

# Brasoil/Petrobras Offshore Platform Litigation

**THE CLIENT:** [Cameron & Hornbostel LLC](#)

**THE CASE:** USF&G and AHAC v. Braspetro Oil Services Company and Petroleo Brasileiro S.A. - Petrobras, et al. This two month bench trial, which was of great interest to the insurance bar, determined whether two surety companies would be required to honor performance bonds issued in connection with the conversion of two huge offshore oil platforms in Brazil. The platforms were delivered late and cost hundreds of millions of dollars more than the contract price.

**THE TRIAL:** DOAR was retained by counsel to Brasoil and Petrobras for [document management](#) and [trial support](#) and [technology](#). According to Lead Counsel Howard Vickery, “the DOAR team worked with me on the opening statement to design accompanying demonstratives that would illustrate the points that I wanted to emphasize in my presentation. The sophisticated [graphics](#) made it easier to explain complex engineering and accounting issues to the court.” The exhibits demonstrated the reasons for the cost overruns and delays, the scope of the changes to the original design, the workings of the platforms, and the management decisions taken along the way.

- Over the course of nine months leading up to the start of trial, DOAR [imaged](#), [coded](#) and loaded 250,000 pages into a searchable database from a comprehensive litigation database of some 1.6 million pages of documents. This allowed for the review and designation of documents to be marked as trial exhibits in the pre-trial order. User-friendly database design, training, and support helped to facilitate the exchange of exhibits in electronic and/or hard copy format. Ultimately, 50,000 pages of documents were loaded into Sanction and were available for use at trial. Text highlights and pullouts helped to communicate details of the underlying contracts and communications among the parties.
- The documents selected from the comprehensive database for potential use at trial were refined, exported, reformatted and imported into a new litigation support application system provided by DOAR. Four separate installations were conducted bringing IPRO and Concordance into all firms involved in the dispute.

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- A DOAR technician joined the trial team and assisted with technology installation and software manipulation for both the courtroom and the [war room](#). DOAR trial support personnel were present in the courtroom to handle the call-up of evidence via Sanction, including document pullouts and PowerPoint slides during the opening and closing statements.
- The DOAR technician's familiarity with the case and the database, which was searchable by key words via Concordance and IPRO, enabled him to call up relevant exhibits whenever needed during the course of trial. The ability to find and display specific documents was particularly important during re-direct to rebut issues raised by opposing counsel during cross-examination.
- Both sides shared the evidence display technology that included flat panel monitors for the court, the witnesses, and counsel; a high lumens projector with screen, and a DOAR document camera.

**THE OUTCOME:** After four months of deliberation, Judge Koeltl of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, ruled in favor of Brasoil, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Petrobras, the Brazilian national oil company. The decision awarded Brasoil \$330,000,000 plus attorneys' fees and expenses.