LegalVIEW® Insights: Controlling legal spend despite volatility

In the second volume of our LegalVIEW Insights report series, our analysis revealed the volatility of total legal department spend, but also showed that some corporate legal departments have kept their total costs down while industry-wide law firm rates have risen. The following are key insights from the report.

Almost a third of legal departments’ spend varied by 90%

From 2016-2020 total legal spend across all legal departments shows no consistent increase or decrease, but a varying pattern of spend going up and down – often in very significant amounts.

Variation between highest and lowest annual spend 2016-2020

Many organizations have kept their spend flat for up to 3 years at a time

Even while outside counsel rates have risen, a significant number of organizations have shown that it is possible to hold spend down over a few years.

Percentage of organizations holding spend flat in 2020

Much of the variation between 2019 and 2020 was favorable

62% of legal departments reduced their total spend between 2019 and 2020. Some variation was likely a result of the pandemic. At some companies, business slowed and required less legal spend. At others, novel legal issues required more legal advice.

To read the full analysis, including more information on how organizations control their legal spend, download the eBook, LegalVIEW® Insights Volume 2: Corporate Legal Department Spend Analysis.