

## Sage is an Open-and-Shut Case for Ruden McClosky

Ruden McClosky is one of the largest and fastest-growing law firms in Florida. Since its founding in 1959, the firm has grown to more than 200 attorneys practicing in 10 offices throughout Florida and one office in Caracas, Venezuela. A full-service firm, Ruden McClosky serves the legal needs of international, national, and regional companies as well as institutions, governments, and individuals.

For more than a decade, Ruden McClosky has used Sage FAS Fixed Assets to manage its fixed assets, and Sage Carpe Diem to record its time. But, its payroll was being managed with outdated HRMS software. When the manufacturer of the firm's existing software switched platforms, Ruden McClosky was faced with the possibility of changing to a much larger (and more expensive) server system.

### Success with Sage

"It didn't make sense for a firm our size to spend that kind of money on server technology for a payroll system," explains Marcia Schmalz, Controller. "We investigated several alternatives, including outsourcing. We found that Sage Abra Suite is widely used by companies our size, and involves a surprisingly reasonable investment. We had been very happy with our other Sage products, and therefore decided on Sage Abra Suite and its payroll module."

The company found that transitioning to Sage Abra was relatively painless. "Not only was Sage Abra easy to learn, but we could transfer payroll information directly from our old system into the new one," says Schmalz. "What we like about the software is how it steps you from one module to the next, moving you through a logical list of activities beginning with a new hire. Because of its intuitive structure, we needed only minimal training to get up and running."

### An Integrated Sage Solution

Ruden McClosky now has a fully integrated human resources management system. When new employees are hired, all pertinent information is entered into Sage Abra. This includes contact information, address, salary, number of hours to be worked, type of benefits, nature of vacation accrual, and whether they want direct deposit for their paycheck. The human resources department also uses Sage Abra to monitor benefits and perform reviews for salary increases.

Sage Carpe Diem is used to record time for each employee. Abra Payroll then performs comprehensive payroll management, check-cutting and error-free processing. This same information is transferred to an internal billing system, ensuring accurate invoicing.



### CUSTOMER

Ruden McClosky

### INDUSTRY

Law firm

### LOCATION

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

### NUMBER OF LOCATIONS

Nine

### NUMBER OF USERS

525

### SAGE PRODUCTS

- Sage Abra Suite
- Sage FAS Fixed Assets
- Sage Carpe Diem

### CHALLENGE

Ruden McClosky had no human resources management software; payroll system was no longer supported on firm's platform; needed to upgrade to a fully integrated system

### SOLUTION

Sage Abra Suite helps Ruden McClosky manage HR and payroll, in conjunction with Sage FAS Fixed Assets and Sage Carpe Diem

### RESULTS

An end-to-end system that works so well that Ruden McClosky plans to expand with more modules in the near future

Sage FAS maintains data on all of the company's fixed assets, such as equipment, furniture, and leasehold assets that require depreciation, saving the firm not only on taxes, but on insurance payments as well.

### Direct Data Feeds

While attorneys are salaried, all other staff members have a timeclock program installed on their PC. Data feeds directly into Abra Payroll.

### Applause for Abra Alerts

"We use Abra Alerts to help us keep the database up to date," adds Schmalz. "The system notifies me when employees' children reach an age where they may no longer be covered under our insurance plans. Abra Alerts also lets me know when we're missing information from employees, such as items forgotten in the confusion of hiring that would otherwise fall through the cracks."

"We also use Abra Alerts for flagging special dates, such as employees' birthdays or anniversaries with the company," she continues. "Then we can make announcements, which everybody enjoys."

### Centralizing with Sage Carpe Diem

Ruden McClosky has relied on Sage Carpe Diem to automate its time entries for years. "Sage Carpe Diem saves us a lot of administrative time, because it can be centralized on a single SQL server, eliminating the need for multiple installations," says Celso Mosquera, financial systems manager. "It's extremely flexible software, and can be easily customized to our needs."

He also appreciates how well Sage Carpe Diem integrates with the firm's accounting software. "Every day the billing group creates a timekeeping file, which is uploaded to the server for accounting purposes. Similarly, when we create a new client file in accounting, it is available immediately in Carpe Diem for posting staff hours," says Mosquera.

The company plans to implement Abra Benefits Enrollment in time for employees to make their own changes to benefit packages. "Instead of sending out paper forms and tracking who turns them in, we'll have everything online," notes Schmalz. "We estimate that Abra Benefits Enrollment will save us at least a week of work every year around benefits time."

"We used to have to key in the hours employees worked from timesheets. Having software from Sage to perform this task frees up half a day every two weeks."

Marcia Schmalz  
Controller  
Ruden McClosky

### About Sage

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. At Sage, we live and breathe business every day. We are passionate about helping our customers achieve their ambitions. Our range of business software and services is continually evolving as we innovate to answer our customers' needs. Our solutions support accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services, and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. Sage North America employs more than 5,000 people and supports nearly 2.9 million small and medium-size business customers.

The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 14,800 people and supports 5.7 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the Web site at [www.sagenorthamerica.com](http://www.sagenorthamerica.com) or call **866-308-2378**.