

Corporate Counsel Project Growth In-House

In-House News:

Corporate Counsel Project Growth In-House

By Patricia Lee, GCC

In March 2007, the Association of Corporate Counsel and Lexis-Nexis released the results of its 2006 Census of In-house Counsel. This study provides detailed information regarding U.S. Corporation's professional demographics, their organizational background and a snapshot into their respective legal department structure.

Some of the data is very similar to prior years. For example, in Associate of Corporate Counsel's press release concerning their findings, they report, "Similar to 2004, nearly two-thirds of in-house respondents are male and 89% are Caucasian and that the "majority of in-house counsel work over 40 hours per week."

There are a few differences this year than in previously reported studies. Importantly, there is an increase in the number of in-house corporate counsel who believe that the number of attorneys in their law departments will increase in the future. In 2005, 27% thought that the number of attorneys in their law departments would increase, but more recently, in 2006, 31% of in-house corporate counsel reporting thought that attorney numbers will increase. Second, attorneys in-house are slightly older than previous the previous year, with the average age at 45.6. The median age of lawyers in the United States, as reported by the ABA for the year 2000, was 45 years old.

The ACC census also provides details of law department compensation, corporate profiles, legal research staffing and budgets and general counsel reporting lines.