Lex Machina®

Win More with State Motion Metrics

Lex Machina's new State Motion Metrics allow you to quickly assess your state court motion practice strategy and easily identify winning arguments. Look up your judge or court and see how they ruled on different motions, explore dynamic analytics, and review the relevant documents, quickly and easily on one platform.

Our panelists discuss:

- Using State Motion Metrics to craft winning motions
- Understanding a judge's profile and how we create comprehensive judge analytics
- Recognizing unique features of Lex Machina's state court analytics

Carla Rydholm
Senior Director of Product Management
Lex Machina

Chuan Qin
Product Manager
Lex Machina

Sherrill Dresnin
Customer Success Manager
Lex Machina

Carla Rydholm (00:00):

Welcome to Lex Machina's presentation, Legal Analytics for State Courts: Win More Motions with State Motion Metrics. This will be a 20 minute presentation followed by answers to any questions submitted by attendees for up to 30 minutes total. Please share your questions at any time and we'll review them together at the end. We're using slides and we'll also screen share the Lex Machina on platform. And all three panelists will be on video.

Carla Rydholm (00:27):

Today's presentation will start with an overview of Lex Machina and our approach to creating legal analytics. Then we'll provide an introduction to how we create analytics for state courts, including the new feature, State Motion Metrics, that covers analytics for motion practice. Next, we'll see a demo of State Motion Metrics. And then finally, we'll wrap up together with a question and answer session.

Carla Rydholm (00:51):

My name is Carla Rydholm and I'm Senior Director of Product Management at Lex Machina. I'm pleased to introduce my two colleagues also from Lex Machina who each have unique insights into Lex Machina's legal analytics for state courts. As I introduce you, I'll ask you to describe your role with the Lex Machina and a team and share your reaction to the new State Motion Metrics feature. Chuan Qin is a Product Manager at Lex Machina. Good day Chuan and thank you for being here.

Chuan Qin (01:20):

Good day, Carla. Thank you for having me. As product manager, I work with a team of data scientists, engineers, and data analysts to create the State Motion Metrics that we're showing you today. I'm very excited to see the launch of this new feature for customers who have been using our state analytics. And I want to especially thank customers who gave us feedback early on and helped us make product decisions along the way.

Carla Rydholm (01:50):

Awesome. Sherrill Dresnin is a Customer Success Manager at Lex Machina. Good day, Sherrill and thank you for being here.

Sherrill Dresnin (01:58):

Thanks for having me. As Carla said, I am a manager on the customer success team here at Lex Machina. For the past five years, I've been working with Lex Machina customers across market segments, including law firms, corporations, courts, agencies, and law schools. I recently demoed the new State Motion Metrics live at a legal conference and have previewed the feature with many of my contacts and customers.

Sherrill Dresnin (02:26):

It's definitely exciting to see the reactions when I show Lex Machina's State Motion Metrics. Our customers have been really excited to see Lex Machina for state courts. Motion metrics has been a top customer request. It's so powerful to have the broader story about how your judge has ruled and use those tendencies as much as possible to counsel clients and win your next motion.

Carla Rydholm ([02:56](#)):

All right, so now I'll start things off with an introduction to Lex Machina and our approach to creating legal analytics. Lex Machina is legal analytics. It's our focus. Lex Machina provides legal analytics to companies and law firms enabling them to craft successful strategies, win cases, and closed business. Lex Machina's mission is to bring legal analytics to all areas of the law. So more practice areas, more jurisdictions, more practitioners doing data enabled lawyering. Lex Machina helps you win. Now you can use Lex Machina to win more motions in state court cases with this launch that you'll hear more about with us, Lex Machina going to takes the next step forward by incorporating legal analytics for state motion practice, State Motion Metrics, into our platform. Lex Machina is used by leaders in litigation, including the majority of the Am Law 200, top in-house legal departments, consultants, litigation funders, government agencies.

Carla Rydholm ([04:02](#)):

So at a high level, this is providing analytics for data-enabled lawyering. What we're doing with state courts starts with having a complete data set for civil cases filed January 1st, 2016 through present, for at this time 27 courts that serve major population centers in the United States and only Lex Machina is providing this comprehensive entity coverage. And so by entities, I mean who? Judges, law firms, attorneys and parties. Only Lex Machina really tells you who won at trial and [inaudible 00:04:38] these high value data set for trial phase outcomes, damages and resolutions.

