



## CASE STUDY

### BUSINESS GOAL

To consolidate and improve efficiency of the firm's outdated storage system.

### SOLUTION

Firm's consolidation goals are reached Implement a consolidated SAN solution, decreasing number of servers by one-third while increasing speed, efficiency of data backup and management.

"The benefits of the SAN have enabled Sheppard Mullin to move to a enterprise backup solution by reducing our backup window and media management. We now have the flexibility to dynamically increase data partitions for business critical servers without the need for a service outage. In addition, we have experienced an elevated speed improvement while accessing our data."

— Donna Paulson, Director of Technology  
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

Wheels of Justice  
Consolidated at Law Office.  
IMPEX SAN Solution Improves  
Performance, Scalability and Backup.

## Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

Faced with an ever-widening caseload and ongoing new legislation, the law firm of Sheppard Mullin turned to IMPEX Technologies to tip the scales of SAN justice in its favor.

Because of its long-standing relationship with IMPEX, it was obvious to whom the firm would turn to for SAN expertise. Though the office still fights a never-ending onslaught of increased data, the legal staff now accesses and manages information more efficiently with its StorageTek SAN.

"While many vendors can provide Sheppard Mullin with an excellent enterprise solution, the IMPEX recommendation of a reasonably priced StorageTek SAN was ideal because the system addresses all of our concerns of scalability, redundancy, ease of configuration and management," said Donna Paulson, Director of Technology

### IMPEX CONSOLIDATES U.S. LAW FIRM'S STORAGE

Sheppard Mullin has more than 380 attorneys working out of eight offices in California and Washington, D.C. The firm represents clients involved in a full range of corporate and technology matters, high-stakes litigation, and complex financial transactions. Sheppard Mullin was recently recognized by its clients and peers as being among America's leading business lawyers in Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers survey.

"One of the major issues we needed to address was server standardization and consolidation," Paulson said. "Before we implemented our SAN solution, we had several different types of servers with no standardization. This caused us tremendous difficulty when solving hardware issues and upgrades."



## HARDWARE

- StorageTek 9176 FC RAID Array with Dual controller 73GBx20 FC HDD  
Total storage—2.2 TB
- QLogic 16 port 2GB FC Switches—Qty 2
- QLogic QLA2310 FC HBA—Qty 12
- StorageTek L20 Dual LTO Tape Library with FC-SCSI Bridge

## SOFTWARE

- Commvault Galaxy Backup software solution in SAN environment
- StorageTek Santricity Manager
- StorageTek Storage partitioning
- QLogic SanBox Manager

In addition to making it nearly impossible for all of the lawyers to access critical information, the former system was unreliable and inefficient.

IMPEX Technologies is a leading provider of storage networking systems, software, and services that deliver data infrastructure. IMPEX solutions help companies capitalize on their information assets by improving network efficiency, increasing storage performance, lowering total cost of ownership and achieving complete business continuity.

## IMPEX SOLUTION AS SIMPLE AS 1-2-3

After a seamless, problem-free implementation of its new SAN, the law firm quickly began to reap the information harvest.

“We realized immediate benefits with our new solution,” Paulson said. “The SAN allowed us to develop a standardized, fault-tolerant data center — eliminating the constant need to upgrade or replace servers.”

The cost-savings result: the overall number of servers has been reduced by one-third, while efficiency has been boosted due to storage consolidation.

“The benefits of the SAN have enabled Sheppard Mullin to move to an enterprise backup solution by reducing our backup window and media management,” Paulson said. “We now have the flexibility to dynamically increase data partitions for business critical servers without the need for a service outage. In addition, we have experienced an elevated speed improvement when accessing data.”

Gone are the days of worrying about what might happen in case of power outage, terrorist attack or natural disaster. “Backup times have dramatically decreased,” Paulson said. “This in itself has provided us with a higher level of confidence in our ability to recover data.”

Paulson added that plans are in the works for IMPEX to install a SAN in its San Francisco office, with the overall goal of IMPEX creating eight SANs across the country.

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