workgroup *presents*

workgroup legal

The event *for GCs*, run *by GCs*

BIRMINGHAM
THE FOUNDRY
11th SEPTEMBER





Susanna Dodd
Director - Legal and Governance
Sanctuary



Ian Leedham
European Vice President - Legal
LKQ



Emily Ashton
Head of Legal
Dunelm



Kirin Kalsi
General Counsel
e·on



Helen Edwards
Chief Legal & Governance Officer
West Midlands Combined Authority



Susanna Harris
General Counsel
Tilbury Douglas



Simon Major
Group General Counsel
RLC



Claire Johnson-Cole
Head of Legal & Compliance
BRIDGESTONE

with thanks to our partners bcl MILLS & REEVE SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS Flank*

Here's *how it works*

Workgroup Legal Birmingham is the event for GC's in the Midlands.

"workgroup" isn't just our namesake, it's the main format of the day. Workgroups are Legal discussion groups run by GC's. The day alternates between these group discussions, and full-audience panel discussions for the big juicy topics.

Workgroups



A workgroup is an hour-long, GC-led discussion group of up to 10 GCs. There are 3 rounds of workgroups, each with five options to choose from.

Panels



Panels are where we discuss the big topics as a group. 3 GCs, 1 moderator and full audience involvement. There are 3 panels over the course of the day.

The Schedule

0900-0940	Registration
0940-1020	**Panel 1**
1020-1110	**Workgroups 1**
1110-1130	Round-ups
1130-1150	Break
1150-1240	**Workgroups 2**
1245-1300	Round-ups
1300-1350	Lunch
1350-1430	**Panel 2**
1430-1520	**Workgroups 3**
1520-1540	Round-ups
1540-1600	Break
1600-1640	**Panel 3**
1640+	Drinks

Our previous attendees include;

Panel 1

Kicking off the start of the day with our first panel.

The Schedule

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1245-1300	Round-ups
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Going global.

From sanctions to supply chains, geopolitical risk is no longer just for the strategy team. But are you, as GC, being brought onto the journey early enough?

And when you are, do you have the tools to actually make an impact—or just a seat and no map?

Ian Leedham



European Vice President - Legal

LKQ

James Ferris



VP Associate General Counsel

FIS

Cilia Chong



Head of Legal European Hub

linxon

Moderator

Jayne Hussey



Partner

MILLS & REEVE

workgroup

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1st workgroup

The Schedule

0940-1020	**Panel 1**
1020-1110	**Workgroups 1**
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1130-1150	Break
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1245-1300	Round-ups
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1430-1520	**Workgroups 3**
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Pick your first workgroup, there are 15 to choose from but here are the first ones.

Who is in your corner?

When you're fighting the impossible fight, who has your back? When it's you vs the board, is someone standing beside you? When it comes to choosing your internal allies, how does your want and wish list compare?

Helen Edwards
Chief Legal & Governance Officer (Monitoring Officer)
WMCA



Board Games.

When it comes to board governance, there is no one size fits all. So how do you decide what works for your business? Who sets the lines of responsibility and have they got it right? What does it look like in your business?

Simon Major
Group General Counsel
RLC Aerospace



Making time for me.

Why as GC am I putting my team and my company's development before my own? How do I let go of the resentment of past bad networking, and build the network I need?

Claire Johnson-Coles
Head of Legal & Compliance
Bridgestone



Legal needs a PR team.

How do you "market" legal so the business sees it as a value-add, not just overhead? How are other GCs shouting about their wins, proving impact, and building Legal's brand? And... are we actually doing this, or just hoping people notice?

Mark Levine
Director, **BCL Legal**





General Counsel **Fortnum & Mason**
Elizabeth Thompson

From Boomers to Zoomers.

How do you as GC manage the needs of a multigenerational team? When senior staff want to work from home, but juniors want to be in the office learning from them, how do you keep everyone productive, and your business happy?

Michael Astle
Vice President of Legal
Quotient Sciences



2nd workgroup

The Schedule

0940-1020	**Panel 1**
1020-1110	**Workgroups 1**
1110-1130	Round-ups
1130-1150	Break
1150-1240	**Workgroups 2**
1245-1300	Round-ups
1300-1350	Lunch
1350-1430	**Panel 2**
1430-1520	**Workgroups 3**
1520-1540	Round-ups
1540-1600	Break
1600-1640	**Panel 3**
1640+	Drinks

Pick your second workgroup, there are 15 to choose from so here are the second ones.

Tech v lawyers?

Not since 'Daddy, or chips?' has there been a more difficult choice. But when it comes to choosing what to invest in, as GCs do you spend your budget on tech, or people? Which is easier to justify to your business and which is better in the long run?



Kirin Kalsi
General Counsel
E.on

Is this it?

Now you've reached the dizzying heights of GC, where do you go from here? Is it now just about the size of the company (and salary)? Or is it time for a new plan? Is the title of MD / CEO calling to you or are you destined for a life in legal?



Susannah Harris
General Counsel
Tilbury Douglas

VAT - (Value Adding Tools).

When it comes to showing your worth to the business, what is top of your VAT list? Do you just hope that people notice, or are you actively showing them your worth? Do you go back to basics and love a good spreadsheet, or do you have a favourite other tool to enable you to show legal at it's best?



Priti Bansel-Branch
Head of Legal
Shoosmiths

Stay in your lane.

Should we be restricted to legal work? When it comes to project managing around the contracts, we often have the best skills and oversight to do this. Should we spread our wings and show our skills or stay in our lane?



Emily Ashton
Head of Legal
Dunelm

Mr Blue Sky (thinking).

