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MikeLegal
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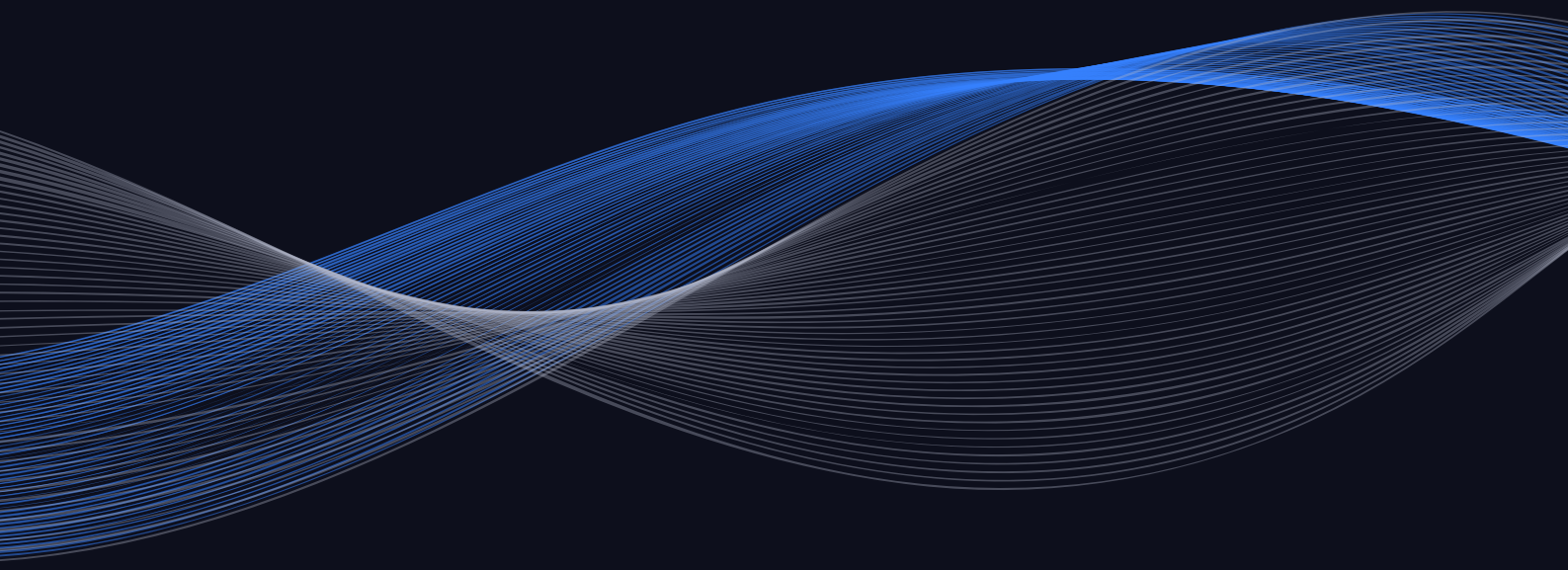
Khaitan & Co X Mike DocReview Case Study:

A Case Study On The Adoption And Impact Of Mike DocReview Tool For Proofreading.



Mike DocReview

Automation of Contract Proofreading

Overview

Founded in 1911, Khaitan & Co is one of India's leading full-service law firms. It is also one of the largest law firms in India with over 1000 legal professionals with diverse skills and experience of intricate, high-profile and path-breaking engagements.

Offices: Mumbai |Bengaluru| Chennai | New Delhi | Noida | Singapore | Pune

The Turn Towards Technology

“Currently, 90% of the work in the legal sector in India is done manually or with minimum technological intervention. This is a rough estimate, but that’s how things have traditionally been done when it comes to bespoke legal matters.

As a Firm, we have taken concerted steps to ramp up technology adoption in several areas – for example, managing processes such as billable recording, matter management, conflict checks, accounting and others. The Firm is also actively introducing technology in core areas such as drafting, negotiating, and diligence”, said Sriram Madhav Kommu, Senior Associate at Khaitan & Co.

But there seems to be a change on the horizon. Innovation is ingrained in the DNA of the Firm. It is what has enabled Khaitan & Co to not only grow, but thrive through all the changes and challenges faced over the journey of over 110 years.

According to B.N Vivek, Principal Associate at Khaitan & Co, “Every decade or so, there has been a generational shift bringing forth a plethora of changes. Now, you have a new generation of lawyers who are digital natives and therefore, more tech-savvy. They have been continually exposed to a digitally driven and tech-enabled ecosystem. It is no surprise that they are ushering in a technological transformation in the legal field.

However, tech adoption in the legal industry has faced many impediments over the years, but one of the biggest hurdles has been that law as a field requires a human-to-human interaction. There is always a presumption that the scope for anything that can be determined or even ‘done’ by an algorithm may not be enough.

