

Woods Oviatt's Use of TotalPatent™ Provides IP Lawyers with Confidence That All Bases Have Been Covered in Patent Research

Overview

Firm Name: Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP
Location: Rochester, N.Y.
Industry: Legal services

Customer Profile:

Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP has been serving the legal needs of clients throughout Western New York and the rest of the United States since 1852. The firm represents a broad spectrum of clients, including publicly traded corporations, financial institutions, family owned businesses and private individuals. Over the years, Woods Oviatt has developed a particular focus of working with organizations in the high technology, industrial, construction, real estate, educational and charitable sectors.

Business Situation:

In the summer of 2008, a team of three veteran intellectual property attorneys moved from a Buffalo law firm to Woods Oviatt, significantly bolstering the firm's IP practice. Upon their arrival, the attorneys recognized the need for the firm to subscribe to a research service that would support their growing requirements for international patent research.

Solution:

The Woods Oviatt IP attorneys had been using a patent research service from another legal service company at their prior law firm. However, they found this service to be somewhat limited in meeting their needs for global patent research. After a brief test period, they decided to switch to TotalPatent™, offered by LexisNexis®. The primary attraction of TotalPatent was the comprehensive nature of the global database and the ability to search multiple jurisdictions around the world at one time.

Benefits:

- The global breadth of the TotalPatent database, including its industry-leading volume of full-text content and machine translations, provides Woods Oviatt attorneys with the confidence that they're covering everything that needs to be researched when preparing patent documents or litigation
- Attorneys are able to practice more efficiently because they obtain more relevant and precise search results from TotalPatent
- The search engine of TotalPatent processes complex search queries that could not be run on other patent database services, such as the ability to search multiple jurisdictions around the world at one time
- With more than 38 million full-text records from 27 different patent authorities worldwide, TotalPatent offers the Woods Oviatt team access to the most comprehensive online collection of patent information in the world
- Woods Oviatt attorneys appreciate the ability to reduce their patent search results to one invention per family by grouping and sorting results by patent family

Product Summary

Corporate Solutions:

- TotalPatent

Woods Oviatt Gilman traces its origin to the mid 19th Century when William H. Bowman and Solomon Wile began the practice of law in Rochester, N.Y. Their legacies combined in 1965 when the offspring of these two pioneer law firms merged with the formation of Woods, Oviatt, Gilman, Sturman & Clarke. In 2000, the name of the firm was shortened to Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP.

Woods Oviatt celebrated its 150th Anniversary in 2002 and continues to carry on the legacy of its founding fathers by serving the legal needs of clients throughout Western New York and the rest of the United States. The firm represents a broad spectrum of clients, including publicly traded corporations, financial institutions, family owned businesses and private individuals. Over the years, Woods Oviatt has developed particular focus of working with organizations in the high technology, industrial, construction, real estate, educational and charitable sectors.

Situation

In the summer of 2008, a team of three veteran intellectual property attorneys moved from a Buffalo law firm to join Woods Oviatt, significantly bolstering the firm's IP practice.

The IP group at Woods Oviatt helps clients to protect their valuable patents, copyrights and trademarks by securing and enforcing patent, trademark and copyright protection, and advising clients regarding trade secret protection. The firm's attorneys are highly qualified to navigate patent and trademark applications through the complex channels of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. When administrative disputes or contests develop, the Woods Oviatt trial attorneys have experience in successfully vindicating client rights.

After establishing themselves at Woods Oviatt, the new IP attorneys recognized the need for the firm to subscribe to a research service that would support their growing requirements for international patent research.

"I've been using patent databases in my legal career since the early 1990s and have seen their benefits as well as their limitations," explained Katherine H. McGuire, the chair of the IP practice at Woods Oviatt. "We knew this was an important investment we needed to make in order to be confident that our patent research was comprehensive and accurate."

“We were attracted to comprehensive global and the ability to search multiple jurisdictions around the world at one time.”

