By Mark Higgs

A former employee stole a trade secret. Some deleted vital company data. A spouse deleted digital evidence of infidelity.

These situations share a common link – digital forensics and data recovery can produce the evidence that attorneys need for these cases. For a dozen years, bit-x-bit has helped attorneys and their clients overcome these challenges presented by our increasingly digital society.

Established in Pittsburgh by a team of seasoned lawyers and certified computer forensic examiners, bit-x-bit brings both legal and technical experience to bear on each project.

“Every year, the technology that we use at home, in our phones and in the office becomes more complex. And so do the processes to get the digital information that attorneys need to build a winning case,” said ACBA Executive Director David Blaner. “Ten years ago, the ACBA started a relationship with bit-x-bit as our endorsed partner for forensic and e-discovery services, and ever since then, our members have increasingly relied on them as the need for these services has grown tremendously.

We’re proud that our relationship with such a respected partner has reached this milestone anniversary.”

For 10 years, CEO Susan Ardisson; Brett Creasy, president and director of digital forensics; and the rest of the bit-x-bit team have been the ACBA’s endorsed partner for forensic and e-discovery services.

its ability to allow lawyers to start reviewing immediately, and it bumbles up key documents right away that are involved in litigation. So what is it? You only need to review less than half of the documents that have been collected. You get right to the heart of things very quickly.”

With one of the biggest components in e-discovery being attorney-review time, a program like Catalyst is essential for saving time and money during e-discovery.

Ardisson said that technology-assisted review has become universally accepted for use in e-discovery and has been proven to be more accurate than examining every document manually. Some e-discovery cases can go on for years, Ardisson said, while forensic matters might go more quickly due to the hunt for specific information. Regardless of the scope of the work, bit-x-bit can help.

“We have all kinds of cases. From the smallest, simplest matter recovering one email or text message from a phone, to millions of documents we’re searching,” Ardisson said.

“The forensic side is typically quicker due to the nature of the work. It’s more investigative,” Creasy said. “It’s about answering questions. When and how, and so, a lot of times it’s someone stealing something, security related, outside harassment. It can be as little as one phone, or multiple servers, desktops, phones, cloud data and so on.”

Of all the devices they deal with, Creasy said, the most challenging devices are cell phones that have a lot of encryption on them.

For processing, it uses Nuix, a robust e-discovery and forensic tool that put the data in a form that can be examined more closely. bit-x-bit also provides technology-assisted review platforms, Relativity and Catalyst. And it uses Brainspace, a technology-assisted review service that can group documents based on a variety of factors using artificial intelligence before an attorney even begins the review process.

The Catalyst system – which the company added in the last year – is a favorite of the bit-x-bit team.

“We’re really excited about Catalyst,” Ardisson said. “What’s unique about it – and different from Relativity – is through artificial intelligence before the company added in the last year – is a favorite of the bit-x-bit team. We’re really excited about Catalyst.”

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