

Legal Spend & Outside Counsel Management

Track legal spend, manage outside counsel, and optimize costs with real-time visibility and financial control.

Specification

SKU	BUS-LEG-SPD
Solution area	Business Operations
Works with	Legal Matter Management, Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM), Vendor & Supplier Management, Finance & Administration
Updated	Sep 26, 2026
Datasheet	v1.0

What it is

Legal Spend & Outside Counsel Management is the process of tracking legal expenses, managing budgets, and overseeing external legal vendors such as law firms. It ensures that legal costs are controlled, visible, and aligned with business objectives.

SmartSuite's Legal Spend & Outside Counsel Management solution provides a structured, scalable system to manage legal budgets, track spend, and oversee relationships with external law firms and vendors. It enables organizations to move from fragmented invoice tracking and manual reporting to a centralized, data-driven legal financial system.

With a centralized system of record, legal and finance teams gain full visibility into where money is being spent, who is spending it, and how it aligns with organizational priorities.

Core capabilities

Legal Budget & Forecast Management

Plan and track legal spending across matters and departments.

Invoice Tracking & Management

Capture and manage invoices from outside counsel.

Matter-Level Cost Tracking

Link spend directly to legal matters and activities.

Outside Counsel Performance Analysis

Evaluate law firms and vendors based on cost and effectiveness.

Vendor Spend Visibility

Track spend across vendors and service providers.

Approval Workflows for Legal Spend

Manage invoice approvals and budget controls.

Financial Integration with Procurement & Finance

Align legal spend with organizational financial systems.

Audit Trails & Documentation

Maintain traceability for financial and compliance purposes.

Real-Time Dashboards & Reporting

Monitor spend trends, budgets, and performance.

The Legal Spend Lifecycle

Step 1 Define Budget & Forecast Establish legal budgets and expected spend.	Step 2 Track Legal Activity & Costs Capture spend across matters and vendors.	Step 3 Review & Approve Invoices Manage approval workflows and controls.	Step 4 Analyze Spend & Vendor Performance Identify trends and opportunities.	Step 5 Optimize and Adjust Strategy Refine legal spend strategy based on insights, performance, and changing business needs.
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Who it is for

General Counsel / Legal Leadership Monitor legal spend and vendor performance.	Legal Operations Teams Manage budgets, invoices, and reporting.	Finance Teams Align legal spend with financial planning.
Procurement Teams Track vendor costs and contracts.	Outside Counsel Managers Evaluate law firm performance.	Executives (CFO, COO)

Works with

Legal Matter Management Tracks cost at the matter level.	Contract Lifecycle Management (CLM) Aligns spend with agreements.
Vendor & Supplier Management Manages outside counsel and vendors.	Finance & Administration Aligns with financial reporting and budgets.

Built differently. Legal Spend & Outside Counsel Management runs on the same relational platform as every other SmartSuite product, so its records link to the risks, controls, issues and evidence they affect, and every report reflects the current state rather than a copy.

See it working with your data

Ask your SmartSuite account team for a demo of Legal Spend & Outside Counsel Management configured for your organization, or read the full product entry at smartsuite.com/products/legal-spend-outside-counsel-management.

Schedule a demo