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2019

TRENDS TO

LEGAL TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2019



If the markets stay strong, corporate legal work should also remain strong. Longer term, I think that with technology, the legal profession will become increasingly efficient and thus need fewer lawyers to service clients. So, while the profession will improve its service, growth will slow.

Steven D. Pidgeon, co-managing partner, DLA Piper

Artificial intelligence will transform law

The legal sector is going to continue to change at a break-neck pace. “Technology will continue to transform the law, and artificial intelligence is going to permeate every aspect of how legal services are delivered,” says James Goodnow, president and managing partner of Fennemore Craig. “We’re in the midst of the longest bull market in history and we’ve seen heightened market volatility recently, so the elephant in the room is the potential for a market correction.”



The battle over brick-and-mortar

Andy Abraham, president of Burch & Cracchiolo, says the balance — and tensions — between remote or smart office space and brick-and-mortar will impact the legal industry in 2019. “Maintaining camaraderie among lawyers and staff and brainstorming client matters — actual conversation while sitting together vs e-mail — will take conscious effort. Balancing law firm economics of smaller and ‘smarter’ offices and lawyers working remotely while at the same time delivering best results to clients will take more and more focus and effort. More productive talking among lawyers and clients and less typing will hopefully return to the forefront.”



ADAM BAUGH, partner, Withey Morris:

“Strong momentum for new land use entitlement should carry into 2019. The key consideration will be whether tightening markets and rising interest rates could affect the ability to finance new development projects, particularly given the length of this current economic run.”



JORGE FRANCO, litigation partner, Jennings Haug Cunningham:

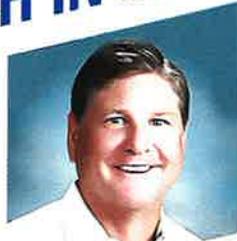
“2019 will see civil litigators adjusting to recent changes to the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure designed to increase litigation efficiencies. Parties must now meet, confer and classify cases into one of three tiers defined by value and complexity, to then be governed by ‘proportional’ discovery limits.”



JONATHAN FRUTKIN, principal, Radix Law:

“As the economy heats up, some smart business leaders will begin to focus on the inevitable cycle of slowdown that always appears. The companies that are best prepared for any hiccups will be in the best position to thrive.”

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