5 trends in corporate legal operations

Corporate legal operations is evolving—and fast—to not only support core legal functions, such as eDiscovery, but other legal concerns, including security and document management. Departments are under pressure to run on budget and provide measurable results.

According to the OpenText 2019 Legal Operations Survey:

1. Teams are growing in size and influencing technology and policy decisions.
   - Average of 16 legal operations professionals in each team.
   - 62.9% describe their legal department as innovative.
   - 100% say the influence of legal operations has grown over the past few years.

2. Data security is a top concern and they are doing something about it.
   - 94.3% have data security concerns around distributing electronically stored information to multiple discovery vendors and law firms.
   - 74% conduct security audits on outside counsel.

3. Moving to the cloud is a key initiative.
   - 68.8% are standardizing in the cloud.

4. More legal operations groups are adopting AI tools for eDiscovery challenges.
   - 54.3% use some AI, such as predictive coding to find relevant data faster.
   - 82.9% plan to increase spending on AI solutions to increase review efficiency.

5. Taking control of eDiscovery is a key priority.
   - 77% contract directly with eDiscovery vendors.
   - 74% control which eDiscovery vendors their outside counsel use.
   - 42% have adopted a single vendor model.
   - 71% have adopted a centralized approach to managing eDiscovery data.
   - 60% conduct some eDiscovery review in-house.

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