

Environmental Litigation Group

Business Operations Automation for the Greater Good

Headquarters: Birmingham, AL
Employees: 35-40
Industry: Law

Environmental Litigation Group (ELG) is a law firm that represents individuals exposed to toxic chemicals. Committed to helping people who have been diagnosed with cancer and other diseases that resulted from exposure in the workplace or while serving in the military, they recognized that it was time to modernize their accounting practice.

ELG was growing exponentially because of their dedication to helping workers exposed to toxic substances in the workplace. They wanted an efficient and streamlined system to make their internal work efficient and accurate so they could continue to help as many people as possible.

Codence was able to help unlock a new world of productivity and efficiency through a custom Claris FileMaker application that automated a series of time-consuming tasks that seamlessly connects to Codence's advanced accounting application, Genesis.

About Environmental Litigation Group

Environmental Litigation Group (ELG) provides legal representation for individuals exposed to asbestos and other toxic hazards in an occupational or environmental setting.

Bill Lewis founded ELG in 1990, whose father died from complications stemming from an asbestos-related disease. His search for justice for his father's death led him to start ELG and represent others who suffered like his father. Since then, ELG has been processing toxic exposure claims and is widely recognized for their successful representation of the impacted clients and their families.

ELG works hard to obtain maximum recovery for their clients and their family members. Their commitment to their clients and personal approach is exhibited through vigorous representation, proactive counseling, and advocacy. This makes their firm unique with the combination of expertise and attention to caring for their clients.

The Challenge

ELG was in the market for a modern accounting solution for their growing law firm. Their then-current DOS-based bookkeeping application was no longer sufficient for managing the demands of a growing law firm. It served as a barrier to achieve their mission: helping more people.

At ELG, every claim received means justice for the plaintiffs who suffer from chemical toxic exposure and cancer. These afflictions are typically from industrial and military occupational workplace exposure. The checks ELG processed helped pay medical bills and eased the burden of individuals that suffered from that exposure. Some months, they processed and sent out thousands of checks, and it was evident the existing system couldn't get the job done efficiently.

The earlier approach allowed only one person at a time to manage settlements, expenses to ensure that the plaintiffs, government agencies, and partner law firms were paid for their effort. This process

could range between 7-11 checkpoints leading to hours of work per step. They knew it wasn't sustainable.

"We represent 30,000 clients, and if we wanted to do something on a mass basis for all of our clients, it was not impossible, but it was a challenging process to import in mass a settlement." - Treven Pyles, Administrative Director at ELG

ELG continued to process and deliver checks to their clients promptly, but the manual work and inefficiencies in their accounting software taxed their internal resources.

Streamlining Service for Good

Codence performed discovery time around understanding ELG's complex problems with solutions in mind. By spending quality time and asking insightful questions of ELG's team, they were able to fully discover their processes and workflows.

Executing for Efficiency & Volume

After getting a firm understanding of their needs, Codence executed a plan that created a detailed and automated check and balance by building a custom Claris FileMaker app that addressed each variable that had been processed by a human previously.

The engine tracked the incoming money for each individual, held accumulating expenses from their account from partner law firms, Medicare, and any other medical costs and legal fees, then calculated the total that the plaintiff would receive. Each step required complex math, checks against ever-changing government regulations, and produced a final number that was handed over to Codence's FileMaker-based accounting system, Genesis. There, the checks are processed and distributed.

And all of this needed to happen at scale. New cases were coming in by the hundreds and thousands. Now that the process was automated, ELG was able to process more payments faster as well as fine-tune their daily routines.

"I really can't say enough about what an extraordinary job that Codence has done. They made sure that this project was a team effort. In my 30 years in business, I've only been impressed by a third-party service provider two or three times. It's easy to include Codence in this list of outstanding vendors." - Treven Pyles, Administrative Director at ELG.

Positive Impact for Environmental Litigation Group

- The elimination of manual processing for thousands of client settlement checks each month meant that internal resources could focus on more strategic efforts and help more clients get much-needed restitution.
- The ability to automate the processing of client settlements en masse allowed them to save hundreds of hours of work
- Able to serve more injured clients, increasing volume by over 300% thanks to customer automation processed by a custom app built on the Claris platform
- Multi-user access means increased efficiency and transparency across the organization

Does your organization need a FileMaker developer partner to help you solve your most disruptive software problems? [Reach out to us](#), and let's have a conversation.