Sneak Preview:

The 2023 General Counsel Report

Dozens of new and escalating pressure points are squeezing in-house legal departments. According to the 2023 General Counsel Report, demand is increasing across nearly every legal function. Among the general counsel and chief legal officers surveyed, **100%** said they are experiencing **increased workloads and pressure** across **ESG, business strategy, risk management, crisis and breach incident response, data privacy and compliance monitoring**.

This latest installment of the annual General Counsel Report study of trends, challenges and best practices within large corporate legal departments, co-sponsored by Relativity and FTI Technology and moderated by Ari Kaplan, provided an in-depth look at the effects the events of the last year have had on legal departments.

This preview provides an overview of key themes in advance of the full report release.

Risk + Demand Turn Up the Heat on In-House Counsel

"There is so much happening all at once that is relatively unknown. We are in many ways living the risk factors that we insert into our public documents and it is so important to remind our board to help them make many educated decisions."

- **40% or more of general counsel rate regulatory change, compliance, data protection, global and/or geopolitical uncertainty as concerning risk areas**
- **60% rely on outside providers and/or law firms to help manage their growing risk profile**
- **80% believe they are unprepared or, at best, minimally prepared to handle certain advanced technology risks, like blockchain and cryptocurrency issues**

"The implications of advanced technology reflect the number one threat we have over the next 20 years. If you add quantum computing, there is no single country that can manage this risk."

Legal Departments Become a Hub For ESG and Diversity

- **More than 50% ranked ESG as one of their top five legal risks**

"When I think about ESG, it doesn't impact spending, but it impacts the allocation of resources and the GC needs to ensure coverage across the entire organization... Everyone wants to talk about ESG and you need consistency...so the increase in the need to be vocal on these topics will increase the need for legal review."

"It is easy to hire for diversity but more challenging to develop for inclusion...we focus on diversity over time as a way to measure inclusion. Diversity is only successful if it brings inclusion so we want to see increases in diversity over time..."

General Counsel Embrace Flexibility, Automation and Specialization

Participants highlighted several ways that the Great Resignation has affected their law departments, ranging from flexibility and compensation to management styles and employee engagement.

- **67% work in organizations that have specifically considered the role of automation and advanced technology in enabling a higher standard of professional quality of life to alleviate capacity demands and increase retention**

"Deploying AI for contract management and e-discovery is exactly the type of strategy that will increase the professional quality of life in our legal department and we will continue to identify use cases..."