



Secure Document Storage for Legal and Law Firms

CTERA's platform offers a range of features designed to meet the unique requirements of the legal industry.

The Challenge

Law firms bear the significant responsibility of safeguarding sensitive client data. They are under constant pressure to prevent data breaches, cyberattacks, or loss of data that could damage their reputation and result in substantial fines for regulatory non-compliance.

At the same time, the IT departments of law firms must grapple with an expanding volume of case files and electronic data, placing intense strain on legacy storage systems. A new case might require terabytes of documents to be securely stored and perpetually accessible from numerous global offices.

The demand for remote and mobile work capabilities has also surged. In a legal environment where teams operate across various jurisdictions, devices, and time zones, the need for flawless collaboration is paramount. Implementing a "round-the-clock" work model ensures that case work flows smoothly as tasks are transitioned between international offices. The secure dissemination of legal briefs, discovery documents, and court filings among both internal and external stakeholders is crucial for achieving favorable case resolutions.

Moreover, the rise of big data analytics and artificial intelligence in the legal field necessitates the consolidation of all documents into a centralized data repository or "data lake." By combining big data analytics and AI, firms can provide their lawyers with instant access to information, allowing them to sift through large amounts of evidence and correspondence, predict case outcomes, and devise innovative legal strategies.

Leveraging a Global File System for Secure Storage of Legal Documents

CTERA offers legal firms a modern edge-to-cloud file services platform purpose-built to address these challenges. The solution delivers:



Global Access

A distributed global namespace simplifies secure access to matter-related data and operational files from any location.



Data Encryption

Military-grade, source-based encryption safeguards confidential client documents.



Access Controls

Seamless integration with Microsoft Active Directory and Windows ACLs for access control.



Compliance

Compliant data lifecycle tools with WORM storage options for retention and secure deletion to permanently destroy records when required by law.



Ransomware Protection

AI-based ransomware detection and instant recovery from cyber incidents.



Universal Data Lake

Consolidation of documents into a centralized data lake to power big data analytics and large language models for advanced legal insights.

CASE STUDIES

Bowman & Brooke



Bowman and Brooke LLP, a nationally recognized trial firm with a significant product liability practice in the USA, previously used legacy filers for storing operational and matter-related data. As discovery has transitioned from paper to electronic files, the firm's reliance on technology has grown, leading to an increased need for storage on their NetApp filers. While their centralized filers provided quick LAN access for local staff, attorneys in distant cities faced challenges with slower WAN access to data.

“CTERA has been an outstanding organization to work with. Their engineers are top notch and quickly respond to questions which come up during the normal course of operations.”

- **Edward Jorczyk**, Director of Information Technology

International law firm



Our customer, a well-known international law firm, employs more than 2,500 attorneys with offices in Washington D.C., Silicon Valley, Paris, Beijing, and many more locations around the world. Consistently ranked as one of the most prestigious law firms in the world, the organization has a gross annual revenue in excess of \$1.2 billion, and advises clients on complex litigation, corporate, restructuring, and tax and benefits matters.

The law firm sought to modernize how its attorneys accessed and collaborated on files by moving to a cloud-based platform. Not only would such a deployment help the firm take advantage of low-cost cloud economics for file storage, but it also would enable users to access and share files from any location and from any device. After assessing options, the firm chose CTERA for its uncompromising data privacy controls.

The CTERA platform is deployed entirely on-premises, with AWS S3 utilized as a private, encrypted storage target. Stringent encryption safeguards confidential client data and integrations with AD, SSO, and MDM enable powerful access controls. The deployment has been a resounding success, with CTERA's collaboration features like secure external sharing spaces facilitating a great increase in productivity while restricting exposure.

CTERA's Comprehensive Solution for Legal Companies

CTERA's platform offers a range of features designed to meet the unique requirements of the legal industry:



CTERA Edge Filers

CTERA Edge Filers replace outdated file servers and NAS devices with a centrally governed, cache-enabled cloud gateway. This enables more effective management of unstructured data growth while maintaining full compatibility with existing SMB and NFS protocol clients.



CTERA Drive and CTERA Mobile

Apps for Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android provide secure and accelerated file sync and share to roaming users' devices. Enables lawyers and supporting staff to securely access client documents and case data from anywhere during litigation and regulatory proceedings.



CTERA Migrate

As law firms deal with highly sensitive and confidential information, maintaining the authenticity and integrity of information during data migration is a regulatory requirement and a cornerstone of client trust. CTERA Migrate ensures a seamless transfer of corporate file shares from legacy NAS systems, while maintaining the integrity of existing file system structures and permissions. CTERA Migrate features end-to-end verification, fostering trust in data migration by maintaining a clear chain of custody.

Key Benefits



Ransomware Protection

Leveraging air-gapped, immutable snapshots, AI-based ransomware detection, and robust instant rollback features provides dependable protection against natural disasters and cyber threats.



Multi-Cloud Data Management

CTERA Cloud Storage Routing provides administrators full control over data storage locations, enabling file replication across multiple clouds with total control over data residency for compliance and data governance.



Regulatory Compliance

Built-in WORM compliance, legal hold, data retention policies, secure data disposal, and audit logging, simplify compliance with regulations like GDPR, SOX and CCPA.



Robust Cyber Protections

The platform can be deployed 100% in-firewall with end-to-end military-grade encryption for total data privacy, protecting sensitive data from cybersecurity threats.



Global File Synchronization

File changes are continuously replicated to the chosen cloud, facilitating global file collaboration and ensuring business continuity in case of data loss.



Lower TCO

Leverage cloud object storage for lower-cost archival storage while maintaining LAN performance with edge caching.