SURE, DRAFTING SOFTWARE SAVES TIME. BUT ISN'T ACCURACY WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Legal software is designed to help attorneys and other legal professionals complete legal tasks, such as drafting documents, more efficiently.

The general idea is that it enables you to spend less time on what are usually time-intensive tasks, giving you more time to devote to client service and other practice development activities. In the end, it makes your firm more profitable.

And while it's true drafting software can help you be more efficient, isn't accuracy really the most important thing when it comes to drafting litigation documents?

According to a recent ALM® study … **Yes**.

In December of 2015, ALM conducted an online survey of law firm attorneys regarding their use of legal drafting software and their attitudes about it.
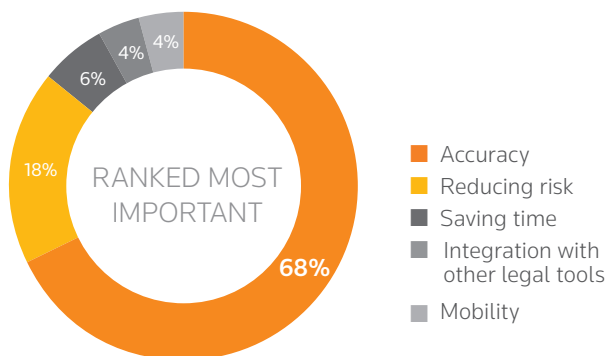
The study specifically looked into what is most important to attorneys when drafting documents, among the following considerations:

Accuracy

Reducing risk

Saving time

Integration with other legal tools

Mobility

ALM STUDY:
ACCURACY IS MOST IMPORTANT

Attorneys were asked to:
Rank the order of importance of the five considerations when drafting documents.

RANKED MOST IMPORTANT

- Accuracy — 68%
- Reducing risk — 18%
- Saving time — 6%
- Integration with other legal tools — 4%
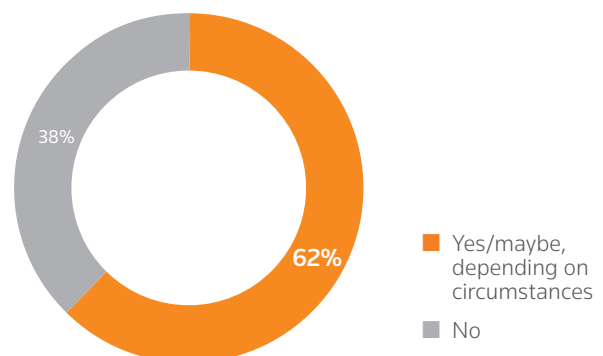- Mobility — 4%

ACCURACY + REDUCING RISK = 86%

Accuracy was by far ranked most often as the most important consideration. It was rated either first or second 92% of the time. When coupled with reducing risk (which goes hand in hand with accuracy), they account for 86% of the top vote.

But even though accuracy is considered the most important consideration, attorneys don't always have the time they'd like to devote to it.

Attorneys were asked:
"Would you ever skip legal document proofreading steps to spend more time focusing on cost-effective litigation?"

- Yes/maybe, depending on circumstances — 62%
- No — 38%

Only 38% said they would never skip a proofreading step, meaning 62% said they would skip proofreading steps, depending on circumstances.

What this tells us is that in today's hectic law office, there's a good chance proofreading steps will get skipped. So there's a need for attorneys to be confident in the proofreading steps that do get followed.
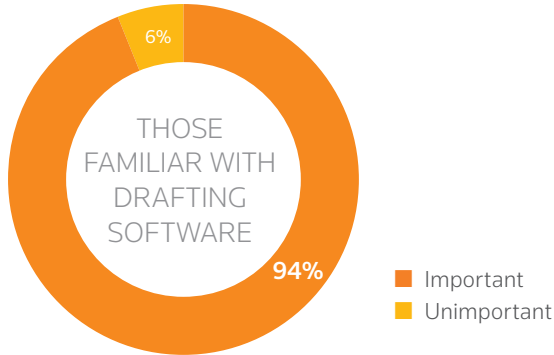
EFFICIENCY AND RISK AVOIDANCE ARE IMPORTANT TOO.

Having integrated technology can help attorneys be more efficient, which is most likely why the ALM study found that integration with other legal resources was considered a very important feature for drafting software. There is also agreement that using the right drafting technology can help mitigate risk.
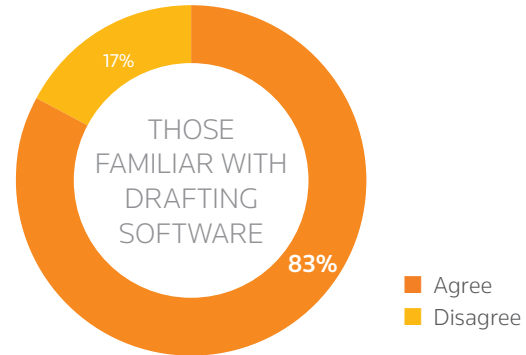
Attorneys were asked:
"How important is it that legal drafting software integrate with your legal research, case files, and other documents?"

THOSE FAMILIAR WITH DRAFTING SOFTWARE

6%

94%

■ Important
■ Unimportant

Most attorneys reported that integration was important for drafting software. In fact, when you isolate the results among those attorneys familiar with drafting software, 94% said it was important.

Attorneys were asked:
"To what extent do you agree that drafting software mitigates any of the risks associated with document drafting errors?"

THOSE FAMILIAR WITH DRAFTING SOFTWARE

17%

83%

■ Agree
■ Disagree

Of those familiar with drafting software, 83% agreed that drafting software mitigates risks, indicating a high level of confidence in drafting software.

DRAFTING ASSISTANT DELIVERS ACCURACY ... AND MORE

No matter what legal drafting tools you choose to use, your documents must be accurate in order to win for your clients. With Drafting Assistant from Thomson Reuters, you can leverage the trusted technology and expertise you need to feel confident and reassured that the documents you are creating on behalf of your clients are rock solid. Plus Drafting Assistant integrates with your case files and other legal tools to help you draft documents in the most efficient way possible, so you can save time and be more profitable.

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