# Fostering a Knowledge-Based In-House Environment

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Introduction
Questions
Hurdles
How to "foster"
Role of technology

What's your position? a) General Counsel b) Assistant General Counsel c) Attorney in law firm d) IT e) Staff attorney f) Office Administrator g) Other

 How many attorneys in your organization? a) <10 b) >9 <25 c) >24 <50 d) >50 <100 e) 100+

#### How many offices?

- $-\!<\!4$
- -<10
- -<20 ->20

Why are you here? a) To get out of the office b) To get CLE credit c) To figure out what "Knowledge Management" really is d) To find THE software that will solve all your problems e) To collaborate with others on how to make better use of your department's collective wisdom

- What is "knowledge" in your department?
  - a) Legal stuff
  - b) Potter Stewart
  - c) Industry knowledge
  - d) Historical deals
  - e) Documents & Data
  - f) How to do things
  - g) People you know

h) Power

# "Knowledge"

#### Defined

 - "Shared written and unwritten information and wisdom that is useful to others in delivering legal services more efficiently and effectively"

 By this definition, unshared information and wisdom are not "knowledge"

# **Top Hurdles**

#### Attorney characteristics

- Independent operators
- Ego
- Not necessarily process-oriented
- Resistant to change
- Critical
- Admit mistakes?
- Knowledge = Power

#### Trust

- ♦ Time
- Nomenclature

### How to Foster?

 Search your soul - Why am I doing this? -What's my vision? - How long and how hard am I willing to work on it? Management of Change Think in new ways

Management of Change Eight Steps (Leading Change, J. Kotter) -Create Sense of Urgency -Build Coalition -Create Vision -Communicate Vision - Empower action -Generate short term wins -Understand timeline -Anchor