Carla Rydholm ([04:43](#)):

In addition, Lex Machina state court analytics include access to the underlying information from the document search or even on demand fetch if you want to know a little bit more about a case that was brought to your attention after you saw some metrics and numbers, you can drill down to learn even more.

Carla Rydholm ([05:01](#)):

Now, let's hear about the newest Lex Machina exclusive. Only Lex Machina has this comprehensive, document driven State Motion Metrics. Chuan, over to you to tell us more about this feature.

Chuan Qin ([05:15](#)):

Thanks Carla. Lex Machina State Motion Metrics helps you anticipate your judges' tendencies and when your next motion. With motion metrics, you can know the grant and deny rates for your judge. You can also use the timing data for key motion rulings to help you plan your case strategy. You can also use the grant rate to compare rulings between judges and you can also compare grant rates between courts. Additionally, we have linked our motion metrics to the full case history, including underlying documents.

Chuan Qin ([05:54](#)):

Sherrill, how does motion metrics fit in with what customers have requested?

Sherrill Dresnin ([05:59](#)):

Well, it actually I think exceeds what customers have asked for. They've requested data driven insights on how state judges have ruled and want to know what's happening during motion practice in state courts. What they want the most I think is accurate grant rates and timing. Those are I think the most sought after analytic points.

Chuan Qin (06:24):

Awesome. So Lex Machina's State Motion Metrics have the key features: We identify the motion type, the order outcome, and the judge that issued the order. And our motion metrics is unique because it's document based. And what this means is that you can drill down to the actual order that contain the outcome and see for yourself the reasoning behind the court's ruling.

Chuan Qin (06:52):

Additionally, we have linked the motion metrics to the case docket so that you can go through the case history and see any other orders that we have identified with motion and outcome. And at launch, we are covering five different state courts, Los Angeles County Superior Court, which is the largest state court in the country, and the state courts in the entire jurisdiction of Delaware, including the Court of Chancery, Kent County, New Castle County, and Sussex County Superior Courts. So to summarize, Lex Machina State Motion Metrics enhances the story of what happens in motion practice in state courts. We are covering five different state courts and 37 motion types. And here is a quick glance of all the motion types that we cover. Due to the large volume of cases filed in state courts, this was a great opportunity to create metrics for judicial rulings. And what we have done is that we uncovered grant rates for the.

Chuan Qin (08:03):

And what we have done is that we uncovered grant rates for the 37 motion types that practitioners often encounter in state courts. Hi, Sherrill. Which of these motion types have you heard customers most requested?

Sherrill Dresnin (08:15):

Well, I've heard requests for summary judgment, contested dismissal, discovery motions, expert rulings, compelling discovery strike, the list goes on.

Chuan Qin (08:28):

Cool. And in California, what we have is a demurrer to a complaint, and it's a motion that you raise during the pleadings phase.

Sherrill Dresnin (08:39):

In Delaware, there's actually an interest for attorney appearances and other procedural events, too. How a judge rules on motions isn't just a consideration leading up to trial. It's actually something to consider throughout the entire litigation.

Chuan Qin (08:56):

Cool. And to continue, the summary are state motion metrics is document based and it's powered by a neural network model. And what this means is that we focused on collecting orders and we supplement that with case metadata and together we use them as input into our neural network model that ultimately infers the motion type, the order, and the judge that issued the order. And this feature was released to customers on July 26th.

Carla Rydholm (09:26):

Chuan, if you don't mind, can you tell us just a little more about the neural network model and just, why was this technology a match for developing state motion metrics?

Chuan Qin (09:38):

Certainly. Lex Machina's state motion metrics is an exciting application of a powerful neural network model called distiller. This is a artificial intelligence language model. And the advantage of this model is that it does not depend on discrete and complicated rules that need to account for all the variability in how judges articulate their rulings or how courts format their documents. Instead, we can be more dynamic and adaptable in handling state court data. This is because the neural network mimics the behavior of the human brain in recognizing patterns, by running through many layers of data pathways and connecting all the relevant inputs to arrive at an answer. And furthermore, we trained this model on data sets confirmed by our legal experts in order to optimize its performance and making the correct inference.

