Thomson Reuters Introduces Firm Central for the Small Law Firm Market

Hosted practice management solution integrates key tools for solo and small firms

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, 2013 – Thomson Reuters today introduced Firm Central, a hosted practice management solution for solo and small law firms.

Firm Central is part of a new generation of solutions introduced today by Thomson Reuters. These solutions – for professionals in corporate legal departments, government, small firms and litigation practices – are cloud-based, organized around matters, highly integrated and collaborative – and offer the first look into the new legal solutions strategy from Thomson Reuters.

Firm Central incorporates multiple point solutions within a modern dashboard, creating a more seamless and matter-centric workflow with the integration of key tools such as WestlawNext®, Westlaw® Doc and Form Builder, KeyCite™, Microsoft Outlook®, as well as Time and Billing powered by eBillity. These are the key features and critical tools that customers use to support their workstreams, allowing them to accomplish more for clients with less effort and stress. Other tools and workflow functionality will be added to Firm Central on an ongoing basis.

“Firm Central was designed with extensive input from customers, with emphasis on how and where work gets done,” said Karl Florida, managing director, Small Law Firm and Consumer, Thomson Reuters. “During our research with small law firm lawyers, lack of product integration was by far the biggest impediment to their workflow. Firm Central is the first solution for solo and small law firms that connects and synchronizes legal research, drafting, documents, contacts, calendar and more.”

Firm Central’s integration with WestlawNext saves attorneys multiple steps throughout every part of their workflow. From the Firm Central dashboard, attorneys can seamlessly conduct a legal research session. A global search feature allows attorneys to search across the full text of their entire work product and quickly locate documents. And attorneys will have the assurance that all their legal documents are citing good law, because Firm Central automatically adds citations and KeyCite flags to a firm’s documents and continually updates and flags any changes.

As a hosted solution, Firm Central will also benefit attorneys by providing greater mobility. It’s easy to access on tablets and smartphones, so customers can be “in the office” even when they’re on the go. According to beta customer Tyler J. Chasez of Triumvirate Law Group, “It is very convenient to be able to access my documents from anywhere – the mobility of Firm Central is like having a portable file.”

Most small firms don’t have a stand-alone IT department. As a cloud-based solution, Firm Central offers secured data hosting with stringent safety and confidentiality protection, and all versions of Thomson Reuters products in the Firm Central suite are kept up to date. It features a clean, intuitive user interface, is simple to
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navigate across all applications on the dashboard, and is easily implemented – a critical benefit for a customer segment where the name partner often also is the firm’s IT director.

“The vast majority of legal professionals work in solo practices and small firms,” said Florida. “They do an enormous amount of the heavy lifting across the legal system every day. Firm Central was built for these small firms, but delivers the kind of integration, security and collaboration that until now was only available in large firms and enterprises.”

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