Effective Litigation and External Counsel Management Training Course

30 Nov - 04 Dec 2026

Amsterdam

5900 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's complex corporate environment, the role of in-house legal teams has evolved from purely advisory to a strategic business function critical for risk mitigation and value creation. This intensive training course is designed to equip in-house counsel and legal professionals with the advanced skills needed to proactively manage litigation and optimize relationships with external counsel. The curriculum moves beyond theoretical legal principles to focus on the practical, operational, and financial aspects of corporate litigation management. Drawing on insights from thought leaders like Ben W. Heineman, Jr., whose work "The Inside Counsel Revolution" highlights the shift towards strategic in-house legal functions, this program provides a comprehensive framework for success. Participants will explore every stage of the litigation lifecycle, from early case assessment and risk analysis to managing complex e-discovery and controlling legal spend. At BIG BEN Training Center, we have developed this course to empower legal departments to become cost-effective, efficient, and indispensable partners to the business, capable of navigating legal challenges while driving organizational goals. This program is the definitive guide for transforming your in-house legal team into a strategic powerhouse.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- In-House Counsel and Corporate Lawyers.
- General Counsel and Chief Legal Officers.
- Legal Department Managers and Directors.
- Legal Operations Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Risk Management Professionals involved in litigation.
- Paralegals and Legal Assistants in corporate legal departments.
- Procurement professionals responsible for legal services sourcing.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking, Finance, and Insurance.
- Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, and Life Sciences.
- Technology, Telecommunications, and Media.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Manufacturing and Industrial sectors.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Government agencies and public sector entities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Legal Department.
- Compliance and Ethics Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Finance and Accounting.
- Procurement and Sourcing.
- Internal Audit.
- Executive Management and Board of Directors.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a strategic framework for managing corporate litigation from inception to resolution.
- Implement a rigorous process for selecting, onboarding, and managing external counsel.
- Establish clear performance metrics and service level agreements for law firm partners.
- Master techniques for effective legal spend management and budget forecasting.
- Utilize alternative fee arrangements (AFAs) to enhance cost predictability and value.
- Navigate the complexities of e-discovery and implement defensible legal hold processes.
- Conduct early case assessments to inform strategic decisions on settlement or defense.
- Enhance negotiation and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) skills to minimize costs and risks.
- Create effective reporting mechanisms to communicate litigation status and risk to stakeholders.
- Conduct post-litigation analysis to identify lessons learned and improve future processes.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning in their professional roles. We move beyond traditional lectures to create an immersive learning environment. The course heavily relies on real-world case studies, allowing participants to analyze complex litigation scenarios and develop strategic responses in a controlled setting. Interactive group discussions and workshops will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of best practices among professionals from diverse industries. A significant portion of the program is dedicated to hands-on exercises, including drafting sections of billing guidelines, creating a law firm evaluation scorecard, and role-playing settlement negotiations. Participants will receive constructive feedback from the instructor and peers to refine their skills. The course integrates principles of legal project management and modern legal technology, providing a holistic view of contemporary in-house practice. This blended approach of expert instruction, collaborative problem-solving, and practical application ensures a deep and lasting understanding of effective litigation and external counsel management.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Strategic In-House Litigation Management

- The evolving role of the in-house counsel in litigation.
- Developing a corporate litigation philosophy and risk profile.
- Early case assessment (ECA) methodologies and tools.
- Establishing a defensible and efficient legal hold process.
- Aligning litigation strategy with overall business objectives.
- Internal investigation protocols and privilege protection.
- Crisis management and communication during litigation.

Unit Two: Mastering External Counsel Selection and Management

- Crafting effective Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for legal services.
- Conducting due diligence and selecting the right law firm partner.
- Negotiating engagement letters and defining the scope of work.
- Establishing robust outside counsel guidelines and billing policies.
- Implementing performance metrics and regular review processes.
- Managing the law firm relationship as a strategic partnership.
- Strategies for effective communication and collaboration with outside counsel.

Unit Three: Proactive Case and Discovery Management

- Implementing legal project management principles for litigation.
- Developing a comprehensive case management plan and timeline.
- Navigating the Electronic Discovery Reference Model (EDRM).
- Strategies for managing data preservation, collection, and review.
- Leveraging legal technology for efficient discovery management.
- Managing expert witnesses from selection to testimony.
- Preparing for and managing depositions effectively.

Unit Four: Financial Discipline and Legal Spend Optimization

- Developing and managing a litigation budget.
- Analyzing legal invoices and ensuring compliance with billing guidelines.
- Exploring and implementing Alternative Fee Arrangements (AFAs).
- Using data analytics to track and control legal spend.
- Building a business case for litigation-related investments.
- Strategies for negotiating with vendors and service providers.
- Reporting on legal spend and demonstrating value to the business.

Unit Five: Advanced Strategies in Resolution and Post-Mortem Analysis

- Advanced negotiation techniques for favorable settlements.
- Leveraging mediation, arbitration, and other ADR methods.
- Preparing the business for trial and managing expectations.
- Managing reputational risk associated with litigation.
- Conducting a thorough post-litigation review and analysis.
- Identifying process improvements and implementing lessons learned.
- Creating a knowledge management system for litigation outcomes.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In an era of increasing data complexity and regulatory scrutiny, how can in-house counsel shift from a reactive litigation management role to a proactive risk-prevention strategist?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing on the intersection of legal expertise and business acumen, a critical nexus often overlooked in traditional legal training. While other programs may concentrate on legal doctrine, this course is built around the practical realities of the corporate environment, treating litigation management as a core business function. It provides a holistic, 360-degree view, integrating strategic planning, financial discipline, project management, and relationship management into a unified framework. A key differentiator is the deep dive into legal spend optimization and the strategic use of Alternative Fee Arrangements (AFAs), empowering participants to not only manage legal risk but also to deliver tangible financial value to their organizations. The curriculum emphasizes proactive strategies, from early case assessment to post-litigation analysis, fostering a culture of continuous improvement rather than just case-by-case problem-solving. By using real-world case studies and interactive workshops, the course ensures that participants leave with a practical toolkit of strategies, templates, and frameworks that can be implemented immediately to enhance efficiency, control costs, and solidify the legal department's role as a strategic business partner.