

# 10 Legal Trends to Watch for in 2018

Here are the top trends to keep an eye on in the new year.

## 01

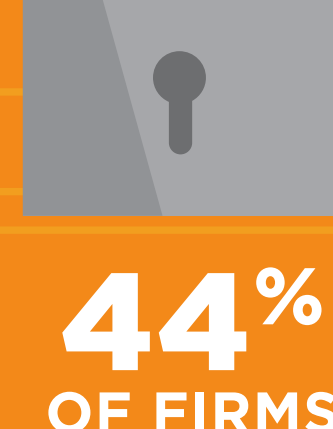
### A Greater Focus on CYBERSECURITY

It's more important than ever that the legal industry focuses on cybersecurity through policies and protection because of the sensitive documents like business data, trade secrets or other intellectual property that are transferred electronically back and forth during lawsuits.

**The industry can also expect an increase in cyber audits.**



Download the LLM, Inc. white paper *Best Practices for Counsel Serious About Cybersecurity*



**44%**  
**OF FIRMS**  
reported  
experiencing  
a data breach

—ABA TECHREPORT  
2017

## 02

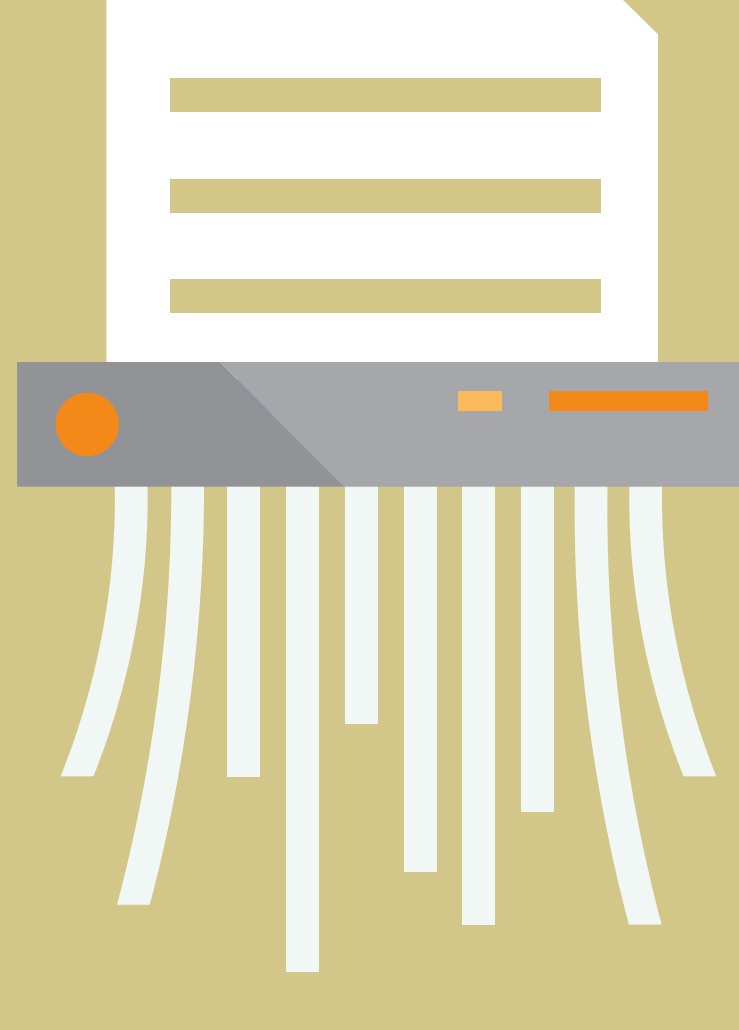
### Firms Will Continue to INNOVATE How and What Legal Services Are Offered as the Market Grows Increasingly Competitive

Examples include process improvement, better knowledge management, legal project management, the implementation of technology, communication and analytics.

## 03

### The Increase in the Types of Technology Will Require More Focus on SPOILATION

As reported by Reuters in November 2017, according to testimony from current and past Uber Technologies Inc. employees, top execs have used the encrypted chat application Wickr to conduct secret conversations. This could result in the first major legal test of its kind, as **companies have an obligation to preserve data that could be relevant to future litigation or regulation requirements.**



## 04

### A Rise in LEGAL OPERATIONS PROFESSIONALS

Because legal departments are continuing to take on more work, **the legal operations professional is vital for balancing the budget, recruiting, analyzing data and implementing a variety of technology solutions** — tasks typically counsel doesn't have either the time or skill set for.



**CLOC (Corporate Legal Operations Consortium)** is an organization dedicated to legal operations professionals, their business and processes.

## 05

### Increased AUTOMATION and AI and TAR Implementation

In 2016, IBM introduced the world's first artificially intelligent lawyer, ROSS, which was hired by the Baker & Hostetler firm.

In the 2017 Altman Weil "Law Firms in Transition" survey, 49 percent stated that their firms are experimenting with using artificial intelligence in place of human performance to increase efficiency.

Counsel also continues to adopt and use technology-assisted-review (TAR) as a way to lean on AI to save time and money.