Carla Rydholm (10:37):

All right. Well, thanks for giving us a little bit more information there. Let's switch gears and take a look at this feature together now live through a demo.

Chuan Qin (11:00):

Do you see my screen? All right. So imagine in this particular scenario that you have a contract case before judge Elaine Lu at Los Angeles superior court, and your client wants to know some expectations. So what you want to do is bring some data to show the timing of certain motions and the possible outcomes of these motions. So what you'll do is you pull Lex Machina and you do a judge search for judge Elaine Lu. And here you see a quick summary of all the cases that she's involved in. Additionally, you can see timing for the major milestones in these cases. And you also have law firm and party data for cases that she's involved in. Plus you have resolutions, damages and rulings at the trial phase.

Chuan Qin (12:09):

Additionally, you can do a document search for all the cases that judge Lu has presided over and what we have here that's new is motion metrics. And what I really love about this chart is that it gives you a bird's eye view of all the different motions that judge Lu has ruled on. Additionally, you have a quick glance at the grant rate for the different motions. So for example, for the motion to compel, judge Lu's grant rate is 57%, which is very close to the court's grant rate of 56%. However, if you look at motion to amend judge Lu's grant rate is 84%, which is well above the court's grant rate of 75%. Sherrill, do you want to share some feedback about what you've heard from customers?

Sherrill Dresnin (13:06):

Sure. The customers love this chart. They love the number of motion types. One user, her jaw pretty much dropped when she saw this. And she said that the ability to see how straightforward the charts were, being able to see the grant rates listed there, the grant denial and partial in for each motion type and the comparison to the jurisdiction as well. They really liked the clarity and the ability to actually click right on the numbers and get to the related documents or pleadings.

Chuan Qin (13:54):

Oh, that's awesome to hear.

Sherrill Dresnin (13:55):

Yeah.

Chuan Qin ([13:56](https://example.com)):

And to get back to our hypothetical, let's drill down to contract cases, and let's say that we're particularly interested in the following motions, motion to compel, demurrer, contested dismissal, motion to strike and summary judgment. And what you see here right away is the different grant rates for these motions that you're interested in. And what I like to point out here is that for example, demurrer judge Lu's grant rate is 38%, which is lower than the court's grant rate of 44%. And more interestingly, her grant rate for summary judgment is only 20%, which is significantly lower than the court's grant rate of 42%. So these metrics are very helpful for a practitioner who's trying to plan their case strategy. And of course we have timing data for these different motions. So for example, for motion to compel, the timing is a medium of 521 days from the time the case is filed to the ruling. Whereas for summary judgment, the medium is 594 days from the time the case is filed in the ruling. Sherrill, what have you heard from customers about why it's useful to have metrics like this for grant rate and timing?

Sherrill Dresnin ([15:26](https://example.com)):

Well, starting with the timing, timing metrics, the law firms and attorneys love, because it can help them set their clients' expectations about how long the matter is going to take. And then the particular motion phase, how long that will last. Also, they're using the data, the timing data to help them budgeting, make budgeting decisions for the case, and also staffing decisions to figure out how many attorneys they need to put on, how much time they need to allocate for it. Now Lex Machina...

Sherrill Dresnin ([16:03](https://example.com)):

... allocate for it. Now, Lex Machina, we had the information. We still have the information on a judge's experience. In particular, the law firms and the parties that were before the judge, as well as the trial resolutions and the damages. So now with the state motion metrics, the fact that the judge's track rate is available is helping, as you motion mentioned before, excuse me, counsel clients on the strategy and set their strategy for motion practice. So in the Judge Lu example, the contracts example you were talking about, they can review past motions that were specific to Judge Lu's contract cases where the motions were granted or denied to have the complete picture. And having the ability to actually drill into similar cases, so similar contract cases, to see the judges' tendencies, her past rulings, and experience pertaining to contracts cases, because how she rules and the time she takes and her understanding of the topic may be different from employment cases or towards cases.

