



Case Study — Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Introduction

Founded in 1945, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP is one of the world's largest law firms with more than 800 lawyers in 13 offices. To help their clients achieve their business goals, Akin Gump interprets regulations, structures international transactions and anticipates and reacts to change. Combining their understanding of economic and political infrastructures with first-hand government experience, they help clients to access the global marketplace and compete around the world.

Reputation matters

As a global firm, Akin Gump endeavors to maintain a business reputation that is above reproach, and to mitigate risk for itself and its clients. Client quality filtering, a firm-wide business function that is based in their Washington, DC office, helps the firm to accomplish this goal. It includes processes such as conflict management, credit screening, and internet research. Additionally, potential clients are screened against OFAC and various international sanctions lists to ensure the security of conducting business with them and to protect the firm's other clients from any possible conflicts and risk.

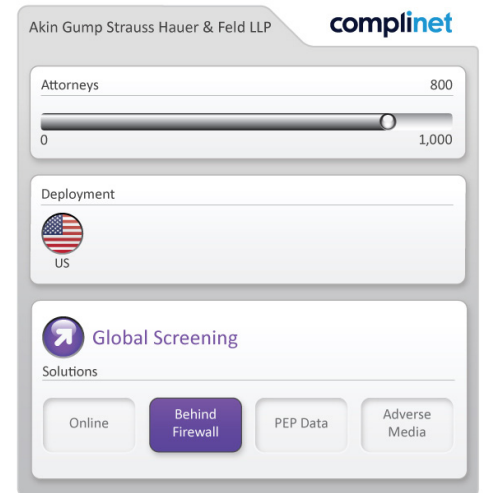
A law firm with clients operating in the global financial environment may share some of their clients' risk, and according to Roger Kang, Akin Gump's Business Acceptance Manager, "Screening those potential clients against OFAC and other international sanctions lists is imperative to maintaining our business reputation, instilling confidence in our other clients and is a key component of the business acceptance process at the firm."

Managing risk

To diminish the risk of doing business with an adverse party, Akin Gump employs Complinet's Workstation solution, a flexible, scalable and secure solution that enables firms to screen clients and associated parties against updated sanctions, watch lists and PEP (politically exposed persons) data. "Workstation is a one-stop-shop for our sanctions screening needs. We rely upon the comprehensiveness of the 150+ lists provided by Complinet," noted Roger. Akin Gump selected Workstation for its ease of use, the high level of security and the ability to integrate the service behind their firewall, further protecting their client data. Roger continues, "The fact that we can screen against the various lists without sending our client data to a third party is significant and adds another layer of security for our clients."

Efficiency and increased resources

Screening of new and potential clients is an automated process that provides wide-ranging screening abilities against numerous sanctions lists in a minimal amount of time, allowing the firm to safeguard against risk. This part of the client acceptance process is more efficient, freeing up resources to focus on other areas. For Roger and his team, "Workstation is easy and simple to use, requires minimal training and maintenance and provides us with an efficient, automated screening process to be incorporated in the business acceptance process."



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Akin Gump's Business Acceptance Manager