

SOUND. THAT WORKS™ IN LAW FIRMS



The acoustics within law offices can have a significant impact on both staff and clients.

The conversations taking place within these facilities often involve highly confidential information. Although they usually occur in private offices or meeting rooms, closed doors and even deck-to-deck walls typically aren't enough to ensure speech privacy.

Poor door seals, gaps between the wall and window mullion, breaks in plenum barriers, and improperly designed or treated HVAC components can allow these private conversations to be clearly heard by others. When two or more independent occupants share the same building, poor acoustical conditions are even greater liability.

Noise is yet another acoustical concern. Numerous studies show that it disrupts concentration, reduces productivity and increases errors. These issues can be highly detrimental to a profession that requires attentiveness, good listening skills, critical thinking, and detailed information to be taken. Any errors may impact client satisfaction and even affect legal proceedings.

Taking steps to protect speech privacy and create a positive acoustical ambience is a sign of control and professionalism. As such, it can reinforce clients' confidence in the firm's ability and strengthen its image. It can also enhance communication. When a client's fear of being overheard is reduced, they're more inclined to speak freely.

Staff also benefit from an environment that enables them to work without being disrupted or disrupting those around them.

Create an environment that reflects the firm's professionalism and supports staff.


LogiSon®
ACOUSTIC NETWORK

Using Sound Masking in Other Judicial Facilities

Courthouses

Courthouses are complex buildings that provide spaces for judges, jurors, court personnel, defendants, and the public.

Most judicial administration and support areas have the same acoustical needs as other office environments and benefit from the enhanced privacy and noise control provided by sound masking.

Courtrooms can also benefit from this technology. There must be high speech intelligibility from the judge's bench and witness stand to ensure that participants can accurately hear and record the proceedings. However, sidebar conversations and bench conferences require speech privacy. Installing sound masking above the jury box can help satisfy these competing requirements. As recommended in the *U.S. Courts Design Guide*, the judge can activate the system using a switch, which simultaneously mutes microphones.

Speech privacy is also important for jury deliberation rooms. The discussions occurring in these areas, as well as in

waiting rooms and judges' chambers, shouldn't be overheard. Privacy isn't only vital to the integrity of the proceedings, but also to jurors' comfort and ability to candidly discuss the case.

Law Enforcement Agencies

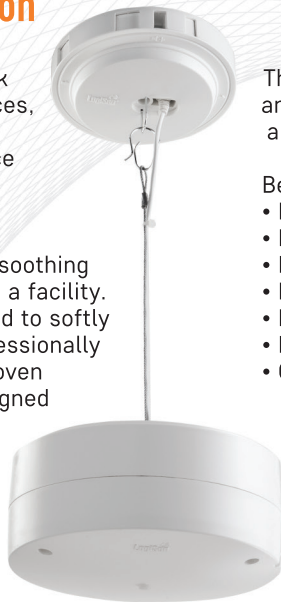
Law enforcement agencies require speech privacy in processing areas and interview rooms, as well as between holding cells. These security-related concerns not only apply to persons of interest in a case, but to the potential for infringement of the speech privacy of a witness.

If necessary, sound masking's benefits can be augmented by connecting the system to transducers that transfer the masking sound to physical structures such as windows, impeding the use of audio surveillance equipment. Because it's critical to protect this type of system from unauthorized access, the LogiSon Acoustic Network is equipped with both physical and electronic security.

The LogiSon® Solution

The LogiSon Acoustic Network has been installed in law offices, libraries, bar associations, courthouses, jury boxes, police stations, and correctional facilities worldwide.

This technology distributes a soothing background sound throughout a facility. Although most often compared to softly blowing air, the sound is professionally tuned to an independently-proven masking spectrum that's designed to cover speech, increasing privacy. It also masks incidental noises that would otherwise affect comfort and concentration.



This solution is easy to retrofit and can also distribute paging and music where needed.

Benefits include:

- Improved noise control
- Increased speech privacy
- Improved concentration
- Paging and music functions
- Lower project costs
- Facility flexibility
- Quick ROI

For more information about the system's advanced features, see our brochure or contact your local LogiSon Representative.

A Few of Our Law Firm Clients

AKIN GUMP • ASHURST • BAKER BOTTS • BUSH + RAMIREZ • CLEARY GOTTLIEB • FREEMAN, FREEMAN & SMILEY
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER • GOODMANS • GOWLING WLG • HADEF & PARTNERS
HAHN LOESER & PARKS • LATHAM & WATKINS • LINEBARGER, GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON • LOYENS & LOEFF
MARTIN & DROUGHT • MCROBERTS LAW OFFICE • MILBANK • MITCHELL SILVERBERG & KNUPP • MLT AIKINS
PAUL HASTINGS • STEWART MCKELVEY • TAYLOR MCCAFFREY • THOMPSON DORFMAN SWEATMAN

Case Study



Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP San Francisco, California • USA

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe is one of the oldest and most well-respected law firms in the world.

With more than 170 lawyers in its San Francisco office, the firm has played an important role in shaping the city by helping guide the financing of landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Candlestick Park, the Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority (BART), and the Moscone Convention Center.

Problem

The acoustical requirements for many legal spaces, including attorneys' offices, conference and deposition rooms, boardrooms, and other special spaces dictate that walls, floors and ceilings meet a high degree of air tightness, sound absorption and constructability.

Solution

This project integrated the requirements for speech privacy and the control of unwanted noise and vibration from the HVAC system with the high design aesthetic and sustainability concepts of the architectural team.

After providing a series of demonstrations and mock-ups for the client, Shen Milsom & Wilke recommended the installation of the LogiSon Acoustic Network throughout selected open-concept, closed office and support spaces requiring acoustical privacy. SM&W preferred the LogiSon system because of the ability to control each loudspeaker's sound level and frequency balance from a laptop.



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