



Case Reviews



James D. Thomas Law Co. (“JDT Law”) offers Case Review services for parties that are involved in pending or anticipated litigation matters. This service grows out of Jim’s experience as a United States Magistrate Judge and as the leader of a large international law firm’s global litigation practice. Jim created the Case Review process as a client service offering and a risk management tool. A Case Review offers a fresh, independent perspective for in-house counsel managing outside counsel and a risk management tool for law firm leadership. In Jim’s experience, the longer that a case is pending, the greater the risk that in-house and outside counsel teams will lose perspective and become more emotionally invested, despite best efforts to remain objective. Jim’s background as a judge, practice group leader, and lead litigation partner on major matters makes him uniquely qualified for this type of engagement. The intent is to offer guidance to the existing teams and not to replace or disrupt existing relationships.



Each review is unique, and the actual work plan is developed in conjunction with the client. The basic framework for a Case Review normally includes pre-review preparation by Jim, which involves a review of the docket and a selection of existing case materials from the client’s outside litigation team (e.g., substantive pleadings, summary judgment motions, client status reports, billing summaries). The key is that no “new work” is required from the outside team to “update” or “brief” Jim – i.e., no billable time or attendant fees by the existing team.

Following Jim’s independent review of the existing materials, an in-person or virtual session is led by Jim with members of the client’s in-house team and primary members of the outside litigation team (e.g., the lead partner/attorney, significant second and third chair members, and others as appropriate).

Depending on the complexity of the litigation and the amount in dispute, the in-person session can vary from a few hours to or even a full day. Case Reviews are conducted in a “non-confrontational” manner about how the professionals in the case, including in-house and outside counsel, can best serve the client in the most effective and efficient manner going forward.

Following the review session and, depending on the agreed upon scope of the engagement, JDT Law will issue an oral or written summary report (including assessments and any recommendations) to the client’s in-house team and, if the client so directs, to the outside team, again, depending on the agreed-upon scope of the engagement.

Contact us

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