

VERBA VOLANT, SCRIPTA MANENT

THE SPOKEN WORD FLIES, THE WRITTEN WORD REMAINS



OPUS 2 INTERNATIONAL is a full-service court reporting and litigation support firm providing advanced, quality support for high court hearings, arbitrations, US deposition hearings and government inquiries.

The company is founded and owned by Graham Smith-Bernal, the creator of the LiveNote software program, which he sold to Thomson Reuters. Opus 2 now provides official international support for the program, as well as realtime court reporting services for clients. For the first time, law firms and government departments involved in litigation outside the USA have a choice of court reporting firm when they require LiveNote.

Opus 2 is considered to be the preeminent provider of tailor-made court reporting services to discerning clients throughout the world - clients whose own words will be found in this brochure - who recognise the value of a fully personal service delivered by the finest and most dedicated practitioners in the business.

We place our unmatched expertise at the disposal of each of our clients. Our service is built on the vast experience of our staff, a profound understanding of clients' needs and a clear insight into the future of litigation technology.

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FOCUS & CULTURE

Opus 2 International was established in response to growing client demand for a return to the service levels that only a boutique firm can provide. We meet this demand by applying the in-depth knowledge of our team and our reputation for understanding each individual client's needs. With over 30 years' experience in the industry and a history of innovation and professionalism in all aspects of court reporting, we are uniquely qualified to fully respond to our clients' verbatim reporting needs.

INDEPENDENCE

Being independent, we are able to provide a bespoke service for each matter, drawing on a team of specialists to ensure that you get the right combination of technology and services for your case.

This means we are not driven by corporate targets, nor are we obliged to use products which may not be suitable. You will not be subject to hard selling from sales people whose focus is to win your business at any cost, irrespective of their employer's ability to cover your case with quality reporters.

“A pro-active, friendly and client-focused team which provided an excellent service throughout a seven month trial in the High Court. Their staff were extremely professional, nothing was too much trouble and transcripts were accurate and on-time. It was a pleasure working with Opus 2.”

Robert J Sully Associate, Jones Day

BEST OF BREED

Technology has transformed how lawyers, judges and Government bodies conduct major hearings. Document scanning and coding, electronic discovery, trial presentation of graphics and video technology have all significantly impacted on the process over the last 30 years. This has in turn resulted in the establishment of a number of specialist technology companies providing invaluable services in their respective areas of expertise. It is our belief that the market is best served by a best of breed approach in delivering these technologies and services. Consequently, Opus 2 does not pretend to deliver anything other than the most professional court reporting, videography and trial presentation service available. We in turn have forged partnerships with the leading providers of other essential services, such as scanning, coding and e-discovery. All of this means that we can provide exactly what your case needs.

TRACK RECORD

Our main experience is in complex litigation, public inquiries, arbitrations and international depositions, matters in which the efficiencies and cost savings derived from LiveNote are most beneficial.

Examples of litigation include the Buncefield trial and subsequent appeal, in which many leading London and US firms were involved, and the Digicel v Cable & Wireless matter. Arbitrations and depositions for which we have supplied services must remain confidential, as must in camera matters, but our record in this field is second to none. Public Inquiries include the ICL and Fingerprint Inquiries in Scotland, for which we provided additional services such as electronic evidence display and web updating. We have also provided live Internet feed and the official transcript of the Leadership Debates on TV in the UK.

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TYPES OF WORK

LITIGATION AND ARBITRATION

Our team has experience in delivering courtroom services in the highest-profile courts and arbitration centres worldwide. Working closely with courts and arbitration rooms, we ensure that the right infrastructure is in place to support your case and its specific technology needs. Older courts, for example, may not have suitable data cabling or broadband internet connections. Our installations are sensitive to the restrictions placed in these circumstances, so we can arrange telephone lines or install secure wireless networks if appropriate.

DEPOSITIONS

Our specialist teams are experienced in all aspects of the US deposition process, including swearing in witnesses and the management of exhibits. We have our own videography department and a pool of interpreters and translators. Our network of high quality deposition and videoconferencing facilities extends to all major European, Middle East and Asia-Pacific cities. In addition, our London deposition suite is located within our international LiveNote support centre at our UK headquarters.