## 06

### Increased E-Discovery Legal Technology Adoption and Move to the Cloud

As we get ever closer to the next decade, there's still plenty of firms and corporations using onsite, installed appliances or antiquated legal technology.

With the explosion of data, firms realize they can no longer ignore a move to the cloud and software that can support the large amounts of data.

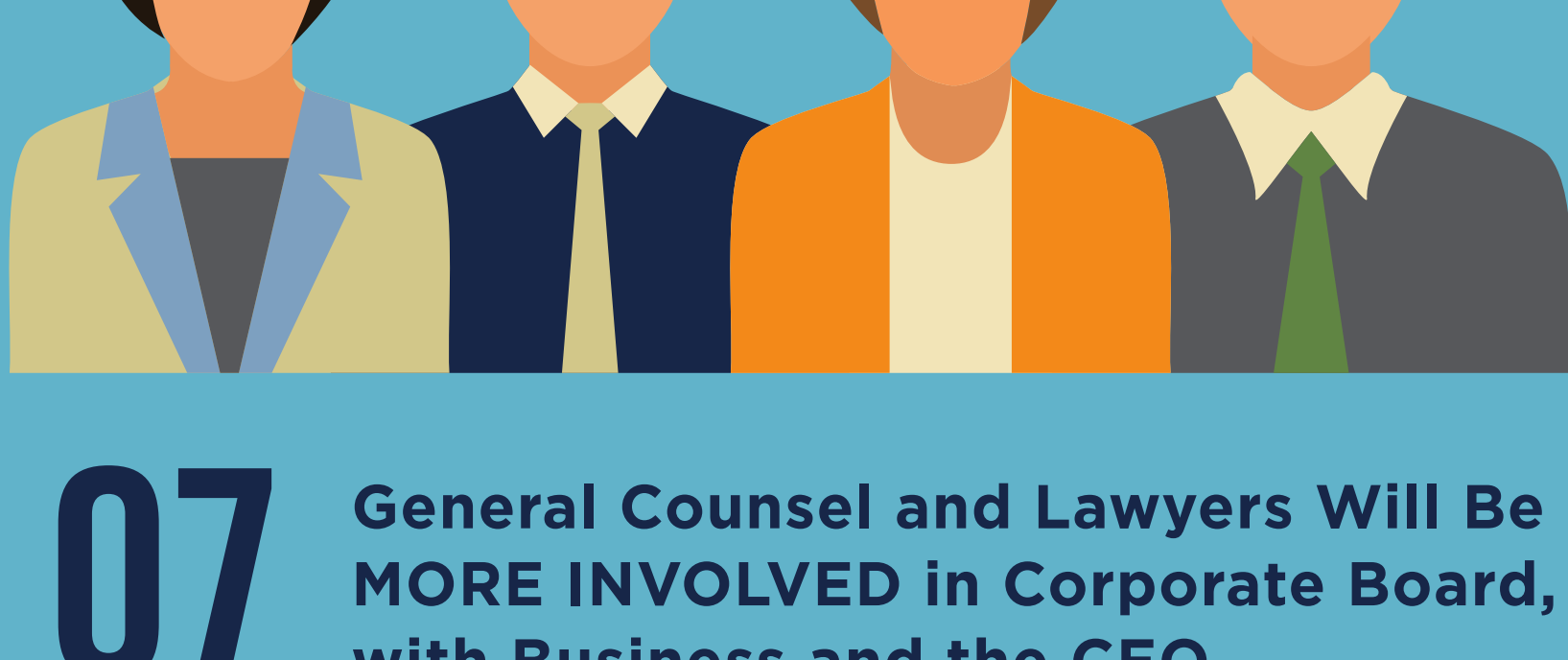
**"Data are to this century what oil was to the last one: a driver of growth and change."**

—The Economist



**The International Data Corporation estimates that by 2025, the global datasphere will grow to 163 zettabytes (a trillion gigabytes) — 10 times the 16.1ZB of data generated in 2016.**

—"Data Age 2025: The Evolution of Data to Life-Critical"



## 07

### General Counsel and Lawyers Will Be MORE INVOLVED in Corporate Board, with Business and the CEO

Specifically, attorneys will be more involved in business decisions and increasingly considered for board positions.

## 08

### International Standards for International Clients

With the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) being enforced in May of this year, expect companies that do business internationally to focus on getting processes pertaining to data in place in order to remain in compliance.

**May 25 2018**

GDPR comes into effect

## 09

### Blockchain Will Continue to Be a Focus

Attorneys will take advantage of it for smart contracts and more, plus laws and regulations will result because of the rise of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

## 10

### The In-House Legal Department Will Enter a GOLDEN AGE

Legal departments will hire and groom junior lawyers.

They'll also become more savvy and sophisticated about fee arrangements, hiring and outsourcing.



**What lies ahead is always unknown, but we're confident that these trends will be among the top. Law departments and firms are encouraged to not only become aware of them, but also leverage them to their advantage.**



Missed the predicted legal trends for 2017?

**Download the infographic here.**