

WordPerfect® 12 Enables Law Firm to File Documents Electronically in Federal Courts

"There are many reasons we're a WordPerfect firm."

Ray Ginter
IS Manager
Law Firm Meyer, Darragh



Ray Gintner is the IS Manager at Pittsburgh law firm Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck. When the firm recently decided to update all its computers, it was also time to update their main office productivity suite. A few different options were briefly considered, but according to Ray Gintner, the outcome was never really in question. The firm's 30 legal secretaries and paralegals, who produce complex legal documents every day, spoke with one voice: "We need WordPerfect to get the job done!" The firm quickly upgraded to WordPerfect Office 12.

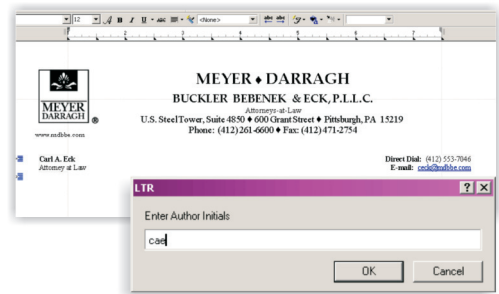
Established in 1913 and headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck has regional offices in Greensburg and Altoona, PA. The firm serves a broad spectrum of corporate, business, professional and individual clients on a regional, state, national and international basis.

With its 37 attorneys, Meyer Darragh, as the firm is commonly known, is big enough to bring together a team of lawyers with many diverse skills, yet small enough to treat clients as personal customers with unique concerns. Meyer Darragh offers the benefits of a larger law firm, without the overhead and costs, and count among their clients both Fortune 500 companies and small businesses.

"There are many reasons we're a WordPerfect firm," says IS Manager Ray Gintner on the phone from Pittsburgh, PA.

"First of all, WordPerfect is both powerful and very easy to use. WordPerfect's incredible macro capabilities provide huge cost savings for a medium sized firm like ours. One of our legal staffers has become our informal macro specialist. She doesn't have any formal training in programming languages, but she was able to pick it up very quickly. She created an extremely useful personalized letterhead macro, where each paralegal can insert the Meyer Darragh logo along with the correct attorney name, contact information, margin

settings, font size etc with just a click on the toolbar. She's done the same with other commonly used documents like faxes, certificate of service et cetera. It's an incredible productivity booster!"



Another reason WordPerfect is the word processor of choice at Meyer Darragh is Reveal Codes. Many of the Meyer Darragh staff keep the Reveal Codes pane visible at the bottom of the screen at all times, giving them immediate access to all formatting information.

"It's such a straight-forward, linear way of formatting a document, and our staff loves the control it provides", states Mr. Gintner. "Once you've used Reveal Codes, you can never go back. It's that powerful."

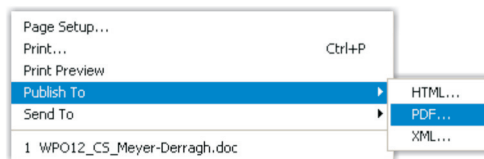
WordPerfect's file format has remained consistent since version 6.1, and converting even older files from the DOS era is not a complicated task, providing long-time lawyers easy access to legacy files.

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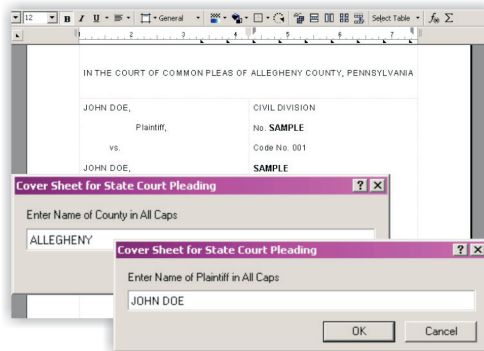
"We have several hundred thousand WordPerfect documents in our archives, and it's comforting to know that the information stored in those documents is still available to us," says Mr. Gintner.

One of the most compelling reasons WordPerfect is the best choice for law firms like Meyer Darragh is its native Publish To PDF capabilities. Historically, federal US courts have required lawyers to file their court cases in the form of printed documents, but, increasingly, the system is shifting toward an electronic filing system, where the preferred "e-document" format is PDF. As of July 2005, 68 of 94 US District Courts, including the three Pennsylvania District Courts, have an e-filing system in place. Most people in the legal community agree it's only a matter of time before all case documents such as pleadings, motions and petitions will be filed online.

Today, lawyers at Meyer Darragh simply publish their WordPerfect documents as PDF files, log on to a secure web site, and submit their PDF documents with a click of a button.



"The Publish To PDF feature in WordPerfect 12 is an immensely helpful tool, and it fits perfectly in our workflow. We are able to file our documents electronically to the courts



without having to buy software like Adobe® Acrobat® or Distiller® and when you have more than 80 seats, that's not an insignificant cost savings," states Ray Gintner.

One of Meyer Darragh's biggest clients has a web-based Case Management System where lawyers submit and share documents online. It was initially designed to accept .doc files only, but in his capacity as a Beta tester for the system, Ray Gintner convinced their technical staff to change it to a PDF system.

"PDF has become a de-facto standard in legal file exchange environments, and it's also a more secure file format. Anyone can edit a Word file, but it takes a lot more effort to change a PDF file, and security is obviously a big concern for our clients," explains Mr. Gintner.

Law firms regularly submit various exhibits to be used in court proceedings. In the past it was common for the paralegals at Meyer Darragh to collect and scan their documents at a copy service. Today, the experienced staff can use the Publish To PDF command and remain at their desks, while an entry level copy clerk can handle the rest.

"The Publish To PDF feature in WordPerfect alone has been worth the price of an upgrade," says Mr. Gintner.

"All in all I'd say that WordPerfect has helped us make the transition to e-filing a very smooth experience, saving us an incredible amount of both time and money in the process," concludes Ray Gintner.