Our standard practice for all LiveNote Enterprise law firms is to supply, at no extra charge, the final transcripts in the LEF format, providing one seamless digital interface for the electronic transcript and associated video and exhibits.

“Our Inquiry was the first to be held in Scotland under the Inquiries Act 2005 and the new Scottish rules, so the Inquiry had very little precedence on which to rely for the public hearings. The Opus 2 team understood our needs and ensured all ran smoothly from the outset. Their in-depth LiveNote product knowledge, their ability to deal with other matters for us, and their preparedness to go the extra mile enabled us in turn to provide an effective service to the chairman, lawyers and the public.”

Trevor Lodge, Chief Executive, Judicial Appointments Board, Scotland.

GLOBAL COVERAGE

We provide court reporting services from locations in three continents. Our international presence combined with our deposition management centre in Berkeley, California, enables us to support you around the world, around the clock. All our operational offices provide full US deposition services, including videography and interpretation. They also service international arbitrations; our Dubai office is mainly concerned with construction disputes while Paris and Hong Kong deal with international trade matters. In addition, the London office extensively services High Court trials and public inquiries.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Our team of reporters and support staff have many years' experience in public inquiry work and understand the difference in approach required. We provide preliminary advice and guidance on the types of services most appropriate for the various phases of an inquiry, from evidence management and presentation through to the capture of oral testimony and posting transcripts and evidence for public use on an inquiry web site. We are sensitive to the needs of inquiry secretariat teams who may not be familiar with managing hearings or the techniques, technology and services needed.

Opus 2 staff have worked on such high profile cases as The Hutton Inquiry, The Bloody Sunday Inquiry, The Shipman Inquiry, the Victoria Climbié Inquiry and the Heathrow Terminal 5 Inquiry. In Scotland we have provided court reporting, evidence display and web updating services to The ICL and Fingerprint Inquiries.

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COURT REPORTERS

Opus 2 International uses the leading independent court reporters in the industry. All are experienced with LiveNote real-time reporting and are trained to provide on-site technical support and assistance for LiveNote users. A number of the reporters are also trained and certified to NCRA certification standards - a necessity for US deposition-taking - and hold CRR and other certifications. Only reporters who are trained to write at levels in excess of 98% real-time accuracy are assigned to LiveNote cases.

Before a case begins our reporters spend time preparing job dictionaries to ensure that from the first day of a case the quality and accuracy of the real-time transcript is of the highest level. Reporters are also well briefed in advance on the nature of the case, the number of parties, the judge and all relevant documents to ensure that your case runs smoothly.

“Many Thanks to you and your team for providing a flexible service throughout the recent trial, following many extensions and room changes! We appreciated the great service you provided.”

Addleshaw Goddard

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

LiveNote is a very easy program to use, but training helps ensure that our clients are familiar with the latest benefits of LiveNote, and understand the features of the program that are most appropriate for their needs and way of working. All training from Opus 2 is geared to the client’s level of computer literacy and experience with LiveNote.

Douglas McQuaid personally oversees all aspects of training. Douglas is widely regarded as the leading exponent of the LiveNote software outside of the LiveNote company itself. His background includes project managing such high-profile public inquires as Bloody Sunday and Dr Shipman as well as the initial training and project management on the UN War Crimes trials in The Hague. His LiveNote experience in the litigation arena stretches back to the early 1990s and includes the Maxwell criminal trial, Barings, BCCI and Buncefield litigations and the World Trade Center depositions to name just a few. Opus 2 provides official LiveNote support internationally on behalf of Thomson Reuters, who own the program. Our unrivalled support team is your first point of contact for any issues or queries. The team has a wealth of experience in the technical management of hearings. Our London office is adjacent to the Royal Courts of Justice and a few steps away from the main arbitration rooms, so help is only minutes away if you need it.

