

John C. L. Szekeres

John C. L. Szekeres is a lawyer-technologist. He develops and implements Knowledge Management systems and processes for law firms to enable lawyers to leverage the firm's intellectual capital to practice law more efficiently and effectively and to develop closer relationships with clients through enhanced opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. Szekeres has been a leader at implementing and managing KM departments at two major law firms in New York City. He has been working in law firms and in the legal industry for almost 25 years since his graduation from law school. He has worked at large and small firms and also spent 10 years on the vendor side at legal information provider Matthew Bender.

Mr. Szekeres manages teams of Knowledge Management lawyers and librarians and collaborates with and facilitates communications between lawyers and technical staff to develop and support knowledge management systems and processes. He develops and maintains knowledge repositories that lawyers utilize to leverage the expertise within a firm so that the firm's lawyers can be more agile in addressing client needs and managing the firm's business development activities. He facilitates collaboration internally and with clients through the development and use of: practice portals (collecting, organizing and presenting the firm's intellectual capital: models, forms and precedent); Discussion Forums, Wikis and Blogs (facilitating knowledge sharing); Matter management systems and processes (understanding and leveraging the firm's experience and expertise, practice management, alternative fee arrangements, financial reporting and project management); Extranets (providing clients with access to work product and other internally developed resources); and tools to locate all of this knowledge (enterprise search engines and taxonomies to organize the information).

Mr. Szekeres led the Knowledge Management effort and managed the library at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison as Head of Knowledge Management, at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP he was the Director of Knowledge Management Business Systems. Prior to his work at these firms, Mr. Szekeres developed electronic applications and digital libraries for lawyers, working in the electronic publishing development group of the legal publishing company Matthew Bender & Co. Inc., a part of Lexis-Nexis, and practiced law in a small New York City firm.

Mr. Szekeres is a member of the New York State Bar Association and serves on the Electronic Communications Committee and, as the most recent past chair of the committee, was instrumental in selecting and implementing the Recommind enterprise search engine as well as revamping the association's Internet site. He serves on The New York State Bar Association's Strategic Planning Committee, the Committee on Attorney Professionalism, the Law Practice Management Committee and the Continuing Legal Education Committee where he is a member of the subcommittee on technology. Mr. Szekeres served on the Task Force for the Future of the Legal Profession where he chaired the Technology and Knowledge Management Subcommittee and coauthored the committee report. Mr. Szekeres was a member of the Young Lawyers Section of the association serving on their executive committee. He is a founding member of the New York City Knowledge Management Directors Group and was a member of the Knowledge Management peer group of the International Legal Technology Association (ILTA) serving on their steering committee.

Mr. Szekeres has spoken to lawyers at numerous seminars and Continuing Legal Education programs on Knowledge Management, Records Management and Internet Research and on the ethical implications of social networking.