Sherrill Dresnin ([17:17](https://example.com)):

So all of this impacts the strategy decisions that are at play here. Now, I had a customer tell me that if she had used Lex Machina for a project, she was working on drafting a motion for a particular matter, that she would've saved at least six to eight hours. She was tasked with finding the particular motion, finding winning motions, and formulating the strategy. So she had to look at and she needed to find contracts if it was contracts cases, in her instance. But she had to find those cases and it was kind of a wild goose chase for her. She had to locate the dockets. She had to figure out what the case type was, read the pleadings, and determine the outcome. So if she had done it on Lex Machina, she could have done it with just a few clicks in a matter of seconds. So she, going forward, told me she's going to be using this.

Carla Rydholm ([18:18](https://example.com)):

Ooh. Well, thanks to the two of you for bringing this example to life around your judge. Chuan, could you show off some of the comparative power of state motion metrics?

Chuan Qin ([18:30](#)):

Yes, certainly. So in the next scenario, what we are looking at is the metrics for motion to compel in the jurisdiction of Delaware. And what you can see is that, compared to the other courts, the Court of Chancery has a grant rate of 50%, which is much lower than the other three courts. So for motion to compel, the other three courts' grant rate is at 73%, 74%, and 81%. So this is a very interesting metric. Additionally, we can also compare grant rates between judges.

Chuan Qin ([19:13](#)):

So if I click judges here, and let's say I only want to look at judicial officers in Court of Chancery, what I see here are the different grant rates for judicial officers for the motion to compel. For example, Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick has a grant rate of 48%, which is very close to the court's grant rate of 50%. However, there are other judicial officers whose grant rate is either higher or lower. And I'll also point out that we have a column that shows you the number of orders for motion to compel that the judicial officer has ruled on, so that can tell you a little bit about the experience of the judicial officer. Sherrill, what are some of the reactions you have heard from customers?

Sherrill Dresnin ([20:16](#)):

Comparison data, they love being able to see it right there instead of having to run separate searches and then compare them together by themselves. So they're able to set expectations for clients, again, to look at the particular courts and how the judges compare. One judge in the jurisdiction, as we see from the charts, can have a greater tendency to grant or deny a particular type of motion. And they may have more experience, again, by practice area or by motion type. And sometimes, firms practice in a particular jurisdiction and a particular court. And they think they know the judge and the judge's tendencies, but actually seeing it on paper and being able to show the clients on paper in this clean chart is powerful. So the data's here. And being able to actually back up knowledge is key.

Chuan Qin ([21:19](#)):
Great. Thank you, Sherrill.

Sherrill Dresnin ([21:21](#)):
Sure.

Chuan Qin ([21:21](#)):
So in addition to analytics, we also provide a way for customers to search motion orders.

Carla Rydholm ([21:31](#)):
Oh, Chuan, before we do the search, could you just drill down? Say I want to know more about Kathaleen McCormick. And maybe get into some of the specifics of those orders that particular judge has rolled on.

Chuan Qin ([21:44](#)):
Okay, sure. Yeah. I can do that. So if we're really interested in Chancellor McCormick, we can drill down to her cases. And say we really want to look at orders that have a partial outcome. We can do that with the few clicks. And here, you see all the orders that she ruled on that had a partial outcome. And what I would like to point out is that if you look at the docket entry text, you do not see that this is a partial outcome, because all it says is that it was granted. However, if you drill down to the underlying document, like I'm

doing right now, you see that, for this motion to compel, the order was granted in part. So this is a very powerful feature of our motion metrics tool. And if I go back one slide, I mean, sorry, go back one click, you can also click through to the case docket. And here, you can navigate through the history of the case. And you'll see that there are other orders that we have identified that contained motion and outcome. So now I'll... go ahead.

Sherrill Dresnin ([23:06](#)):

Actually, before I just interject on that same example I was talking about before. So when we were walking through the dockets and I showed this to a customer, she was floored. And again, she had to open up the documents previously and scan and read everything. So she loved the ability to see right there on the docket sheets whether it was granted, denied, or that partial outcome. So it was pretty clear, she thought, and intuitive to be able to drill right there and see it on the docket sheet and then have the underlying documents available. Sorry, Chuan, to interrupt.

