

The Under-Resourced DGC:

Navigating Bigger Burdens with Smaller Budgets

The role of the DGC is a universally important one to enterprise legal departments. Axiom set out to examine the unique perspective of 200 DGCs at companies with \$5M+ revenue. Axiom's 2023 Deputy General Counsel Survey Report uncovers **how DGCs are addressing legal department resourcing** amid budgetary constraints and anticipated hiring freezes.

What did our survey reveal? **Being a DGC is hard.**



DGCs Are Struggling: A Parallel Crisis of Budget Cuts and Increasing Workloads

DOING MORE WITH LESS

99%

of DGCs report increasing volume and complexity of legal matters

BUT...

98%

say their budget has been cut because of the economy

AS A RESULT...

92%

of DGCs say the legal department is under-resourced and can't do its job effectively



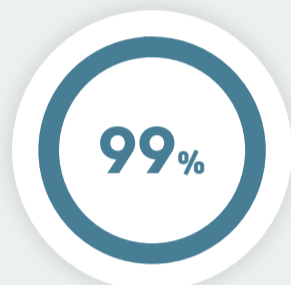
say spending too much time on administrative tasks including managing external law firms is at the core of their issues

WHY CAN'T THE LEGAL TEAM DO ITS JOB EFFECTIVELY?

DGCs SAY THERE ARE 5 CORE ISSUES:

- 1 Too much time spent managing law firms
- 2 Lack of appropriate technology and processes
- 3 Burden of on administrative tasks
- 4 The team doesn't have the right legal expertise
- 5 The department doesn't have the right bandwidth/structure

The Deputy's Chief Problem? Lack of Expertise



of DGCs also say they have a shortage of specific expertise in their departments

CURRENT IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE DEFICITS:



DGCs Say Expertise and Bandwidth Are Problems Hiring Can't Solve. Why?

94% say it's likely their legal department will experience a headcount freeze because of economic volatility

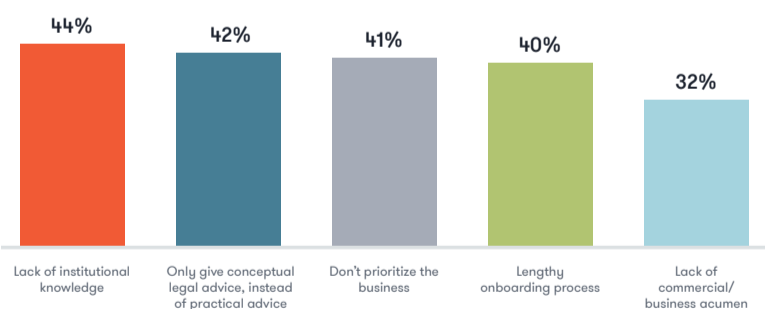
Even if they could hire, **every DGC (100%)** says finding the right attorneys is difficult (**37% say** it's very or extremely difficult)

TOP 5 REASONS DGCs SAY HIRING MORE IN-HOUSE HELP IS NOT THE RIGHT SOLUTION TO FIX THEIR RESOURCING CHALLENGES:



They Also Say Law Firms Are the Wrong Solution to Most Resourcing Challenges

TOP 5 REASONS WHY LAW FIRMS AREN'T EFFECTIVE:



ONLY 47%

say law firms are an effective solution to resourcing challenges

56%

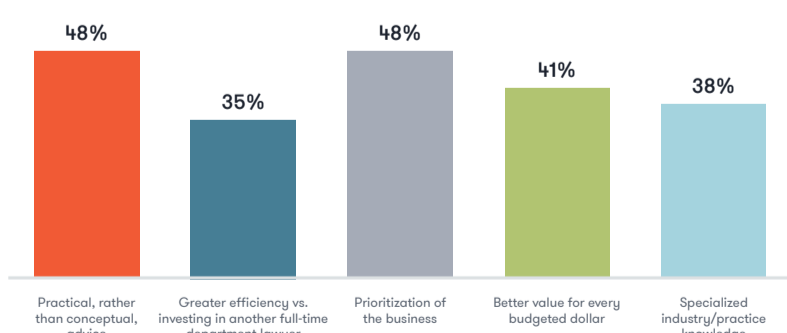
also call law firms too expensive and too difficult to manage

A More Modern Approach: DGCs Crave Flexibility



of DGCs say **flexible talent providers** are an effective solution to resourcing challenges

IN FACT, 100% OF DGCs CITE ADVANTAGES TO FLEXIBLE TALENT PROVIDERS, INCLUDING:



WHAT'S A DGC TO DO?

One answer is to turn to flexible talent. It's an idea embraced by the current crop of DGCs who see flexible talent providers as a smart solution to current challenges. In an era of shrinking budgets and rising law firm rates, flexible talent can help DGCs better navigate economic volatility, while getting more value from every budgeted dollar.

The bottom line? If your legal department is facing staffing challenges, bandwidth issues, or headcount freezes, now is the time to **engage an experienced Axiom lawyer**. Thanks to our Access Legal Talent platform, you can receive and review instant talent matches and **view Axiom lawyer bios filtered by industry, practice area, location and more**. [Browse our legal talent](#) and get started!