

ESILAW v2005.1 Release Notes



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Welcome to ESILAW version 2005.1! As always, we would like to thank you for your comments and suggestions as they have helped us to produce an easier-to-use, more functional product. Following is a list of some of the new features in this update.

Multitasking

- Have you ever wanted to quickly check details on a client file in the Inquiry screen, without having to save or undo the fee bill you're posting? ESILAW version 2005.1 lets you do that, and more. With its new multitasking environment, you can open multiple windows at once and easily switch between them using the selection list on the menu sidebar.

Customizable toolbar

- Customize the toolbar at the top of the screen to add the programs you access the most frequently.

Accounts Payable

- The Accounts Payable Invoices and Accounts Payable Checks programs have been redesigned to be more intuitive and easier to use. The Accounts Payable Checks program enables you to display invoices by date, and to sort invoices by Vendor, Due Date and Amount Due. Pay an invoice simply by clicking a checkbox, and print checks immediately after posting. Reverse Accounts Payable checks just as easily – select checks to reverse by clicking a checkbox, and click Post to process the reversals.
- The Accounts Payable module includes a new A/P Register screen, designed to enable you to easily view, edit and reverse invoices. The program enables you to display Paid, Unpaid or All invoices by transaction date range and by vendor.
- The Accounts Payable module also includes a new Cash Requirements by Vendor report. The report includes the invoice date, due date, aging (number of days past the due date), and invoice number and description. You can print a summary version with one line per invoice, or a detailed version showing distributions to client files and G/L accounts, and showing payments applied to the invoices.
- The Vendor Maintenance program has also been improved, and now enables you to specify a default general ledger account or disbursement code to use when posting invoices to the vendor. In addition, an Account field has been added so that you can record your account number with the vendor.

Conflict Inquiry

- The Conflict Inquiry has been redesigned, and now enables you to search for specified text. You can search not only the conflict database, but also time entry descriptions, firm and trust check payees and descriptions, A/P vendor names, and the contents of your limitation diary. Open, closed, and archived files are searched.

Bank Reconciliation

- The Bank Reconciliation program has been redesigned, and includes new features such as integrated check and deposit clearing, and the ability to save a bank reconciliation and continue it later. Adjustments are separated into those to be posted and those not to be posted, and when the bank reconciliation is complete, you can automatically post the appropriate adjustments to the G/L.
- In conjunction with the redesigned bank reconciliation, the "cleared date" for checks is stored and used to print the Cleared Check Register report.

Archiving

- Transaction and client file archiving has been simplified, and is now combined into one Archive Data program which allows you to specify the information to archive.

Billing

- The Billing program now supports E-billing, enabling you to easily produce bills for client files in the LEDES text file format. After using E-billing to produce one or more bills, simply attach the text file(s) to an e-mail message and send it to your LEDES bill processor.

Security

- Security is now easier to manage with user groups – create one or more groups and grant access to ESILAW menu functions to the groups. Then, assign users to the groups. This means you don't need to configure each user account; you configure each group you require and then assign users to the group.

Posting

- The Time and Disbursement Write-offs programs have been simplified and combined into one program, enabling you to choose time transactions, disbursement transactions or both to write off. Write off entries by clicking a checkbox, and reverse write-offs using the same screen.
- The Fee Billing, Firm Receipt, A/R Write-off and Trust Transfer to A/R programs have been modified to make the screens more intuitive and easier to read.

Reports

- Use the new Operating Statement III report to view both current and prior year G/L revenue and expense figures, and current year budget amounts.
- Use the new Billable Time by Lawyer report to view unbilled time on client files posted by the responsible lawyer, posted by lawyers other than the responsible lawyer, or posted by all lawyers.
- The Trust Ledger by Client now enables you to select a client number range to include.
- The Client Inquiry includes a new report enabling you to print the balances on client files, including year to date and life to date billings, payments, write-offs and variance, broken down into fees and disbursements. It also includes accounts receivable balances by aging period.
- Tax 1 reporting is easier with the new Input Credit G/L Details report. Designed for use in conjunction with the Input Credit report, it provides details of the general ledger update to the Tax 1 Input Credit account for each audit.

Utilities

- ESILAW's database utilities have been combined into one program, making it quicker and easier to maintain and optimize your data files.

Menus and Screens

- Menus have been redesigned to be more intuitive, and enable users to run programs from the menu sidebar, from the menu at the top of the screen, or from the customizable toolbar.
- Order checks and forms, and access support and product updates on the Web with one click from the main ESILAW screen.
- Menus and screens have been enhanced for greater Windows XP compatibility.