

BC Legal Innovation Forum - November 5, 2019

The BC Legal Innovation Forum returns to Vancouver in November, 2019 - the launch of the second annual, national series: *The Canadian Legal Innovation Forum*. The purpose of the forum is to build a leadership network focused on how to stay competitive in key areas relevant to Canadian business and the legal sector's role in supporting it. It also focuses on the latest thinking in terms of innovation when it comes to practice management. Proposed panel, presentation and interview topics outlined below.

Structure of the forum:

- **6 x Panels** (3 on business and law in BC; 3 on legal practice management)
- **3 x Case Study Presentations** (each related to one of the topics)
- **1 x facilitated breakout group session** (e.g. law firm innovation or in-house aligning w/ the business)

Panels:

Business and law in BC

The business impact of changes to privacy laws.

Evolving changes to privacy laws are having a significant impact for local companies doing business in domestic and international markets. To date, BC companies - particularly those in the tech sector - have had to adjust to the EU's GDPR rules and emerging privacy laws in states such as California. Further, far-reaching changes to privacy laws in both the US and Canada on a federal level are also anticipated. Businesses - and lawyers working in and for them - have had to adjust accordingly; sometimes with significant impact on their operating models. This panel will focus changes to national and international privacy laws and how businesses (and the lawyers supporting them) can best respond.

Regulation and the resource industry.

With a federal election planned for October, the C-69 bill currently being revised in parliament will play a prominent role. The proposed rules for large scale energy and infrastructure projects around impact assessment will lead to increasing complexity for resource focused businesses. The new regulation will impact proposals, process and ongoing compliance requirements for major resource projects both planned, underway and completed in BC. This panel - with leading lawyers from private-practice and in-house counsel focused on the sector - will examine changes on the horizon from the implementation of C-69 and what legal strategies businesses

need to employ to adjust to these new regulatory requirements.

The BC real estate sector.

The BC real estate sector is in flux. Vancouver's perennially hot property market is suddenly in decline - with varying viewpoints on where it will end up. Money laundering in the sector is also under the microscope - with intense scrutiny from provincial and federal governments. As a key sector in the BC economy, there's much at stake for businesses involved directly and indirectly. What do BC businesses need to pay attention to when it comes to managing risks associated with the real estate sector? What should they anticipate in terms of near term regulation on both provincial and federal levels? This panel will focus on the current dynamics at play in the real estate sector and the key role lawyers will play in its evolution.

Legal practice management

In-House strategy: aligning with the business.

An agreed upon thread in the in-house innovation discourse is the need to align with the business. But too often these conversations tend to remain in-house - that is - between lawyers. What does the business really need from in-house and external counsel? How can lawyers engage with business partners to understand, determine and develop flexible solutions to support business growth - moving from a cost centre to a value creator? And - conversely - what do lawyers need from their business leaders to support this? This panel - formed of senior level business people and lawyers - will discuss how they can better collaborate to deliver results.

Developing an innovative law firm strategy.

With increasing competition and client expectations, law firms need to innovate. As a core pillar of their strategy, they need to foster an innovation mindset and match it with enhanced practice and service delivery models. There are many examples of how law firms are doing this. They are employing allied, non-legal professionals in prominent roles. They are re-organising areas such as pensions, compensation and technology systems. They are partnering with third parties - often competitors - to provide solutions for their clients. And they are working to provide more flexible and fulfilling careers for their employees. This panel will look at the core components of an effective law firm innovation strategy and how to develop and deliver one.

Defining, developing and executing on an impactful legal technology strategy.

Technology is a critical component to any successful legal innovation strategy. Yet much of legal technology's impact is over-hyped and visible results can be hard to measure. How can law firms and law departments develop a coherent, durable and cost effective technology strategy to drive their broader innovation agenda? And how can vendors work to align better with their clients to support their innovation agendas? Here, we will look at examples of how law and technology are converging to deliver impactful innovation.