



For Immediate Release

ACC to Help Launch Industry-Wide Survey on Performance-Related Metrics for Better Benchmarking

Los Angeles, CA – September 24, 2005 – Responding to the surge in interest among corporate law departments for better metrics data for benchmarking purposes, the Open Legal Standards Panel, in partnership with the Association of Corporate Counsel and The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc., will launch a comprehensive study of performance-focused metrics in January 2006.

“This Performance Metrics and Benchmarking Survey (Survey) addresses a significant gap in metrics data collected and used in the legal industry and focuses on surveying metrics that measure relevant performance standards,” says Nena W. Wong, CEO of The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc. (CLS), the company that spearheaded the Open Legal Standards Initiative.

The Survey will focus on metrics related to cost-effectiveness, staff productivity, process efficiency and cycle time instead of demographics metrics or “state of the law department” data. The goal is to promote the use of these metrics to drive the desired increases in quality, productivity and efficiency that law departments are increasingly interested in seeking.

“Members of our Law Department Management Committee were highly supportive of this industry-wide initiative,” says Julienne Bramesco, Director of Legal Resources at the Association of Corporate Counsel. “We see this survey as an important part of responding to our membership’s desire for more business management information,” adds Bramesco.

The Open Legal Standards Initiative is an effort to develop the first ever uniform classification system of legal business processes and metrics, with the assistance of the APQC (www.apqc.org) and the Open Legal Standards Panel, an industry panel comprised of leaders in the legal community. Working with CLS, these two entities are tasked with leading the effort to create this classification system in order to allow for more organized dialogue on best workflow practices, to encourage the development of best practices for the identified processes, and to develop consistent methodologies for the identified metrics.

“The high level of interest in this project that we have witnessed seems to confirm our belief that corporate law departments seek benchmarking data for guidance as to how they might approach various management tasks,” says Steve Lauer, Chair of the Open Legal Standards Panel.

The Open Legal Standards Panel will develop separate business process and metrics classification systems for: (1) corporate law departments; (2) government law departments (federal, state, county and local); and (3) law firms. The work of the Panel and APQC will result in surveys and reports to be distributed to law departments and to the legal community in general.

The Survey will include a broad list of metrics designed to measure the group of business processes that corporate law departments engage in – as identified through the work of the Open Legal Standards Panel.

“The Survey presents an in-depth look at how corporate legal departments manage their activities and measure performance,” says Flinn Flexer, VP of Strategy and Business Development at CLS, and head of the survey implementation efforts. “Sufficient data will be collected so that participants can see how they compare against a global sample, as well as peers, based on number of employees, revenues, law department size, industry and other relevant factors,” adds Flexer.

The Survey will be distributed online, in hard copy, and through a variety of distribution partnerships with various legal industry organizations. For more information about the survey initiative, please contact Flinn

Flexer, CLS's VP of Strategy and Business Development, at 888-CLS-7150, or at fflexer@corplegalstandard.com.

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The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc.

The Corporate Legal Standard, Inc. (CLS) seeks to create the industry standard in corporate and government law department practice by combining best practices in business process improvement, content and technology to enhance efficiencies and productivity as well as to promote consistent work quality. CLS's patent-pending Agenda™ System is the industry's first total collaboration and Productivity Operating System™ that offers a pre-configured portal/extranet/intranet/knowledge management/business process workflow improvement system. For more information about CLS, visit www.corplegalstandard.com or call 888.CLS.7150.

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