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WHAT'S KEEPING IN-HOUSE LAWYERS AWAKE AT NIGHT

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In-house lawyers are kept awake at night by the rise of global data, increasing regulatory change and cost pressures as well as an ever-growing workload. That's according to the managing director of legal outsourcing firm Plexus, Andrew Mellett, after his firm hosted a high-level in-house legal thought leadership discussion. "The transformation of the legal industry is their number one concern," he says. "After that it's about technology and how to use it to improve work flow." The growth of corporate data was of particular concern, with in-house lawyers noting the more data there is, the bigger a job search and discovery will be. They were also concerned about the storage of data and the implications of storing data overseas.

The get-together was attended by Simon Brooks at Telstra, Jenny Rees at Optus, Michael Jackson at Thales Group, Sean Ventris at CSR, Andrew Harding at Macquarie Group, Nevenka Codevelle at APA Group, Rachel Besley at Deloitte and Grant Smallhorn at Parsons Brinkerhoff. "It's pretty rare for general counsel to get together to talk about functional issues," Mellett says. One of the top five concerns of the group was over-stretched resources. "The general counsel ... suggested the workload would only increase."

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