LEDES™ Announces New Ratified Standards

The LEDES Oversight Committee, a well-established global non-profit organization driving data exchange standards for the legal community, announces new ratified standards:
- New and Updated ebilling standard formats
- New API Software Specifications

"*There was the need to update the global ebilling formats to accommodate a larger number of cursor columns to the right of the decimal point, and also to create a schema that would support a Tiered Withholding Tax, like we see in Japan*" said Jane A. Bennitt, president of the LOC, who led the development project.

Three ebilling standards were updated (LEDES 98BI, LEDES XML 2.0 and XML 2.1) and a new format was created to support tiered taxes (LEDES XML 2.2). These new standards are now available on LEDES.org.

To use these standards, law firms will need to update the system they use to create LEDES invoice files, and third-party ebilling vendor systems also need to update their import routines to accept the updated and new formats.   LEDES would like to recognize the efforts of two members who were integral in devising the new XML 2.2 ebilling format, Nadia Strobbia from Thomson Reuters and Frank Mikulak from Wolters Kluwer ELM Solutions.

The new LEDES API Software Specifications was created to allow law firm billing systems to communicate directly with corporate ebilling systems and law firm billing system vendors to deliver new features within their applications making it substantially easier for law firms to submit invoices and get the status of invoices. Law firms will no longer need to login to various ebilling systems to submit an invoice or to check the status of invoices.

The API Software Specifications support the transmission of LEDES invoices, invoice attachments, accrual invoices, shadow invoices, invoice resubmissions, appeal invoices, and replacement invoices in addition to supporting the ability to request the detailed status of an invoice including a list of errors, adjustments, and payment information.

 According to Nicholas Puschak, the LEDES Standards Director who led the development of the API, "*This represents a gigantic step forward in easing the workload associated with monthly billing at law firms. We encourage law firms to push for the adoption of the LEDES Software API with both their billing vendors and the ebilling system vendors they are required to use by their clients.*" Documentation for API standard is now available on LEDES.org.

LEDES™ is an acronym for the Legal Electronic Data Exchange System. The LEDES Oversight Committee is the governing body that creates the standards used for the exchange of information in the legal industry around the world. This volunteer-led not for profit group is comprised of representatives from corporate legal departments, law firms, universities, software vendors and legal technology consultants. Since its founding, the LOC has released numerous standards for the exchange of legal ebilling, timekeeper, budget and intellectual property matter information, as well as contributing and maintaining UTBMS (Uniform Task Based Management System, a series of codes used for legal data exchange) standards.   The organization

maintains two web sites, LEDES.org for its data exchange standards and UTBMS.com as a central reference point for any ratified UTBMS standards.

Notably, the LEDES ebilling standards are globally recognized as compliant industry-specific EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) formats for electronic invoicing.

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To request more information on the new standards, visit the LEDES.org website or contact the LEDES Board at loc@LEDES.org.