

New and Improved

TimeMap 3 software still user friendly.

By Rachel Campbell

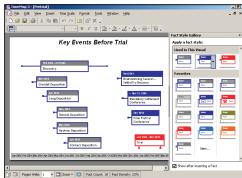
CaseSoft, a division of Bowne-DecisionQuest, provider of trial consulting services, released a new version of its timeline-graphing program, TimeMap, in September. TimeMap 3 includes numerous additions and updates, including the ability to link external files, choose from new chart style options and insert pictures and clip art into timelines.

"The improvements we made were driven by users' requests," said Danielle Carwell, marketing director for CaseSoft. Carwell said TimeMap 3 allows legal assistants to have more creative input when building timelines. "Paralegals can use TimeMap to create new chart styles. It has prebuilt chart styles, but if they are creating their own, it will automatically save it for use later. It allows them to be more creative," she said.

Kim Plonsky, paralegal for Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan in Lafayette, La., has been using TimeMap since the first version. Her office of 45 attorneys uses the pro-

TimeMap 3 offers the same valuable features as previous versions, but also allows for more sophisticated uses, said Plonsky, who worked with a beta version of TimeMap 3 prior to the program's release. She said she is impressed by the Fact Style Gallery, which allows her to set the look of fact boxes instead of having to format each box individually, as was the case in previous versions of TimeMap.

Plonsky said she likes the new option to add icons to fact boxes. "When I tried it, I was amazed at what a difference it makes. You can put a phone icon when it's a telephone call. At a glance you can quickly see if the



TimeMap's Fact Style Gallery lets legal professionals set the look of fact boxes.

"It's an effective presentation tool to help people understand the chronology of how things happen in a case."

— *Kathy Burnett*

event on the timeline was a phone call, mail received or something else."

Kathy Burnett, paralegal for the Law Offices of William Jeter in

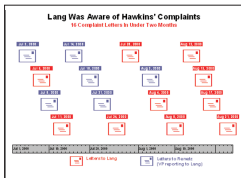
in a case," Burnett said. "The other way we use TimeMap is to illustrate points during depositions."

Burnett also received a beta version of TimeMap 3. "The thing I am seeing now is TimeMap 3 has the ability to link documents with fact boxes in a timeline. I think that is extremely valuable," she said.

Other new features include live spell checking, new date format and print options, enhanced auto-arrange features, options for high-resolution graphic export and customizable toolbars.

Even with the new additions, TimeMap 3 is still user-friendly, Burnett said. "A lot of people buy computer programs that seem as if they would be helpful, but take a long time to learn. This program doesn't have a steep learning curve," she said.

"When you consider the time, that is the key to me," Plonsky said. "When you can make something so beautiful in so little time, that is valuable. Before TimeMap, it took a week to make a timeline." ■



TimeMap 3 has the ability to link documents with fact boxes in a timeline.

gram for trial preparation, trial exhibits, legal briefs and presentations that can be enhanced by a graphic timeline. "The output is so professional, you can't imagine you could do it in five minutes," Plonsky said.

Memphis, Tenn., also has been using TimeMap and other CaseSoft programs since the first version. "We use it in a variety of ways. It's an effective presentation tool to help people understand the chronology of how things happen

