workgroup

25TH JUNE 2026
MANCHESTER
X + WHY 100

Manchester Metropolitan University | JD | ELIOR | Manchester City Council | travel counsellors | BAE SYSTEMS | PXC

CAROLINE HILTON	THERESA CASEY	NEIL WINDOW	ASIF IBRAHIM	HELEN NISBET	MIKE ELSTON	MICHAEL CLARK
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL	GENERAL COUNSEL	LEGAL DIRECTOR	DIRECTOR OF LEGAL	GENERAL COUNSEL	CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL UK	GENERAL COUNSEL

group therapy FOR GCs

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Pannone | Pinsent Masons VARIO | LEGALVISION

HOW DOES IT WORK?

"Workgroup" isn't just our namesake; it's the main format of the day. Workgroups are discussion groups run by you—the GCs.

The day alternates between these closed-door group discussions and full-audience panels tackling the juiciest topics in legal leadership.

WORKGROUPS

A workgroup is a 50-minute GC-led discussion group of up to 10 GCs. There are 3 rounds of workgroups, each with 5 options to choose from.

PANELS

Panels are where we discuss the spiciest and scariest topics in the GCs world, as a group with full audience involvement. There are three panels over the course of the day.

Our previous GC attendees include:

Taylor Wimpey, Canva, ITN, Amazon Web Services, Morgan Sindall, Unilever, Nestlanova, COSTA, Manchester Metropolitan University, GSK, unicef, Coca-Cola, British Heart Foundation, coursera, STARBUCKS, NOKIA, LG Electronics, serco, Marks & Spencer, Mondelēz International, InPost, OXFAM, Meta, Fujitsu

Schedule

09:30-10:10	Registration
10:10-10:50	**FIRST PANEL**
10:50-11:40	**FIRST WORKGROUPS**
11:40-12:00	Round-ups
12:00-12:15	Break
12:20-13:00	**SECOND PANEL**
13:00-13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 14:30	**SECOND WORKGROUPS**
14:30-14:45	Round-ups
14:45-15:00	Break
15:00-15:45	**THIRD WORKGROUPS**
15:45-16:00	Round-ups
16:10	Drinks

WHERE AM I GOING?

1 → Your first workgroup.
2 → Your second workgroup.
3 → Your third workgroup.

1 Pink | 2 Yellow | 3 Blue

HOWARD	YELLOW
CRABTREE	GREEN
BURNETT	PINK
YOXALL	PURPLE
FINNEY	BLUE

9:40
FIRST PANEL

BEHIND THE MASK

As GCs, how can we challenge the narrow idea of what "professional" looks, sounds, and behaves like?

How do we make DEI work for both visible and invisible differences, so people aren't masking their accent, background, neurodiversity, sexuality, faith, health, or class just to fit in?

mixergy | CORSEARCH | Manchester City Council | LEGAL UNMASKED

NIKKI ELLISON	ZAK DALIRI	ASIF IBRAHIM	JESSICA LAZARUS
GENERAL COUNSEL	GENERAL COUNSEL	DIRECTOR OF LEGAL	FOUNDER
			MODERATOR

10:25
FIRST WORKGROUP

pick your first workgroup

FINNEY — BLUE

NO.1 — CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

How do we get the business to consult us when speed is everything and AI has removed the brakes? With AI allowing teams to build and launch projects in minutes, how do we keep legal involved without slowing people down and constantly trying to jump onto a moving train?

Ben Damm
General Counsel
Home Instead

BURNETT — PINK

NO.2 — BEHIND THE SCENES SUCCESS

How do I market legal better, and ensure our successes don't stay behind the scenes? What good are the things we do in the legal team if we don't shout about them?

Caroline Hilton
Director of Legal and Governance
Manchester Metropolitan University

NO.3 — THE OFFICE: UK EDITION

How do we keep collaboration, training and team culture alive when everyone's calendar says "available" but no one is actually in the same room? What does hybrid actually look like now for other legal teams?

Michael Clark
General Counsel
PXC

NO.4 — THE TIMESHEET TANGO

How do I prove Legal's value in a way the business actually understands - not just time spent, but real impact? What are others measuring and how are you using that to push back on demand, drive self-service, and earn the space to be more strategic?

Helen Nisbet
General Counsel
Travel Counsellors

NO.5 — PERSONAL BRAND PLAN

How do I build a personal brand that outlives my current role, and helps pull me into the next one? From profiles and posts, to speaking gigs and elevator pitches, how can GCs become the obvious choice for the bigger, better roles?

David Morgan
General Counsel
Warburtons

Alison McKee
Director
BCL Legal

HOWARD	YELLOW
CRABTREE	GREEN
YOXALL	PURPLE

12:20
SECOND PANEL

AI-N'T THIS GETTING OLD?

Everyone's bored of talking about AI but also... we can't afford to be.

What are GCs actually using it for right now? Where is it genuinely driving efficiency versus creating new risks (especially for junior lawyers)?

