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Online-based Service May Force Firms to Cut Fees

US-based "eLawForum" aims to allow corporate clients to package their legal work and conduct an online auction among bidding law firms.

It differs from the traditional "beauty parade". It aims to bring more law firms into the bidding process, including ones that clients may never have thought of.

Initial reaction among British lawyers has been cautiously favourable. One partner in a big-billing city law firm saw the point another way. "Cut my fees? That sounds an absolutely terrible idea."