnyte’s anytime access has made him a better lawyer. In pre-trial he no longer has to search through paper to find motions or documents because

all of his notes and files are on Egnyte. If a client calls him on the road with a question, the file is accessible, and when working from home there are no more trips to the office to grab a missing file. “I have my entire file system in my briefcase!” says DeBacco.

How much time do you and your staff spend searching for paper documents? Have you ever missed a deadline or had a project go off track because of missing paperwork?

Take the Next Step

Egnyte addresses the critical infrastructure needs of enterprises, small businesses and professionals - [file storage](#), [backup](#), [sharing and collaboration](#) - in one secure, [centrally-managed](#) and easy-to-use solution. Egnyte’s hybrid cloud technology combines the accessibility and flexibility of cloud storage with the robust performance and speed of local storage, and automatically synchronizes changes made to local and cloud files. Egnyte Cloud File Server ensures that your users have reliable and fast access to the files they need wherever they are in the world.

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