Resource

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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN THE OPERATION OF LEGAL DEPARTMENTS

By Gustavo Carmona

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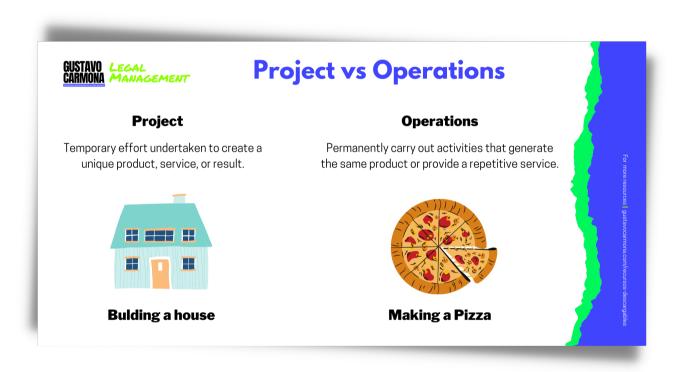
Objective

Understand the importance of legal project management as a value generator for the operation of legal departments.

Understanding the importance of **Legal Project Management in the** operation of Legal Departments.

Introduction

When I teach Project Management training, which is something I am passionate about, I always include a section explaining the difference between operations or operational work and a project. And I put this example.



This image shows a clear example of each case, however, there is a detail: in the case of pizza, the operational work involves the production of pizzas in large quantities for later sale. But the preparation of a pizza individually, that is, the activity of preparing the dough, placing the sauce and spreading the cheese, constitutes a project.

So the main difference between operational work and a project is simple: one is continuous and repetitive and the other is temporary.

The projects are part of the operating environment of a legal department so they are not parallel but one is part of the other. In this case, project management is part of legal operations, as shown in the CLOC competency model.







Legal Project Management vs the other competencies in the CLOC model

The **CLOC** competency model includes all the operational areas of a legal department. In my opinion, for there to be true added value, each of these operational areas must operate together and in harmony. However, some are more important than others, and Legal Project Management is one of those that add the greatest value to the operating environment.

Let's see some benefits of the LPM implementation and why I think it adds more value than others:

- Promotes continuous improvement of processes
- Produces cost reduction
- Help with operational control
- Helps to identify and respond to risks
- Development of realistic schedules = matters resolved on time
- Development of realistic budgets = the client is charged what was planned.
- · Real-time monitoring of legal matters
- Technological support tools
- Implementation of quality and performance measures
- Improve communication with the client
- Improve service quality
- Lawyers with new skills
- And of course, more income

WOW, there are quite a few benefits of Legal Project Management within the framework of Legal Operations.

With this, I do not want to reduce the importance of the other competencies of the **CLOC model**, but I do want to emphasize that if we support the project management function with the other operational functions, it will achieve what every legal department seeks: operational excellence.

CLOC stands for: Corporate Legal Operations Consortium.





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About me

My name is Gustavo Carmona and I am a consultant and instructor in project management, process improvement, marketing, sales, legal operations and digital transformation for law firms and legal departments.

My job is to help law firms achieve operational excellence through project management, process improvement, change management, and digital transformation.