What have we got right and wrong so far – and what can we learn from each other's mistakes before they become expensive ones?

JD | ELIOR | Bestway Healthcare Solutions | Pannone

THERESA CASEY	NEIL WINDOW	TOM FERGUSON	SARAH BAZARAA
GENERAL COUNSEL	LEGAL DIRECTOR	GENERAL COUNSEL	PARTNER
			MODERATOR

13:45
SECOND WORKGROUP

pick your second workgroup

FINNEY — BLUE

NO.1 — FORECASTING THE FIREFIGHTING

In the current geopolitical mayhem, how do we prepare Legal for the next reputational, operational, or supply chain crisis before it lands on our desk? What can we do differently now, from key principles to planning to external support, so we're not just making it up in the smoke?

Mike Elston
Chief Legal Counsel UK
BAE systems

BURNETT — PINK

NO.2 — THE REORG ROLLERCOASTER

How do we make organisational restructures land well, instead of leaving legal, cultural and emotional carnage behind? What does a "good" organisational restructure actually look like and how can Legal influence the decisions to help it get there?

Lida Khanverdi
Fun-employed, former
EG Group

NO.3 — HOMEGROWN

How do you turn someone with raw potential into a future star in your team? What are others doing to develop and retain high-potential lawyers, from structuring training contracts to navigating the SQE, rather than relying on the external hiring carousel?

Neil Window
Legal Director
Elior

NO.4 — SEAT OR SHACKLE?

How do you turn the CoSec role into a source of influence, not just another pile of governance admin? If it gets you into the right rooms, how do you use that access with intent and stop it from becoming a millstone?

Andrew Hankin
General Counsel
Together Money

NO.5 — DO MORE, PAY LESS?

Inhouse teams are constantly being asked to do more with less. How do ALSPs help with this and bridge the gap between your inhouse team and your traditional panel firms?

Rich Manley
Director
Pinsent Masons Vario

HOWARD	YELLOW
CRABTREE	GREEN
YOXALL	PURPLE

15:00
THIRD WORKGROUP

pick your third workgroup

FINNEY — BLUE

NO.1 — MAKING THE CALL...

How do you make good judgement calls when something in your team isn't quite working? When do you keep investing time and support, and when is it right to rethink roles, responsibilities, or structure to better support the wider team?

Zak Daliri
General Counsel
Corsearch

BURNETT — PINK

NO.2 — 29 BOXES TO TICK

How are other GCs preparing for Provision 29, deciding what to surface, and managing the balance between meaningful oversight and overwhelming the business? What do the increased expectations actually mean in practice for Legal?

Theresa Casey
General Counsel
JD Sports

NO.3 — NOW WHAT?

Once you've reached senior legal leadership, what comes next? From bigger GC roles to NED positions, portfolio careers, fractional work, and other legal working models, how do I work out whether I'm still climbing the right ladder?

David Hill Kelly
Head of Legal
National Physical Laboratory

NO.4 — BACK'S AGAINST THE FIREWALL

When a cyber attack hits, what should Legal do first? How do other GCs prepare for cyber chaos and ensure Legal is leading calmly, not just firefighting blindly?

Aideen McCaffrey
Senior Legal Counsel
Co-op

NO.5 — IS YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER?

How are organisations with large UK property portfolios rethinking legal service delivery? From leases, renewals and disputes, to risk, process and BAU admin, how are in-house teams managing property work more efficiently without becoming the bottleneck?

Sonia Williamson
Legal Director
Pinsent Masons Vario

HOWARD	YELLOW
CRABTREE	GREEN
YOXALL	PURPLE

16:10
THIRD PANEL

MORE WITH LESS? OR JUST... LESS?

How do I decide what Legal should own, outsource, automate or simply stop doing altogether?

When budgets are tight and expectations are not, how are other GCs using tech and flexible resourcing wisely and is anyone saying "actually, Legal shouldn't be doing this at all"

Warburtons | APEM Group | Dechra | LEGALVISION

DAVID MORGAN	VICTORIA PRYER	PETE HORSFALL	ALEXANDRA PERRY
GENERAL COUNSEL	GROUP LEGAL DIRECTOR	GROUP LEGAL DIRECTOR	HEAD OF LEGAL
			MODERATOR

16:50
DRINKS HOUR

NOT ANOTHER NETWORKING HOUR.

this is workgroup

This is the bit where, if we wore ties, they'd loosen. But we're very much a dress-down crowd. Let's keep the chats chattin', the blue cocktails flowing and gossip going. No awkward networking. No corporate cringe. Just good people having a good time to round up the day.

workgroup *group therapy* FOR GCs

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Pannone | Pinsent Masons VARIO | LEGALVISION

WHERE IS IT?

- X + why 100, Manchester
- Thursday 25TH June 2026
- 9:00AM-17:00+

HOW DO I REGISTER?

EMAIL NIX BELOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.

NICOLA@WORKGROUP-EVENTS.COM

Please note - applications from those who do not lead an in-house Legal team will be rejected.