Chuan Qin ([23:46](#)):

No worries. So now, I want to jump back to the final part of the demo, which is to show you that we can use the text- based search to search directly the motion orders. And this-

Chuan Qin ([24:03](#)):

Space search to search directly the motion orders, and this will give users options to search for specific terms or other aspects of the order the judge issued. So let's say that we're interested in motion orders in the Delaware court of Chancery, and we want to search for all motion orders that mention the word fiduciary. Very quickly you can see all the motions that have mentioned fiduciary in some aspect.

Carla Rydholm ([24:42](#)):

Awesome. Well, I know to do the development work to create state motion metrics, Lex Machina downloaded a lot, we got a lot of orders, so we did a lot of collections there.

Sherrill Dresnin ([24:55](#)):

Yeah. We're known for our analytics that jump off the screen, the nice charts, the pretty charts and graphs that allow you to see things that you wouldn't be able to spot elsewhere, but don't forget or overlook these actual documents. That's the only way we can provide the analytics for what's actually happened.

Sherrill Dresnin ([25:17](#)):

When you spot an interesting data point, as you saw, you can click into the case, into the documents, and read the winning arguments. You might even be able to repurpose some of the things for your case and for your motions. So you can also use the search as a starting point when you need it.

Carla Rydholm ([25:38](#)):

All right. Well, thanks for the live demo there, Chuan. We'll switch things up to Q and A. I think a couple of questions have come in. Let's see. Could you talk about when this will be available for other state courts? We are working on it. Chuan, anything else you want to add for when we'll have state motion metrics for some of the other courts?

Chuan Qin ([26:04](#)):

We're definitely hoping that in the next few months we'll be able to expand the coverage to other California courts and hopefully even other jurisdictions as well.

Carla Rydholm ([26:18](#)):

Okay. There's another question. You talk about Lex Machina and being unique, so versus other analytics that are out there. Lex Machina's approach of having a comprehensive, truly building an entire data set to then derive the metrics from, that's in part, when I spoke about only Lex Machina really having this comprehensive approach and then making the orders and the full cases available really, yeah, what I was getting at there. What does the other category include?

Chuan Qin ([26:58](#)):

Yes, that's a great question. The other category is the outcomes that are not grant or deny or partial. So these include outcomes that are either withdrawal or moot.

Carla Rydholm ([27:14](#)):

This is another comment and question. I love all the different motion types for state courts. Do you have any plans to expand motion metrics for federal courts as well? So I will say with that Lex Machina learned a lot from working on motion metrics for federal that then when we went to bring this feature to market for state used that a starting point and the court systems are very different, so there's definitely different approaches going on, but we appreciate that motion practice is critical for both estate court and federal, and do have plans to do more for federal and use some of what we've learned for state and apply it to the federal offering as well.

Carla Rydholm ([27:57](#)):

Let's see. Where is the list of the available state courts? The Lex Machina product and collateral includes the list of the 27 state courts. I unfortunately don't have a slide queued up. That would've been smart to have for this demo. Next time, I'll take that as feedback. And we do have some really great collateral, just information, data sheets about what Lex Machina is doing with state courts and for state motion metrics on lexmachina.com.

Carla Rydholm ([28:29](#)):

Let's see. I think we're at time. Someone commented that they were looking at some of the motion metrics for a live judge and maybe there's a question. We'll make sure, Sherrill, that we follow up with you. It's a very specific question that live I'm not able to answer unfortunately, but a specific judge in the list of orders. We'll get back to that particular attendee, but thank you for that very detailed question. I just think we've got to keep going. With that, I'll just thank everybody at this point and, Sherrill, is there anything you can add just about getting in touch to learn more?

Sherrill Dresnin ([29:07](#)):

Sure. If you are a Lex Machina customer and have the state courts in your subscription, you can access this now, so it is there. If you would like training or further assistance regarding it, contact your customer success manager and they are happy to get that set up for you. Also, if you don't have it in your subscription and you're interested in getting more information about adding it, contact your customer

success manager, and if you're not yet a Lex Machina customer, and you'd like to talk to us about becoming one, send us an email at sales@lexmachina.com and somebody will get in touch right away.

Carla Rydholm ([29:54](#)):

All right. Thank you so much for joining us.