Our second line of support is provided by the nucleus of the original LiveNote development team. Stephen Foley, previously head of LiveNote software development, supported by Joe Dollard and Zoltan Olah, provides global LiveNote support from our US office. Opus 2 is the official test site for new versions of LiveNote. In addition to the above, Opus 2 has an unrivalled relationship with the new owners of LiveNote, Thomson Reuters, who consult with Graham Smith-Bernal for his invaluable input and insight into international market needs.

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VALUE FOR MONEY

The cost of running major trials and public inquires is ever increasing. Complex, multi-party litigation is in particular a very expensive process. In these cost-conscious times, Opus 2 International is acutely aware of the need to provide competitively-priced reporting services without compromising quality of service in any aspect.

Opus 2 achieves this by staying focused on our core competency and not trying to be all things to all men. Providing high end court reporting, videography and evidence presentation is what we do best. We don't have pretensions to become a supermarket for a multiplicity of services and products. Our tight focus also means we carry less administrative overheads yet we are able to retain the services of the highest quality reporters in the industry by paying top rates.

Most importantly, when it comes to value and service, the adoption of a flatter, less corporate structure, means that you will have immediate, direct contact with people who know about your case and needs, and not be passed from one corporate department to another.

“We used Opus 2’s LiveNote service on a recent multi-party litigation. The quality of their reporters and support staff, and the speedy delivery of the final transcript by early evening is the sort of service Graham Smith-Bernal and his team are known to provide. Welcome back, Graham!”

Lord Grabiner QC

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Using the right technology in the right way is a key element of our service. We create solutions that are easy to use, reliable, well supported, adaptable and flexible.

Our specialist teams will work with you to provide a full service for:

- High Court trials
- Government inquiries
- International arbitrations
- Depositions and witness interviews

The elements of our services include:

- LiveNote realtime transcription services
- Daily, expedited and delayed transcription
- Worldwide depositions
- Electronic, condensed, full page and word indexed transcripts
- Exhibit linking
- Deposition logistics management
- Digital audio recording
- Videography
- Synchronised text-to-video
- Courtroom presentation
- Conference rooms
- Pre-trial document management, integration and consultancy
- Computer rental and network installations
- Interpretation

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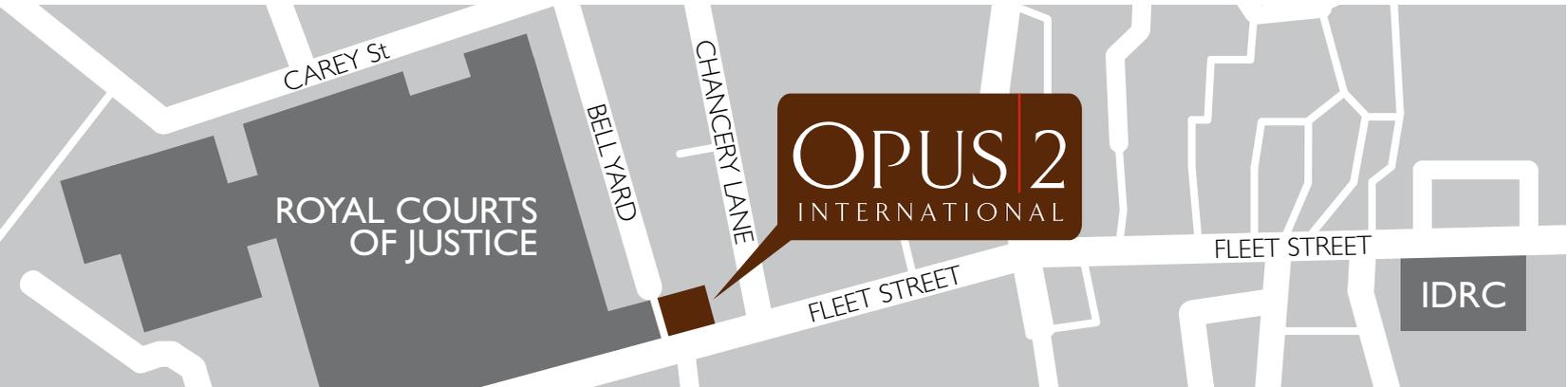


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INTERNATIONAL

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