Why does creative thinking that improves your team and practices always end up at the bottom of your priority pile? The day-to-day always feels more pressing, but is focusing on that and not improvement just a false economy?



Susanne Dodd
Director - Governance & Legal Service
Sanctuarys

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Panel 2

Easing you back from lunch with our second panel session.

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0940-1020	**Panel 1**
1020-1110	**Workgroups 1**
1110-1130	Round-ups
1130-1150	Break
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Rock ➡ GC ⬅ Hard place

How do you deal with the ethical fallout when others in the organisation cross the line? How do you stick to your ethical guns and steer your business on the right path through the chaos? When your ExCo needs someone to blame, how do you stop them shooting the messenger?

Imogen Noons



Chief Compliance Officer - Group Strategy & Policy

Rolls-Royce

Simon Major



Group General Counsel

RLC

Michael Evans



Legal Director, UK

Volvo

Moderator
Wayne Barnes



Partner

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3rd workgroup

The Schedule

0940-1020	**Panel 1**
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Pick your third workgroup, this is the last, so choose wisely!

Just pick up the d*mn phone!

How do you persuade the next generation of lawyers that going old skool isn't a bad thing, and that picking up the phone is nearly always preferable to an email? How do we show that office days should be more than just a change of scenery?



Ian Leedham
European Vice President - Legal
LKQ

Show you the money.

How does legal show it's value when the reporting lines make no sense? When your go-to is the CFO who only sees the bottom line, how do you demonstrate your value when compared to the income generating sales department?



Jo Glaze
General Counsel

Plug & Play.

When it comes to plugging a gap in your team and boosting your resources, the traditional choice is to head for the law firms. But what are the other options? Have you thought about the offerings of a fractional counsel or are law firms still king?



Nicole Thompson
General Counsel
Ex-IMI

Front and centre.

You're not just the legal backbone—you're a strategic powerhouse. So why stay invisible? Visibility isn't vanity, it's strategy. How can you influence if no-one can see you? Level up your legal presence, one post at a time.



Allia Khan
Head of Legal
Poloworks

We've set the stage, now you run the show.

Legal has put the framework is in place—now it's your colleagues' opportunity to take a leading role in implementation. But, how do you get internal stakeholders to take ownership, drive execution and step into the spotlight?



Rachel Driscoll
Legal Manager UK & I
Michelin

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Panel 3

Wrapping up the day with our final panel session.

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0940-1020	**Panel 1**
1020-1110	**Workgroups 1**
1110-1130	Round-ups
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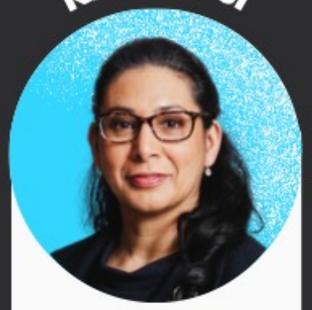
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Sink or Swim?

AI is flooding the legal space—but is it solving the right problems, or just making tech headlines? How do you separate the useful AI, from the rest and how can AI make your job easier, without replacing it?

Join us for an interactive session exploring which AI makes you sink, or swim.

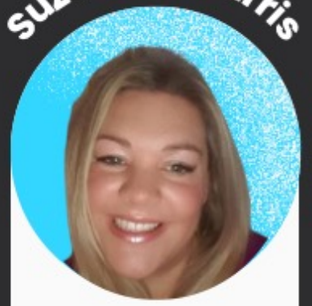




Kirin Kalsi

General Counsel

e·on



Suzannah Harris

General Counsel

Tilbury Douglas



Robert Shiels

General Counsel

Sanctuary



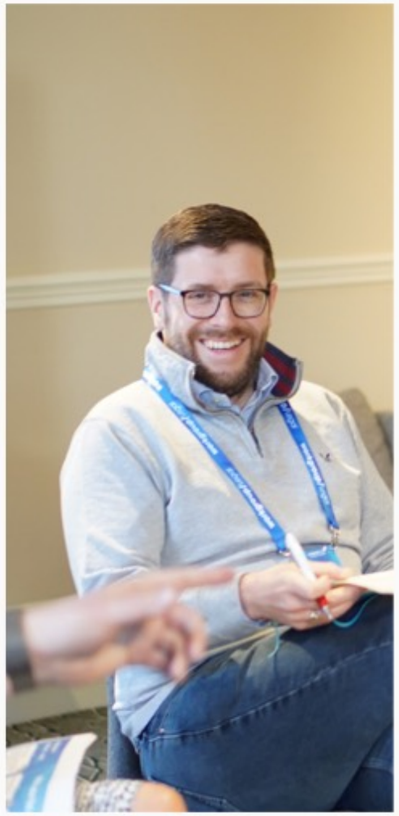
Moderator

Taariq Ismail

Enterprise Lead

Flank*













You have 3 ways to get involved:

1 **Sign up online for £350+VAT here.**

2 **Attend all our GC events, as part of your Workgroup Premium* subscription.**

3 **Email Charlotte here to ask for an invoice!**
Please note - applications from those who do not lead an in-house legal team will be rejected.

*Workgroup Premium is a paid subscription, which gives you - and your deputy - passes to all Workgroup Legal events. Also includes free passes for your CMOs and CHROs to our CMO and CHRO events. Contact Peter here.



Kayleigh Armitage

Head of Brand



Peter Daniels

Founder & Managing Director



Charlotte Hudson

Director of Operations



Nicola Berlin

Director of Workgroup Legal North



Josef Burns

Director of Workgroup Legal North



Zenia Petsa

Director of Workgroup CFO



Hannah Parsons

Director of Workgroup CMO



Bundy Dunn

Director of Woofgroup



Clair Dunn

Director of Workgroup HR