# CORPORATE LEGAL TIMES 2003 SUPERCONFERENCE

The management conference for corporate legal executives

in alliance with **BERNST&YOUNG** JENNER&BLOCK

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# Corporate Legal Times SuperConference William J. Bowe

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## Knowledge Management: The Small Law Department Perspective

- Recycling Knowledge for Fun and Profit
  - Knowledge Creation
    - Business metrics
    - Legal work product
  - Knowledge Capture
    - Single system matter management
    - Cross system data entry
  - Knowledge Sharing
    - Intranet
    - Internet



## Knowledge Management: The Small Law Department Perspective

- Perceived needs in 1998
  - Better control of billing information for budgeting
  - Tickler system for:
    - Trademark filings
    - Contract expirations and renewals
    - Litigation matters
  - Enhanced command of paper flow



## Knowledge Management: The Small Law Department Perspective

- 4-month study of matter management options
- \$20,000+ (licenses, conversion, training costs)
- 1999 conversion of existing law department file index database into matter management system
- Overall efficiency gains:
  - Hype or Reality?



### Matters to Manage:

- Contracts
  - forms
  - executed final agreements
- Trademarks
- Copyrights
- Litigation
- Billing
- Internal Law Department files



#### Matter Management Software: Hype or Reality?

- Upgrade Options
  - Back-end improvement only
  - System capacity increased
  - Processing speed enhanced
  - Interface remains the same



#### Matter Management Software: Hype or Reality?

- Web-based product
- Interface improved
- Better report capabilities
- Direct posting of billings from law firms
- US and international given direct access to contracts and law department materials
- More comprehensive tickler system



#### Matter Management Software: Hype or Reality?

- Back-end Improvement?
  - Not enough by itself
  - •Improved tickler lacking
- •Web-based product?
  - Too expensive
  - Overkill for today's law department with limited needs