

# HEROES OF THE PLANET

## SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS/SERVICES

### MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES

BY BRITTANY NAY

**M**idwest Litigation Services is saving green by going green — and influencing clients to join the eco-friendly movement.

Last year, Midwest celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day by launching its own green initiative. It became certified as a “green” business by the National Network of Reporting Companies by implementing a wide range of sustainable practices internally throughout its 11 offices in Missouri and Illinois, and externally with nearly half its clients.

“We have seen more and more firms take advantage of our ‘Go Green’ efforts,” said Midwest’s co-founder and president, Debbie Weaver. The St. Louis-based business has 42 employees, with 30 working out of the St. Louis office, and about 90 independent contractors.

Midwest, which does not disclose revenue, has two branches — Midwest Litigation Services and Midwest Trial Services. It offers court reporting, courtroom videotaping, electronic media presentations in courtrooms, and conference room and equipment rental.

Weaver, who began her career as a court reporter, knows law firms swim in a sea of paper, from printed cases and memoranda to multiple drafts of every contract. So she decided to take her company into the digital age and go paperless. In place of paper documents, the business uses e-transcripts and



BRIAN CASSIDY

**Knowing the amount of paper documentation typically produced by law firms, Debbie Weaver launched e-transcript services and an online document repository for clients.**

an online repository for clients. When paper must be used, Midwest requires it have a minimum 30 percent recycled content and encourages double-sided copying and printing for drafts and internal documents. It also limits interoffice communication to email.

Midwest’s staff is encouraging clients to do the same by offering a discount to Go Green participants, with the average savings being 10 to 15 percent per transcript.

Midwest also challenges its clients to join

in reducing office energy use by 10 percent. It saves energy by turning off non-essential electronics such as computers and printers on evenings and weekends and using e-waste removal programs for electronic equipment disposal. It also replaced break room plastic and paper products with glassware and dishes and standard light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

To further reduce its environmental footprint, Midwest encourages employees and

## HEROIC ACT

- Midwest Litigation Services offers a discount to clients who participate in its Go Green sustainability program.



clients to carpool, take public transportation, or bike or walk to work. For business meetings, it recommends video conferences and telecommuting to cut pollution and travel costs.

Holland, Groves, Schneller & Stolze LLC, a St. Louis-based law firm, takes part in Midwest’s Go Green program.

“It’s always a good thing to be aware of your environment,” said Angela Moses, the firm’s business manager. The firm uses two green services through Midwest — receiving their transcripts and billings via email. Moses said it saves on paper and postage, speeds up turnaround time and leaves no physical papers to file.

For its clients who go green, Midwest makes a donation to American Forests’ Global ReLeaf program. Midwest also donates to EarthShare of Missouri.

**BRITTANY NAY** is a St. Louis freelance writer.