



Saving American History with PowerHouse

Ensuring Historical Legal Precedents are Preserved for Future Generations

The United States Office of the Solicitor General and Office of Legal Counsel faced a critical task. 60,000 historic legal opinions urgently needed to be brought into compliance for storage, retention, tagging, and posterity. More so, the work would need to be done by hand because some documents dated back to the 1930s, with the majority from 1950-1970, and had not been gently stored.

The documents themselves were declassified legal opinions furnished to 14 of the past Presidents of the United States. Their proper maintenance is critical given both the ethical and patriotic obligation to protect our history, along with the legal obligation to preserve and codify legal precedent, with proper verification of legal guidance given and actions taken. The risk of losing these documents further to the ravages of history was real, and time was running out.

The client turned to Valora Technologies, Inc. for this important historical work. Valora, with its 14-year history performing automated document analysis and processing services for large-scale and complex document populations, provided a custom implementation of its PowerHouse AutoClassification engine and a team of 25 security-cleared personnel to perform the work. As with many Valora client engagements, automation was the key to this project.

The documents needed a lot of work to reach compliance. PDF files were unitized and mapped, including re-ordering pages. ASCII text content was fixed and remediated. Accurate and appropriate metadata was generated for each document, including Freedom of Information Act notes accumulated over the years.

In a two-part process that involved both data remediation and metadata coding, Valora enriched these historical documents with a **100% accuracy rating for all files**, as measured by the client, the US government. The legal opinions were saved and Valora ensured that the process was as painless as possible for an already overwhelmed agency.

Presidencies in this Project

Herbert Hoover 1929–1933

Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933–1945

Harry S. Truman 1945–1953

Dwight Eisenhower 1953–1961

John F. Kennedy 1961–1963

Lyndon Johnson 1963–1969

Richard Nixon 1969–1974

Gerald Ford 1974–1977

Jimmy Carter 1977–1981

Ronald Reagan 1981–1989

George H. W. Bush 1989–1993

William J. Clinton 1993–2001

George W. Bush 2001–2009