

LEGAL SUMMIT 2009

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Pestana Palace Hotel, Lisbon Thursday 24th September

As part of the 40 under Forty Awards Evening Iberian Lawyer held the first ever Iberian Legal Summit - a debate for specially invited guests prior to the awards. The summit was a roundtable style discussion on the current challenges facing in-house legal departments. The Summit was made possible by the kind support of law firm solutions providers Tikit and Workshare.

The economic crisis has had an impact on all businesses and this Summit examined the direct and indirect consequences it is having on the role of General Counsel (GC's) and their relations with their external legal advisors.

Discussion Points

1. Are General Counsel (GCs) under pressure to adopt new approaches and do things differently?

What are GCs currently doing (or should be doing) to "get more from less" (ie introducing procedures / gaining efficiencies etc) and does technology and the systematisation and standardisation of processes provide the answer? Is this just about seeking better financial control and cutting costs or are there new business requirements which need new and better approaches?

2. What is the changing requirement of GCs from their external lawyers and what types of relationship and collaboration are they looking for in the future?

3. Going forward will we see closer collaboration between businesses and external lawyers, in areas like the development of joint know-how, or even the development of know-how by businesses and / or groups of law firms working together within joint technology platforms?



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