



Washington DC Law Firm Enables Wireless Coverage

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP (K&L Gates) is a large corporate law firm that represents capital markets participants and leading global corporations, growth and middle-market companies, and entrepreneurs in every major industry group as well as public sector entities, educational institutions and philanthropic organizations. The current firm, which includes some 1,400 lawyers, was formed from the January, 2007 merger of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham (“K&LNG”) and Preston Gates & Ellis (“PGE”). The combined firm has offices in Anchorage, Beijing, Berlin, Boston, Coeur d’Alene, Dallas, Harrisburg, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, Orange County, Palo Alto, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Taipei and Washington.

Growing firms like K&L Gates are constantly expanding their offices, and this was the case in 2005 when K&LNG was planning to relocate its Washington, D.C. office to a new 11-story structure at the corner of 16th and K streets. In Washington, D.C., commercial buildings are limited in height to fewer than 15 floors. Since builders can’t go up, they often go below ground, adding office space along with parking underground. In addition to the 11 above-ground floors, the firm’s new building featured a two-level underground garage plus a level of offices below the garage—a level that would house a law library as well as some 60 administrative services employees.

TAMING A HOSTILE WIRELESS ENVIRONMENT

“We knew before we ever began remodeling the space that we would have a problem with cellular and BlackBerry® coverage in the underground offices,” says Rodney Carson, Director of Administration



for the D.C. office. "When we did a site survey, we also found out that the whole building had poor coverage—even at the windows you couldn't get a signal in many places." Washington, D.C. is a challenging environment for cell phone users because of the high density of government buildings with tight security and their own secure radio frequencies.

To identify a solution for his in-building wireless coverage needs, Carson called on Richard Glasgow, CEO of Glasgow Group, a D.C.-based telecommunications and network consulting firm, specializing in communications infrastructure, telephony systems, and data center technologies. After a competitive procurement process, Glasgow recommended the InterReach Unison® system. "We looked at several systems, and InterReach Unison had the best architecture because it offered significantly easier deployment and lower costs," says Glasgow.

Based on further site surveys and an antenna placement model designed by Glasgow Group, the system's cabling along with 24 remote antennas was deployed during the main construction work at the end of 2005, and then added three Unison hubs in the building's communications center to drive them. K&LNG moved into the new space in January of 2006.

TURNING UP SERVICES

T-Mobile deployed a mini base station in the firm's equipment room and linked it to its network via a T-1 line. T-Mobile's BlackBerry service was up and running by April, 2006, bringing strong and pervasive wireless coverage for the 275 BlackBerry users in the office.

The BlackBerry users have 7290 devices that deliver voice, e-mail, calendaring, and web browsing services under a corporate service plan. As soon as the system went live, Carson could almost hear the cheering throughout the office. "When you move from an environment where you're used to having coverage into one where you don't have it, it's a pretty big letdown," he says, "so they were ecstatic to get it back."

Once the BlackBerry users were happy, all that remained was to provide voice service for the non-BlackBerry users. The firm doesn't have a corporate plan for voice cell phone users, but Carson had determined that 70 percent of the 475 employees at his location used Verizon's cellular service. After further negotiations, Verizon deployed a rooftop antenna and repeater system in early 2007, and its voice coverage went live in April 2007.

RELIABLE WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Today, the Unison system brings wireless coverage to roughly 200,000 square feet of interior space and supports both T-Mobile's 1900MHz frequency and Verizon's 850MHz and 1900MHz frequencies. Carson has been very pleased with the coverage and with the InterReach system. "It's working smoothly everywhere in the building so we don't have to even think about it anymore," he says.

Now that it has complete mobile voice and data coverage inside its building, K&L Gates has a lot of admirers both inside and outside the firm. The K&L Gates office is one of the most technologically advanced of the firm's 22 locations, and is one of a handful of commercial buildings in Washington, D.C. that offers strong and consistent cellular voice and broadband data coverage throughout its interior.



Website: www.adc.com

From North America, Call Toll Free: 1-800-366-3891 • Outside of North America: +1-952-938-8080

Fax: +1-952-917-3237 • For a listing of ADC's global sales office locations, please refer to our website.

ADC Telecommunications, Inc., P.O. Box 1101, Minneapolis, Minnesota USA 55440-1101
Specifications published here are current as of the date of publication of this document. Because we are continuously improving our products, ADC reserves the right to change specifications without prior notice. At any time, you may verify product specifications by contacting our headquarters office in Minneapolis. ADC Telecommunications, Inc. views its patent portfolio as an important corporate asset and vigorously enforces its patents. Products or features contained herein may be covered by one or more U.S. or foreign patents. An Equal Opportunity Employer

105913AE 2/08 Original © 2008 ADC Telecommunications, Inc. All Rights Reserved