workgroup

5TH JUNE 2026
BIRMINGHAM
X+WHY FOUNDRY

GEELY · CEVA LOGISTICS · LRQA · wood. · AIR IT GROUP · Tokamak Energy · linxon

CHARLOTTE DIGBY	GEOFF BLACKWELL	CLARE THOMAS	STUART LONG	KERAN SANGHA	CHRISTIAN LOWIS	CILIA CHONG
LEGAL DIRECTOR	LEGAL DIRECTOR	GROUP GENERAL COUNSEL	SENIOR VP OF LEGAL	GENERAL COUNSEL	GENERAL COUNSEL	HEAD OF LEGAL (EUROPEAN HUB)

group therapy FOR GCs

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Pinsent Masons VARIO · SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS · Higgs LLP · EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

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.

Our previous GC attendees include;

WORKGROUPS

A workgroup is a 50-min 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 3 panels over the course of the day.

Schedule

09:00-09:30	Registration
09:40-10:20	**FIRST PANEL**
10:25-11:10	**FIRST WORKGROUPS**
11:15-11:30	Round-ups
11:30-11:50	Break
11:50-12:30	**SECOND PANEL**
12:30-13:20	Lunch
13:20-14:05	**SECOND WORKGROUPS**
14:05-14:20	Round-ups
14:20-14:35	Break
14:35-15:20	**THIRD WORKGROUPS**
15:20-15:35	Round-ups
15:35-15:55	Break
15:55-16:35	**THIRD PANEL**
16:35 +	Drinks

	1	2	3
1ST FLOOR			
TURBINE PINK	GOODY TWO FLIGHTS.	MANAGE THE CART WITHOUT THE CRASH.	CHIEF FIREFIGHTER
WELLNESS STUDIO PURPLE	DAY ONE.	TYPICAL GEN WHATEVER.	TO SHARE, OR NOT TO SHARE?
HYDRO BLUE	STRIKE THE BALANCE.	HAVE YOU GOT THE FEAR?	ME, MYSELF AND AI.
2ND FLOOR			
HIPPODROME YELLOW	WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY?	TWO HATS, ONE HEADACHE.	FRONTSEAT OR BACK?
3RD FLOOR			
REA ORANGE	CHIEF JUGGLER.	PITCH PERFECT.	I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT...

09:40
first panel

IT'S EDI. BUT SHHH! DON'T TELL ANYONE.

How do we rebrand EDI, without alienating people in 3 letters?

"Blah, blah, blah."

Is this what your company hears when you bring up EDI?

EDI reporting requirements and the value of being inclusive haven't disappeared, just because people are sick of hearing about it...

MODERATOR

West Northamptonshire Council	AIR IT GROUP	Tokamak Energy	EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND
Sarah Hall	Keran Sangha	Christian Lowis	Dawn Hilton
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE	GENERAL COUNSEL	GENERAL COUNSEL	PARTNER

EVERSHEDS SUTHERLAND

10:25
first workgroup

pick your first workgroup

NO.1 STRIKE THE BALANCE.

How do I get the right balance with my relationships across the business between the exec and my team? Where do I feel most comfortable and where should I put in the effort?

Charlotte Digby
Legal Director
GEELY Auto UK

NO.2 GOODY TWO FLIGHTS.

Should we be the business "goody two shoes" or jet-set like everyone else? As GCs, we're good at following rules and saving company cash, but is it harming our internal relationships?

Geoff Blackwell
Legal Director
Ceva Logistics

NO.3 DAY ONE.

When it comes to starting a legal function, (or rebuilding one) what are the priorities; and what can wait? When you're working on a slim budget, where do you spend it?

Keran Sangha
General Counsel
Air IT Group

NO.4 WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY?

When the workload spikes, how do in-house teams decide what stays internal, what goes to law firms, and what's better suited to ALSPs?

Rachel Driscoll
Legal Manager UK
Michelin

Adam Kohl
Head of Marketing
Pinsent Masons Vario

NO.5 CHIEF JUGGLER.

When your legal team is on the lean side and it all falls on you; how do you juggle work and home while still giving your all to both? Is it ever ok to give less than your all?