Solution

McGuire and her IP colleagues had been using a patent research service from another legal service company at their prior law firm. However, they found this service to be somewhat limited in meeting their needs for global patent research. After a brief test period, they decided to switch to TotalPatent, offered by LexisNexis.

“When we tested TotalPatent, we immediately saw its potential to help us in our IP practice,” said McGuire. “In particular, we were attracted to the TotalPatent comprehensive global database and the ability to search multiple jurisdictions around the world at one time. As IP lawyers who routinely need to research patent records in a number of countries, this capability is crucial in order to make sure that we are serving our clients’ needs at the highest possible level.”

TotalPatent allows users to access extensive LexisNexis® patent databases, including the full text from 27 patent authorities worldwide, searchable both in the language of publication and in English language machine translations. The database also consists of millions of images, legal status, citations and patent family data, as well as compressed and searchable PDFs. No other patent research solution in the world offers that level of comprehensive reach and international scope.

In addition, there are a number of unique features in TotalPatent that make it easier for users to obtain the precise documents they need in the patent research process. For example, robust language translation capabilities and the ability to search and download PDFs of patent records are both highly valuable.

“We were also impressed with the search feature in TotalPatent that allows us to reduce results to one invention per family by grouping and sorting records by patent family,” said McGuire. “That may not seem like a big deal to most people, but to an IP lawyer that is an extremely important feature that enables us to obtain more relevant and precise search results. This significantly increases the efficiency with which we conduct our patent research and therefore provide service to our clients.”

“By doing my research on TotalPatent, I feel like I’m not missing anything and that feeling of confidence is priceless.”

Results

TotalPatent has been in use at Woods Oviatt for more than a year now, which has been sufficient time for the firm to realize a number of important benefits from its implementation.

First, the global breadth of the TotalPatent service, including its industry-leading volume of full-text content and machine translations, provides Woods Oviatt attorneys with the confidence that they’re covering everything that needs to be researched when preparing patent documents or litigation.

Second, the search engine that powers TotalPatent processes complex search queries that could not be run on other patent database services, such as the ability to search multiple jurisdictions around the world at one time.

“Our firm’s IP practice is handling worldwide patent procurement for clients in a wide range of industries on a daily basis,” said McGuire. “The ability to search multiple jurisdictions at once with TotalPatent is extremely valuable for us.”

Third, the sheer scope of the TotalPatent service has improved the firm’s client service. With more than 38 million full-text records from 27 different patent authorities worldwide, TotalPatent offers the Woods Oviatt team access to the most comprehensive online collection of patent information in the world.

“With TotalPatent, I can get my hands on the right information I need for my clients very quickly, which translates into better service and a more efficient workflow in our practice group,” said McGuire.

But in the end, perhaps the greatest result that Woods Oviatt has realized from its implementation of TotalPatent has been to provide an intangible feeling of assurance in the firm’s work.

“TotalPatent gives me a higher degree of confidence that I’ve covered all of my bases in the patent research I’ve done for a client by conducting searches that are truly comprehensive,” said McGuire. “By doing my research on TotalPatent, I feel like I’m not missing anything and that feeling of confidence is priceless.”

About LexisNexis

LexisNexis® (www.lexisnexis.com) is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting and academic markets. LexisNexis originally pioneered online information with its *Lexis*® and *Nexis*® services. A member of Reed Elsevier [NYSE: ENL; NYSE: RUK] (www.reedelsevier.com), LexisNexis serves customers in more than 100 countries with 18,000 employees worldwide.

For More Information

Visit www.lexisnexis.com/ip

LexisNexis, Lexis, Nexis, *lexis.com* and the Knowledge Burst logo are registered trademarks of Reed Elsevier Properties Inc., used under license. TotalPatent and *PatentOptimizer* are trademarks of LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. REEDFAX is a registered trademark of Reed Technology and Information Services Inc. Other products or services may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © 2010 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. NXC02336-0 0410