

CASE STUDY:

Protecting Speech Privacy and Reducing Distractions in a Law Office



Hogen Adams

Challenge

Overheard Conversations at a Busy Law Office

Although employees at Hogen Adams, a Minnesota law office specializing in Native American law, have private offices, conversations could often be heard through the office walls. This problem was particularly acute in the company conference room at the end of the hallway, where partners were concerned that employees could overhear conversations that weren't intended for them. As a result, partner meetings or meetings where confidential information was to be discussed had to be held offsite, which caused coordination nightmares and travel expenses. Vanya Hogen, a partner and co-founder at the firm, began looking for a solution. "We had this nice conference room that we couldn't even use due to the confidentiality issues – one day I just decided that enough was enough," Hogen says.

First insulation was added to the walls of the conference room, but speech sound continued to escape through the door and be overheard. Hogen began to search online for a technological solution to the problem. Searches for office white noise machines led her to sound masking solutions from Cambridge Sound Management.

More sophisticated than white noise, Cambridge Sound Management's sound masking solutions emit a gentle, airflow-like sound into an environment through speakers installed in the ceiling. The noise is barely noticeable but is specifically engineered to cover up the sound of human speech, making it less intelligible and thus more private. Cambridge Sound Management worked with Hogen to schedule an onsite demo at Hogen Adams with a certified masking partner in their area. Impressed with the demo, Hogen agreed to have sound masking installed in their office space.

““ Since installing sound masking employees can no longer hear conversations occurring in our conference room and office occupants can no longer overhear conversations from adjacent offices. I wish I had known about sound masking earlier! ””

Vanya S. Hogen
Partner
Hogen Adams

Solution

Qt® 100 Sound Masking System

Sound masking expert and independent AV contractor Gary Sundin installed QtPro™ sound masking from Cambridge Sound Management throughout Hogen Adam's office space. Small, barely visible emitters (loudspeakers) were placed in the ceiling tiles throughout the space. The emitters were connected by cables to an intuitive wall mounted Qt® 100 control module. "Gary made the whole process easy, from demo to installation," says Hogen.

Result

A Pleasant, Comfortable, and Beautiful Work Environment

Employees don't notice the masking sound, but they do notice that the law office is noticeably more acoustically comfortable, less distracting, and more private. "Since installing sound masking employees can no longer hear conversations occurring in our conference room and office occupants can no longer overhear conversations from adjacent offices. I wish I had known about sound masking earlier!"

About Hogen Adams

Hogen Adams is an experienced team who handles all aspects of Indian law for tribes and their business partners, from multi-million dollar lawsuits and arbitrations to tribal financings to day-to-day tribal governance and employment issues. They have won significant cases involving the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, treaty rights, tribal sovereign immunity, and tribal tax issues. Hogen Adams has negotiated intergovernmental agreements, major casino developments, and complex settlements. Half of their lawyers are tribal members, and all Hogen Adams lawyers have devoted their careers to providing legal excellence in Indian Country.

About Cambridge Sound Management, Inc.

The world leader in commercial sound masking, Cambridge Sound Management, Inc. manufactures QtPro and DynasoundPro sound masking systems to help organizations protect speech privacy, reduce noise distractions, and fuel workplace productivity in their work places. Its next-generation sound masking systems work by emitting a uniform, barely perceptible background sound at the frequencies of human speech. The systems also include office paging and background music capabilities to help facilities meet all of their masking and audio needs with one affordable system. Cost effective and easy to install, Cambridge Sound Management's systems are deployed in over 20,000 organizations' spaces throughout the world including commercial businesses, healthcare facilities, financial services, government agencies, and educational institutions. For more information about Cambridge Sound Management, visit www.cambridgesound.com.



Case Study Overview

SPACE

Approximately 5000 square feet of office space.

CHALLENGE

Thin walls made it easy to overhear private conversations.

SOLUTION

Qt® 100 Sound Masking System



RESULT

A law office that's private and productive.