Cilia Chong
Head of Legal (European Hub)
Linxon

11:50
second panel

OH LOVELY. ANOTHER REGULATION.

How do you keep up with the incessant changes in compliance?

What are your go-to tools and tech you rely on, to stay afloat?

Is non-compliance ever the sensible option? Where's your threshold?

MODERATOR

linxon	NCH	Sanctuary	SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS
Cilia Chong	Martyn Ruscoe	Susanne Dodd	Nicola Smith
HEAD OF LEGAL (EUROPEAN HUB)	LEGAL DIRECTOR	DIRECTOR - LEGAL & GOVERNANCE	PARTNER

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

13:20
second workgroup

pick your second workgroup

NO.1 HAVE YOU GOT THE FEAR?

Does the fear of getting it wrong, keep lawyers in their box for too long? Or now that we're GCs and more commercially focused, are we better at taking risks on the unknown?

Christian Lowis
General Counsel
Tokamak Energy

NO.2 MANAGE THE CART WITHOUT THE CRASH.

When your Board are used to doing things a certain way; how do you be the newbie in the room changing the direction while not upsetting the apple cart?

Lia Machado
Group Legal Counsel
AW Group

NO.3 TYPICAL GEN WHATEVER.

Are generational strengths and weaknesses just lazy stereotyping? Do I work around everyone - possibly lowering standards and creating friction? Or is it just personality and nothing to do with generation?

Stuart Long
Senior VP of Legal
Wood plc

NO.4 PITCH PERFECT.

Are we pitching our advice at the right level? It can be easy to forget that the people in our organisations don't have our training - so how do we ensure our advice lands, whatever their background?

Sarah Hall
Corporate Director of Law & Governance
West Northamptonshire Council

NO.5 TWO HATS, ONE HEADACHE.

When you're juggling the dual role of legal and cosec, often with no training or bandwidth; when does it add value, and when does it strain oversight? What are the implications for risk, accountability, and effectiveness?

Tom Proverbs-Garbett
Governance Consultant
Pinsent Masons Vario

14:35
third workgroup

pick your third workgroup

NO.1 TO SHARE, OR NOT TO SHARE?

To what extent should GCs voice their personal views at work or in the boardroom? When it comes to voicing your political or moral views - how far is too far?

Sam Plant
Former Chief Legal Officer
Muller

NO.2 CHIEF FIREFIGHTER

When your morning to-do list includes anything from a dawn raid and cyber attack fallout to a H&S violation; how do you end the day with both resolutions and your sanity?

Clare Thomas
Group General Counsel
LRQA

NO.3 FRONTSEAT OR BACK?

What's your driving position within your company? Are you directing the way and spotting potholes from the front? In the back peering over shoulders; or left behind begging for an ETA?

Alison Middleton
Group General Counsel
Rodericks Dental Parters

NO.4 I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I WANT...

...what I really, really want is a law firm that is an extension of my business. In a buyers' market, what are law firms doing to set themselves apart from the crowd?

Martyn Ruscoe
Legal Director
NCH Europe

NO.5 ME, MYSELF AND AI.

Should your team only include people? Or should we be including AI Agents as our 'team members' now? When it comes to AI adoption, is it just another tool, or is it more?

Stefan Ciufu-Hayward
Legal Director
Colas

15:55
third panel

ACTIVATE YOUR INNER SWAN.

When the crisis hits, how important is it to project a calm confidence to my board and team, even when I may not feel it?

As a leader should I emotively bring them on side along the whole rollercoaster, or do I shield them from the scary ride?

MODERATOR

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Clare Thomas	Stuart Long	Lia Machado	James Modley
GROUP GENERAL COUNSEL	SENIOR VP OF LEGAL	GROUP LEGAL COUNSEL	PARTNER

Higgs LLP

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HOW DO I REGISTER?

EMAIL CHARLOTTE BELOW TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.

CHARLOTTE@WORKGROUP-EVENTS.COM

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

KEY INFO

- X+Why The Foundry, Birmingham
- Friday 5th June 2026
- 9:00AM-17:00+
- CHARLOTTE@WORKGROUP-EVENTS.COM