

# 2019 State of Corporate Law Departments

 [Download the full 2019 report.](#)

# 3 TAKEAWAYS

**Today's** corporations need law departments to provide legal support that enables them to maximize their competitive advantage, while at the same time safeguarding the organization against unnecessary risk.

**Innovative** law departments and innovative law firms score significantly higher across all key performance areas, including the ultimate measures of quality and value.

Here are three key take-aways from the 2019 State of Corporate Law Departments report.



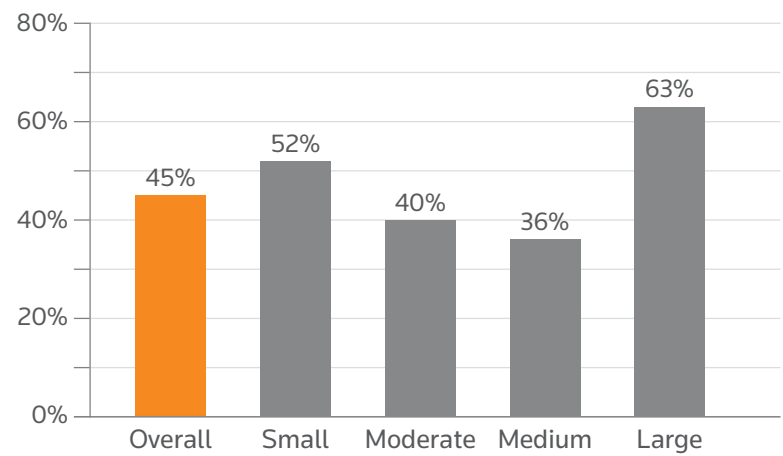
Top five traits of stand-out in-house counsel\*



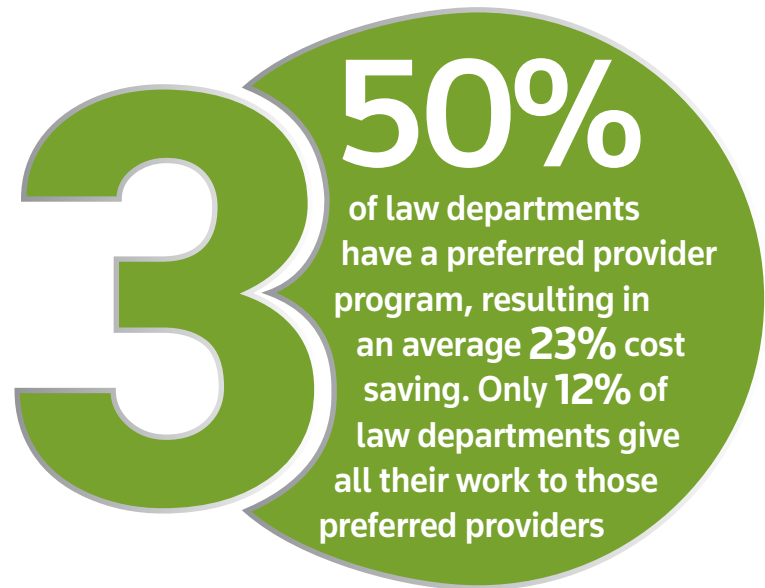
Project management incorporates a range of activities and skills; notably, internal organization, coordination, and efficiency – which, not incidentally, are the qualities most frequently cited by private practice lawyers of clients they regard as “stand-out.”



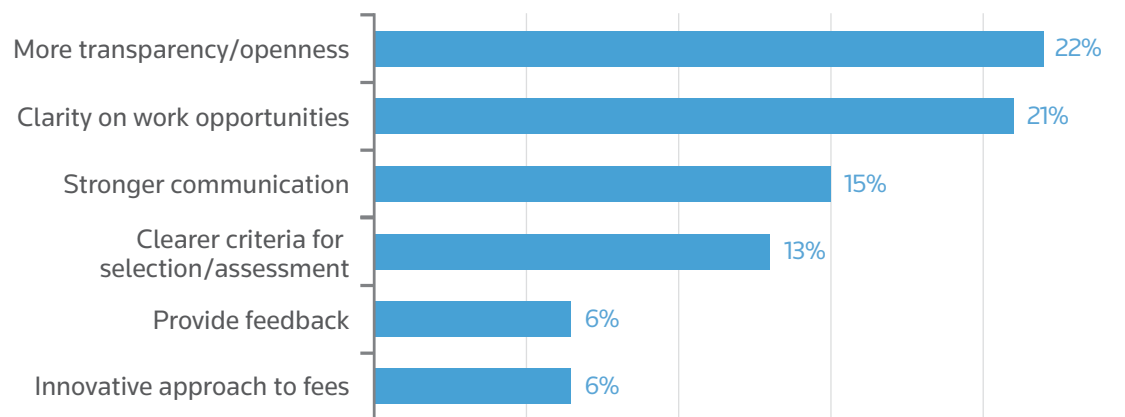
Legal departments with increasing use of legal technology\*\*



Law departments who embrace innovation are seen as **10%** more effective by external lawyers; and equally, in-house counsel who recognize their law firms as innovative also awarded **5%** higher ratings across all key performance areas.



Most suggested improvements for panel management\*



Panels, in theory, should be the perfect foundation for implementing business partner relationships between in-house and external lawyers which deliver optimal value. In reality, the mismanagement of panels results in weaker relationships in one-third of cases.

The more sophisticated law departments are able to optimize the outcomes on legal matters and ensure panel success with a highly collaborative relationship between in-house attorneys, external lawyers, and legal operations professionals. Sharing scorecards on law firm performance and collaborating for improvement ensures realization of greater value.

 Missed the “2019 State of Corporate Law Departments?” [Download the report here.](#)