# MAJOR, LINDSEY & AFRICA

# **Change Your Legal Department's Perception in 8 Steps**

Here are eight powerful ways to set the wheels of transformation in motion:



#### Define, or redefine, your team's purpose and mission (beyond mitigating legal risk).

A mutually understood purpose helps bring team members together with a collective mission and lends meaning and direction to the work they do

## **STEP 02**

Instill and promote a customerservice mindset. Your legal team must always view the business as its customer, not its counterpart.

## **STEP 04**

#### **Deliver responsive, high-quality** work.

You want the business to feel confident that when they reach out to your team, they'll have a reliably positive experience. Responsiveness helps cement trust in your legal team and shows clients they can continue to count on you.



## **STEP 06**

#### Prioritize your team's workload.

Take a closer look at departmental activity to see exactly what your people are working on every day. Look for inefficiencies or skills gaps that are hindering the team's ability to focus on and execute priority tasks.

## **STEP 08**

Check in with the business regularly. Develop a process for soliciting regular feedback from clients to gauge customer satisfaction, both structured and informal, to better understand your team's performance and assess any gaps that may exist.

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Changing your legal department's reputation from a cost center to a value driver takes time, focus and plenty of teamwork. A proactive, purposeful, customer-first approach will help your team evolve into what you know it's capable of being — a value-added, indispensable, strategic partner that's instrumental to the company's growth and success.

Clear communication saves time, reduces conflict and keeps everyone working toward a common goal. Use familiar commercial terms, common industry terms, established organizational acronyms and known financial terms that will resonate with clients.

Help your clients help themselves. Consider ways to provide the business with self-help tools and resources. Empower the business to take on routine requests like contract review and provide templates to enable automatic generation of preapproved contracts to reduce your team's involvement.