



CUSTOMER

Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co. P.L.L.P.

HEADQUARTERS

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Number of Locations

1

Number of Employees

140

CaseWare Valued Partner Of Regional CPA Firm

Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co. P.L.L.P. (BHZ) is one of the leading accounting and consulting firms in the Midwest. For more than 70 years, BHZ has offered its clients a full range of services, including traditional tax services, tax and business planning, as well as wealth management services. Today, the technology tool that helps BHZ deliver on its commitment to quality service is the award-winning engagement management solution — CaseWare® Working Papers.



the software and uses it in one capacity or another. It makes good sense for us all to use the same tool set,” Bragg says.

Select A Winner

In 2004, a group of professionals within the firm were tasked to evaluate paperless engagement management software solutions. “We looked at Creative Solutions, ProSystem FX Engagement, and CaseWare Working Papers,” recalls Jadin Bragg, a partner with BHZ. “CaseWare Working Papers stood out from the rest with its feature-rich CaseView report writing tool. We all agreed it was the best solution available.”

BHZ made the decision to obtain user licenses for every member of the 140 employee firm. “We made sure everyone in the organization received training on Working Papers. Everyone has access to

Efficiency Gains

“We began by going back and converting prior year audits into electronic form in Working Papers and that of course involved a time investment,” explains Bragg. “But by the second season, we noticed a significant drop in the number of hours involved in our audits. We are able to take on more work without hiring additional staff as a result of the efficiencies CaseWare brings us.”

By building and using templates, BHZ is able to cut hours off the time it takes to prepare new client files. “We have written various templates to speed the production of financial statements, audits, and

CHALLENGE

BHZ needed an electronic engagement software to streamline operations and increase overall efficiency.

SOLUTION

BHZ selected CaseWare Working Papers and CaseWare IDEA as the most powerful solution available.

RESULTS

Hours are saved in the generation of files. Fraud-detection tools save time during audits. Access to CaseWare Working Papers data across the firm fosters collaboration and communication.

"No more clunky black cases filled with files; we can go to a client's location with a laptop and printer and have everything we need to be fully productive."

Jadin Bragg
Partner

About CaseWare International Inc.

Accountants and auditors in practices large and small, in corporations, and government recognize CaseWare International as the premier creator of assurance, reporting and analysis tools. In over 130 countries, the CaseWare family of products helps accounting professionals perform their work more easily and efficiently.

reviews. Using these templates we can set up a file in five minutes. With our old paper system, it might have taken us four hours from start to finish," Bragg adds.

Productivity Anywhere, Anytime

The portability of Working Papers has changed the way BHZ operates. Individual documents, or a client's entire file can be checked-out to a staff member's laptop, allowing them to work from anywhere.

"No more clunky black cases filled with files; we can go to a client's location with a laptop and printer and have everything we need to be fully productive," says Bragg. "When several of us are onsite, we set up a mini network so we are all able to access and work on client-related tasks."

Power and Flexibility

BHZ finds value in the flexibility of the CaseWare solution. In addition to the CaseView financial report writing component of Working Papers, staff members can also use Word and Excel to generate financial statements.

Using CaseWare Connector, an optional component of Working Papers, staff can use Excel as their formatting tool, while integrating the spreadsheet data with the Working Papers database. This provides full annotation capability including referencing, tick-marks, and drill-down to supporting documents.

"It's worked out that we use CaseView when working with our for-profit industry clients, and Connector when working with not-for-profits," notes Bragg. "The flexibility to do both is a real benefit to us."

Brilliant IDEA

Another CaseWare tool BHZ relies on is IDEA®. The application enables users to read, display, analyze, manipulate, sample, or extract from data files from almost any source—mainframe to PC, including reports printed to a file.

"With IDEA, we can take ASCII files, Excel spreadsheets, even printed reports and import them for use in Working Papers," explains Bragg.

Using IDEA's free-form search function, BHZ's audit staff can comb through large files looking for signs of fraud, such as an unusually high number of voided checks. "IDEA can run numerous checks on the data and then sets flags for items that seem to warrant further investigation," continues Bragg. "It can do in minutes what would take days to do manually."

Build A Cohesive Team

While CaseWare Working Papers has streamlined tasks, added flexible working options, and boosted overall productivity, Bragg believes the biggest benefit of Working Papers has been in the way it fosters collaboration across the entire firm.

"With Working Papers we can have someone in the office, someone across the state, and someone at a client's office all working together on the same engagement," Bragg concludes. "We're able to work together as a cohesive team, regardless of where we are physically located—and that benefits everyone."

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