

CASE STUDY

Managing a Complex Case Virtually: THE INFINITY TOWER LITIGATION

During the Infinity Tower litigation, U.S. Legal Support worked to ensure everyone was prepared and comfortable to keep litigation moving forward. After the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, U.S. Legal Support worked to not only convert depositions from in-person to remote settings, but also helped train counsel on remote deposition and trial technology as our clients' comfort with technology was one of our top priorities.



TYPE OF LITIGATION

Construction Defect

CLIENT COUNSEL

Duane Morris, Gordon & Rees, and Fenton, Grant, Mayfield, Kaneda & Litt

OVERVIEW

The Infinity Tower case started as a large, nine-figure construction defect case in San Francisco, California. The case included four high-rise buildings, for a total of 650 units, and over sixteen defendants.

Because of the size of the case and number of defendants involved, this case had many participants (defendants, attorneys, and experts) from all over the country including multiple cities in California including multiple cities in California, Georgia, Michigan, and Texas.

The case was already well underway in early 2020 when offices abruptly closed in March of that year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. With an ardent desire to keep the litigation moving forward despite everyone working remotely, counsel turned to U.S. Legal Support for help transitioning the case from in-person to a remote/hybrid setting for their regularly scheduled four-month trial in the Fall of 2020.

CHALLENGES

- Transitioning a large case, with parties from many different states, from in-person to completely virtual depositions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Managing, sharing, and storing multiple forms of documentation, exhibits, etc. between multiple parties.
- Coordination of logistics of a four-month trial with 16 lawyers, 12 jurors and six alternates, including how to present documentation and set up trial technology for a completely remote jury.

U.S. LEGAL SUPPORT SERVICES USED

- RemoteDepo™
- InstantExhibit™
- Trial Technology Consulting (DecisionQuest)

RESULTS

- U.S. Legal Support assisted in communicating, training, and implementing all parties onto our remote deposition platform, RemoteDepo™.
- Because of the tools, technology, and guidance U.S. Legal Support provided, this litigation was able to continue, even amid the global pandemic and court closures/delays across the country.
- In a hybrid setting, the litigation team was able to outsource more complicated technology matters, such as videography and how to handle exhibit sharing with a remote jury, to U.S. Legal Support to alleviate some of the burden when preparing for trial.

"I think one of the things I'd recommend to people is to invest in a deposition technician who can help anybody get through any issues... We had a witness who said, "I can't get on the internet," "I can't turn on the computer," or "I can't get my video to work correctly." Our trial technicians with U.S. Legal Support were able to work through those glitches for us. Moving documents around and showing the documents became much easier with the technician there."

SANDY KAPLAN, Partner and Co-Chair, Construction Practice Group, Gordon & Rees