

# LawSource™

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*– William Gange, Partner, Gange Goodman & French*

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### INDUSTRY

Legal

### CLIENT

**William Gange, Partner  
Gange Goodman & French**

### THE CHALLENGE

- > Deliver access to current legal information without building an extensive legal library
- > Reduce time spent on finding and sorting through information

### THE SOLUTION

WestlaweCARSWELL LawSource

### KEY BENEFITS

- > Gives small law firms access to a comprehensive research tool without the expense of an in-house library and research assistants
- > Online access to The Canadian Abridgment and the Canadian Encyclopedic Digest (CED). A researcher can move quickly from any starting point and search, without missing a thing, to get to the heart of a case or an issue
- > Weekly digests ensure that lawyers stay current with the law

## LawSource helps boutique legal firms stay competitive

Gange Goodman & French is a Winnipeg-based litigation firm that concentrates on civil litigation, administrative law and mediation. This six-lawyer firm began to use WestlaweCARSWELL in the fall of 2005. Like many smaller legal firms, Gange Goodman & French recognizes the competitive need for access to online research tools that can replace the expensive in-house libraries larger firms can afford.

“We’re a boutique litigation practice,” says William Gange, a partner in the firm. “We just don’t have the resources to maintain a library.” But luckily for firms like Gange Goodman & French, LawSource provides cost effective online access to the same resources a library would provide.

Though the 10-year-old firm already uses other research services, it made sense to the partners to add LawSource to the mix of legal tools that the firm’s lawyers could call on when conducting research.

“We’ve been using Carswell’s Canadian Abridgment since shortly after the firm was established. Because LawSource includes The Canadian Abridgment as well as the CED, it made a lot of sense for us, financially and intellectually, to start using the service,” says Gange.

## Covers all areas of the law

Gange stresses that the value of LawSource lies in its comprehensive coverage of the law, something that is very important to lawyers practicing civil litigation. “Though civil litigation is a distinct area of law, our practice covers all areas of the law,” he says. “Somebody can come in with a legal problem that might involve real estate, it might involve mortgages, it might involve insurance – it could be anything. LawSource is a very handy service for us in terms of giving us access to case law and legal principles in every area,” he says.

“Each of the products we use has its own strengths, but LawSource is the most comprehensive” Gange adds. LawSource, unlike competing products on the market, integrates all of the information it provides on one platform and makes it extremely easy for researchers to get the information they need. The extensive cross-referencing also means that they can access information from many different directions.

“I like the integration between the different components” says Gange. “You’ve got the CED which is a statement of legal principles and The Canadian Abridgment which is a collection of cases categorized in sections that make sense. All the relevant cases are huddled together.”

He also likes being able to look up the cases directly from The Canadian Abridgment. “If I find an interesting case that seems to be right on point, I can go and determine from my own perspective whether in fact the case actually says what the edited version purports that it says. The edited comment may be relevant only to the factual circumstances of the case, and my facts may not be anything like that.”

“The other thing that LawSource does, which is of enormous help, is that every week they send out a digest of different areas of law. I will go to the areas of law that I practice most frequently and I’ll look at cases that have been decided, just to try to help me to be current with the law. Sometimes there are situations where there will be a case that will be directly on point to one of the cases in my filing cabinet.”

# LawSource™

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## WestlaweCARSWELL

Expect more and get it, with the incredible power, flexibility and depth of WestlaweCARSWELL. We've combined the power of the Internet with state-of-the-art tools to create an online legal platform that is unmatched anywhere. Fast, simple, reliable and complete – our service reflects our philosophy. We fit your personal work style... so you really can work the way you think.

### The research process

The six lawyers within the firm each conduct their own research using LawSource. Gange himself uses the service at least once a week, sometime more often. He usually starts his research through the CED and then moves to The Canadian Abridgment.

“I’m doing a case right now on duty of insurance brokers. So I go to the CED to take a look at what the statement of legal principles might be and I take note of the leading cases that they have for those principles,” he says. “I will then go to The Canadian Abridgment to find those cases and to find the area in The Canadian Abridgment that contains those cases.” By checking The Canadian Abridgment, Gange can assure himself that he’s not missing any related cases.

“My thinking is that if a particular case which is of relevance to my factual situation is in that section of The Canadian Abridgment, there may well be other cases that are also in that section that were not cited in the CED but may have relevance to the problem that I am exploring,” he says.

The next step for Gange is to look at the cases themselves to see if there’s anything that the editors of The Canadian Abridgment or the CED have not noted. “And if it’s a case of particular relevance to me, either for or against, I will then check the case history to see what other cases have said about it and whether cases have supported it or varied from it.

### Work the way you think

Gange likes that fact that LawSource was designed from the point of view of how lawyers think when they research. “It does seem to me that LawSource uses technology in a way that makes sense for lawyers,” he says. “The Canadian Abridgment has been my bible in terms of research tools since I started articling 26 and a half years ago. So the fact that LawSource lets me use The Canadian Abridgment as the search engine to look at all the cases I need is of enormous assistance to me.”

Furthermore, LawSource is not complicated to use even for people who started practicing before computers were a fixture in every office. “I’m not the youngest guy, I didn’t grow up with computers, for people like me this isn’t our first language, so it’s important that a service like LawSource makes sense, and by and large it does. It’s very simple, it’s very obvious what you should be doing.”

The simplicity of LawSource also meant that Gange and his partners didn’t need much training. “We received excellent training out of the Calgary office. The woman who came down promised us that she would come back in the new year in case we’d have any questions after using it a bit, but I don’t think we’ll really need any more training.”

Another feature that Gange likes is the *Research Trail* which allows the researcher to quickly return to data found in a previous research without going through the entire process of finding the relevant information. “I think it’s a fantastic feature. It saves me time and effort.”

Gange has no problem recommending LawSource to other lawyers. “I would say that in terms of ease of use and thoroughness of research it is a very valuable tool. It works, it’s great. Period.”

**For more information visit [www.westlawecarswell.com/lawsorce](http://www.westlawecarswell.com/lawsorce)**