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Review of Legal Analytics Platform

By Jennifer Dixon
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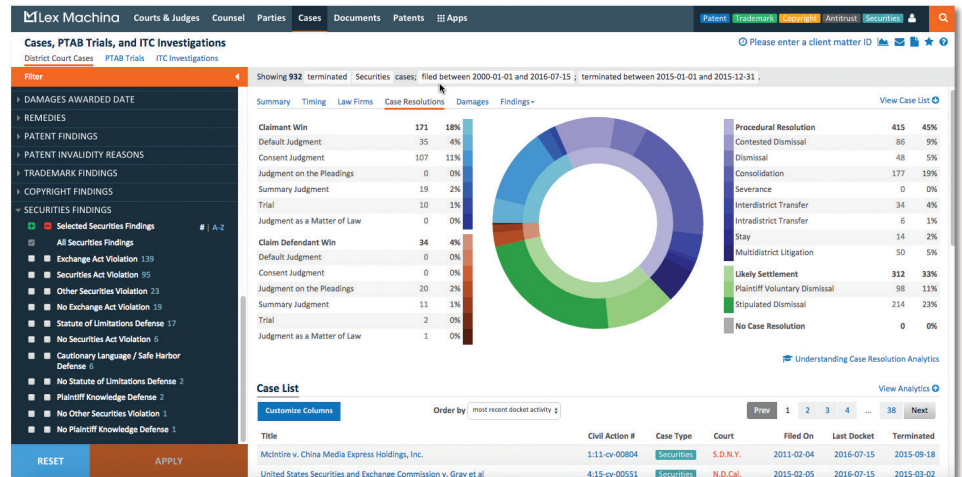**LitigationWorld**® **TechnoScore** **A-**

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Wouldn't you like to be a fly on the wall in opposing counsel's conference room or in the presiding judge's chambers? Lex Machina's Legal Analytics Platform promises the next best thing as it enables you to analyze litigation data pertaining to courts, judges, and opposing counsel. This kind of intelligence can prove invaluable to case strategy from forum shopping to framing an appellate brief and everything in between. In this issue of LitigationWorld, litigator Jennifer Dixon offers her assessment of Legal Analytics.

No litigation takes place in its own bubble. A constantly shifting landscape of court decisions and other trends inevitably shape legal strategies and outcomes. Even for the most woke litigator, however, obtaining a comprehensive view of these factors presents a challenge.

For this issue of *LitigationWorld*, I tested Lex Machina's Legal Analytics Platform, a tool that mines litigation data about judges, lawyers, parties, and other details to provide context and intelligence. Legal Analytics currently covers litigation in the areas of antitrust, copyright patent, trademark, and securities. Now part of Lexis-Nexis, Lex Machina plans to roll out additional practice areas, including bankruptcy, commercial transactions, employment, and product liability in the coming year.

User Experience and Interface

As a web app, Legal Analytics does not require installation on your hard drive. I easily used the platform in both Chrome and Safari. Legal Analytics provided me with a free six-month account for the purposes of this review.

The interface is clean and attractive, with eye-catching graphs and charts. I found all of the charts are easy to read and understand, even though I have no background in data analysis or data visualization. This type of clearly presented, distilled data is at the heart of Legal Analytics. I have found that lawyers often struggle with how to interpret, visualize, and present large amounts of data. I recall being told by a senior associate grappling with charts and graphs, "I went to law school because I hate math and numbers." This interface recognizes this antipathy and does the hard work for you.

The basic tasks of searching and filtering information also prove quite simple and intuitive. I easily filtered cases by a desired court and searched for a particular judge of interest. I also found it easy to customize my information displays when needed. In addition to the advanced search features on every page, you can also ignore all that and enter your keywords into a search bar at the top of each page.

When you find information you want, you can export it in Excel or PDF format to share with your team and clients.

Marquee Feature 1: Courts & Judges

On Legal Analytics, you can search the name of any judge from the federal district courts, the International Trade Commission, or the Patent and Trademark Office. A summary page sets forth his or her current open cases, comparing their case load to other judges on their court. You can also review case resolutions, damages awarded, and more, all offered in graph or chart form. You can filter this data using factors such as remedies, damages, case type, and more.

Another feature shows duration of the judge's cases, measuring the typical time between a case filing

and the case reaching an event like trial or termination. The duration of a case often influences its cost so this data can help lawyers plan and budget more accurately.

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Marquee Feature 2: Cases
The Cases feature offers similar functionality, enabling you to visualize trends in case law in your practice area. You can filter results by court, remedies, damages, and so on. Within minutes, I filtered the case law to zero in on all antitrust cases in the Eastern District of Texas with awards of attorney fees or costs as damages. In addition to charts and graphs reflecting these case outcomes, Legal Analytics also provides a case list so that I could review the dockets of anything that caught my attention.

Marquee Feature 3: Documents
The Document tab provides a searchable list of the dockets from all district courts, the ITC, and PTAB filed between 2009 and the present (over 10 million documents). You can filter by court in the same manner as the Cases and Courts & Judges results, and also select a particular case to view its overview page.

Quick Takes

Counsel and Parties

The same types of searches and visualizations exist for law firms and parties. Based on raw data from PACER combined with Lex Machina's enhanced metadata, you can see what types of cases opposing counsel has filed in the past, and their record of success.

Patents

You can search for litigation related patents using patent numbers, titles, or descriptive terms, and sort by patent types, venues, and subject tags. The database has litigation data on 45,679 patents.

Legal Analytics Apps

Three apps — Early Case Assessor, Motion Kickstarter, and Patent Portfolio Evaluator — were not included in my subscription as they were in beta during my evaluation (they're now available for all users). I got a sneak peek during a remote training session. They seem like powerful tools for predicting case outcomes based on the extensive data in Legal Analytics.

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What Makes It Great and What Needs Work
When preparing for an oral argument or settlement discussions, someone on your team will inevitably research the judge's past decisions and offer some insight into how the judge might rule on this case. Legal Analytics makes this effort much simpler. The clear, easy-to-use results are a vast improvement over an associate memo that may miss cases, misconstrue outcomes, or fail to see trends. Legal Analytics would be incredibly useful in nearly any litigation in the practice areas currently available. It should save a great deal of time and energy in crafting case strategy.

> **Legal Analytics is a game changer that you should consider incorporating into your litigation practice.**
> **I give it a TechnoScore of A-.**

In addition, anything that reduces the need to log into PACER to pull case documents is a win in my book. The case documents are so easy to find and tools much easier on the eyes than PACER. The clunky PACER interface has caused me endless frustration in the past, and I know I'm not alone.

Legal Analytics does one thing and does it incredibly well. It strikes me as a luxury, not an essential. However, I would feel far more confident going into a settlement or argument with these kinds of charts and graphs at my fingertips. It makes an important aspect of litigation — analyzing trends in the legal landscape to predict outcomes and shape strategy — simpler and more efficient. Litigators will feel empowered and better informed by using Legal Analytics.

Price

Lex Machina does not list pricing on its website, and would not disclose pricing details to me. The sales staff informed me only that, "Pricing for Lex Machina is dependent on the modules desired. Our customers range from specialty boutiques and small legal departments to Am Law 100 firms and large in-house departments."

TechnoScore

Legal Analytics is a game changer that you should consider incorporating into your litigation practice. I give it a TechnoScore of A-. As with many technologies, whether it fits into your budget depends on the nature of your cases and how you charge for them. It can't hurt to contact Lex Machina and ask for a quote

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