Ashwij Ramaiah, Principal Associate at Khaitan & Co added, “Our Firm has always had a rich history of innovation and over the years, has invested heavily into technology and global best practices. The pandemic only accelerated this investment. The Firm was able to understand and adopt technology readily to streamline several processes.”

While the pandemic may have accelerated technology adoption, it was an inevitable change that was a long coming. Being at the forefront of innovation, as always, Khaitan & Co is at the helm to build a new and more efficient way of work that can put India’s legal industry at par with global counterparts.

Mike DocReview For Automated Contract Proofreading

One of the significant steps taken by Khaitan & Co in the adoption of legal tech is leveraging Mike DocReview to automate the process of proofreading.

The last couple of years has seen a growing awareness and acceptance to adopt technology in lawyers’ day-to-day work. The awareness of different tools that can help lawyers work with greater efficiency and even make the drafts ‘look’ good, has led them to experiment with various tools.

Lawyers needed to be able to work in a more self-sufficient capacity, quicker but without compromising the on efficiency, quality or detail. This specifically applied to contract drafting. Not only is contract drafting highly detail-oriented, but it also requires the utmost diligence and without any room for error.

As per B.N Vivek, the most challenging part of drafting contracts especially with multiple people collaborating on it is maintaining consistency. This is where technology can be a game changer. Another key issue faced by teams is keeping track of all the defined terms in the document. In addition, the usage of defined terms can become a significant problem, especially in complex and large documents.

> *Cross-referencing, formatting, punctuation and other such elements play a major role in legal drafting. These can potentially change the entire meaning of what a document is trying to convey with merely a missed comma or an incorrect reference to a clause.*
>
> **— Ashwij Ramaiah, Principal Associate At Khaitan & Co**

Adoption and Learning Curve

Lawyers across all practice areas and experience levels at Khaitan & Co found Mike DocReview to be a convenient, practical, intuitive and easy to navigate tool which was a notable value addition to their contract drafting and review process. The entire process of reviewing and sanitising the draft was simplified to a significant extent. One of the biggest advantages seen was the tool's seamless integration with MS Word, with very little setup process.

The support given by MikeLegal has been excellent, with their teams readily available to assist on any queries and responding promptly. The Khaitan & Co team found the MikeLegal team to be extremely client focused and dedicated in providing support to optimise and streamline processes to achieve quicker turnaround times.

The Mike DocReview Impact

On an average, most documents reviewed are over 60 pages. According to the team at Khaitan & Co, it takes a lot of time and effort to prepare a perfect document. This is more so when reviewing someone else's work, or if someone reviews another party's document that is worked as a redline markup.

In such situations, Mike DocReview has added tremendous value by identifying errors and inconsistencies quickly. Another benefit seen was when two or three teams are working together to draft a single document and can ensure that all the dates and numbers are accurate.

> *Before Mike DocReview, it was very difficult for us to keep a track of defined terms, manage formatting and maintain language consistency, among others. It's not only simpler now but much faster, and the end product is a well put together document that appears to have been drafted by a single entity*
>
> **— Ashwij Ramaiah, Principal Associate At Khaitan & Co**

Keeping track of the finer details, especially in collaborative projects where multiple teams are working on urgent mandates becomes extremely difficult to do manually. With Mike DocReview, lawyers can reclaim time by bringing in efficiencies and ensuring an airtight contract. The time gains also allow lawyers to focus on more complex legal issues and better serve the needs of the clients.

Future Forward

The way forward is to accept that technology is now an integral part of the legal world. Just a few months into using the tool, Mike DocReview has become an intrinsic part of Khaitan & Co's contract review process. The tool is designed to make processes faster, simpler, and precise for everyone across levels – from Associates to Partners. The time value gain surpasses the initial investment made in the tool. It may be helpful to introduce these tools at multiple levels, starting at universities as well as during internship stages, so the upcoming generation of lawyers are future-ready, embrace technology and can effortlessly collaborate with teams across the world.

Legal tech is probably the bridge that is needed to fill some of the gaps observed in the legal field, be it in terms of improving efficiency or even increasing the much-needed bandwidth in a working week.

Ashwij points out, “A lot of manual tasks have been reduced, and I can give more time to strategic and complex areas that demand deeper concentration. So rather than spending time on fixing formatting, checking punctuation or duplicate definitions, I spend my time on identifying more substantive elements - for example, if a point is legally tenable under a certain section of the law.”

“Impressions can create lasting relationships with your clients, or even third parties. For me, Mike DocReview is helping churn out a good product. This is what matters the most to me. And the presentation of the features is much better than any other product I have used before”, said B.N Vivek.

> *Technology is the cornerstone of our firm's growth and success. It's the bridge between our legal expertise and exceptional client service, helping us adapt and thrive in a tech-driven legal world.*
>
> **— Rohit Shukla, Chief Digital Officer At Khaitan & Co**