

When It Comes to Collaboration, Perception Is Reality for Legal Departments

Law Department Management

Career Development



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Though highly valued by their companies, legal teams are often perceived as roadblocks and overly risk averse — a long-standing perception that can have negative repercussions for cross-team collaboration, according to ACC's The State of Collaboration in Corporate Legal Departments report.

Most survey respondents (80 percent) agreed that their company at large understands the value the in-house legal department brings, with nearly three-quarters (74 percent) reporting they deliver strategic business advice beyond just legal advice. But despite advancements in technology, hiring of legal operations professionals, and other efforts, the stereotype of the legal encumbrance remains.

More than half of respondents (58 percent) say the legal department is perceived as a roadblock that slows projects down, and 41 percent believe the legal team is seen as overly risk averse. Only 18 percent of respondents reported receiving no negative feedback. And these two primary negative perceptions of the legal team are even more severe among large businesses (US$10 billion or more).

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