

Lawstream is terrific!

I have happily used Lawstream and its predecessor, Integra, since 1997. The folks at Powersoft have developed and continue to develop a powerful law office management tool that enables me to run my practice literally from my desktop. From docketing through to trust account management through to productivity statements, *e.g.*, balance sheets, lawyer productivity, *etc.*, Lawstream does it all – and does it very well. I have been using Apple based computers since I started to practice in the late 80s. I purchased and was trained on several different accounting packages before settling on Lawstream (Integra) in 1997. I have not regretted that choice. Bill and Pat have developed and continue to develop and improve upon a program that meets my demanding needs.

I am a very hands-on practitioner. From doing all of my docketing through to checking on the firm's productivity I simply turn to Lawstream for the answers. Lawstream provides an easy to use interface along with a myriad of tools which, I am not too shy to admit, I have not used to their full potential. Law office practice / management has long been an interest of mine given that I started as a sole practitioner and wanted the most efficient and effective way to run my business. Lawstream has never let me down which is more than some of my colleagues can say about their PC based accounting systems.

Lawstream has an aesthetic attraction which presents in a friendly and inviting manner on my desktop. The program allows me to flow from one task through another with relative ease. I can be docketing one minute while in the next I am able to print off a balance sheet to see how my firm is doing at any given time. From tracking disbursements through to filing our quarterly G.S.T. returns we have come to rely on Lawstream. It is an integral part of my practice.

That is not to say that Lawstream is perfect and the folks at Powersoft continually work at improving the product and for that I am eternally grateful. The glitches we have encountered over the many years have been fixed relatively quickly and always with a friendly voice or helping hand at the other end. There is a personal touch from the folks at Powersoft which I have not come across before nor do I expect to in the future.

I am sure neither Bill nor Pat walk on water but their product is something I could not do without. Indeed, I have recommended Lawstream to several colleagues who have purchased it and continue to use it with much appreciation. Perhaps the most telling aspect of this program is the fact that day in and day out I simply use it and think nothing of using it as it has become a seamless part of my practice. That goes for my associates and staff. Viewed another way, Lawstream does not get in the way of my work which is perhaps the highest accolade one can ascribe to Lawstream. Given how easy it is to use I find that it makes docketing simple and easy which means there is less chance I will miss or not docket a billable matter. That, of course, at the end of the day is what drives the business part of my practice and for which I am most grateful to the folks at Powersoft.

A more cynical reader might think that I am being paid or compensated in some way for what amounts to a glowing tribute to Lawstream. Let me be clear and state unequivocally that I am not. As noted above, I have been a long time user of the program and have written about it in the past in the column I write for the Lawyer's Weekly and, when presented with the chance to do a review, did not hesitate to jump at the opportunity.

In closing, the breadth of the Lawstream program is such that it would require a dissertation to list all of its capabilities. I think the best review would be one where I commend it to you, the reader, with my hope that you will at least give it a try. The folks at Powersoft make available a downloadable trial version which will more than whet your appetite.

You can call me or email me if you have any questions or concerns about the program at (613) 592-9562 or lyon@magma.ca.