

Law & Forensics

Solving Complex Legal Issues

Law & Forensics helps companies all over the globe solve time-sensitive, tough-to-crack cases using cutting-edge technology, a team of detail-oriented experts, and unique problem-solving skills to help your company get back on track.

The Background

When proprietary information is the cornerstone of a business, departing employees can wreak havoc by copying and using client lists, trade secrets, and confidential information in their new job. Today, many businesses look outside the firm, protecting information against outside users attempting to hack into the system. While this is essential, companies must also protect from the inside out. Internal employees with access to thousands of files can attempt to copy files, stealing business, ideas, and potentially cost the company their security and integrity. These issues often come to a head in the courts, and Law & Forensics has the legal, technical, and forensic experts to help.

The Situation

When four key employees left a major pharmaceutical company to join a competitor a few years ago, taking with them over a thousand confidential files, the pressure was on. The files outlined new drug protocols, ideas for state of the art medical advances, and notes on hours worth of strategy sessions for business development – the company risked losing it all if these files were leaked to a competitor. The key employees denied stealing the files, but the firm's suspicions led them to Law & Forensics (L&F). Hired to begin a forensic investigation over hardware, software, and the cloud, the forensic investigation team set to work. After in-person interviews, forensic images, and searching millions of files, our team found evidence that about 1,200 confidential files were copied from the company's server within four minutes from each other, at just about the time the four employees left. Given the time-sensitive nature of the investigation, L&F started and completed its initial investigation and was ready to go to court in two days.

The Solution

After bringing their findings to the court, the court granted a Temporary Restraining Order so that L&F could further investigations. The court appointed an L&F team member as a Forensic Neutral to investigate the machines' of the four employees accused of stealing files. Before digging in, we created an in-depth protocol to survey the machines, which was approved by the court. Per protocol, the L&F team investigated mobile devices, took forensic images of computer hard drives, conducted interviews, and surveyed thousands of documents to conclude that an additional search into cloud service platforms was necessary. Our team realized that the most utilized storage technique for the competitor was a cloud storage device, making it nearly impossible to track the files on ordinary hardware. Using cutting edge technology and fierce diligence, the detail-oriented team nevertheless uncovered just over 1,000 files on the cloud storage device, substantively identical to those copies from the company's server. Many of these files still bore the client's name.

The Resolution

After demonstrating our findings to the Court, our client achieved the desired outcome. All confidential files were returned to the client, and the competitor who hired the four employees agreed not to compete with our client in certain classes of drugs for at least three years. The client was satisfied with the outcome and believes L&F displayed superior investigative techniques to all other firms they had spoken to about their case. By understanding both the forensic and legal implications of the situation at hand, the L&F team was able to act decisively and quickly. In investigations like these, time really is worth money, and L&F was able to locate stolen files before they were broadly leaked or exploited, saving the client millions of dollars and years of work.

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All of Law & Forensics' work reflects the highest ethical standards, no matter the scope of the task at hand. Our team frequently attends conferences, and participates in working groups and development committees to update and enhance standards and protocols. We consistently strive to find new ways to serve the bar and bench.