The author of Law Firm Re-creation: Managing law firms is about people and motivation

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Author / Xia Lingxuan Source / Zhizhi

What is the nature of law firm management? What problems are often overlooked by law firm leaders? With these questions in question, we interviewed Professor Jaap Bosman, CEO of TGO Legal Consulting and author of the best-selling book Re-Engineering.

Mr. Pan shared with us his opportunities to work in law firm management consulting, his practice experience, and, based on his experience as a managing partner of a leading Dutch law firm over the past decade, provided unique insights on the topic of "How to develop the leadership of lawyers" in his book Re-creation of a Law Firm.

The full interview is as follows:



What is the opportunity for you to decide to devote yourself to the leadership and management of research law firms?

That's what I'm interested in. My previous experience at the company, as well as my experience at the firm, has allowed me to see that many key issues in the management of the firm have been overlooked, so I hope that through some of my innovative ideas, I can provide enforceable solutions to the problems faced by the management of the firm.

First of all, it needs to be clear that psychology and motivation to understand human behavior are two very important aspects of organizational management. To let the law firm run, you need to understand the rules of the firm's business operations, but it's not complicated. I think commercial success accounts for only 30% of the success of law firms, and the remaining 70% is entirely determined by how the firm manages them properly.

So law firm management means not just managing the person's work, but also thinking about how to influence and motivate him. Unfortunately, the importance of this part is greatly underestimated, and the manager of the law firm pays too much attention to the acquisition of business results, but if you do not understand the psychology of your members, do not understand his motivation to be a lawyer, the difficulties he may encounter in the career trajectory of lawyers and his expectations, the management of the law firm can not be said to have a basis for success.

The key to managing a law firm is how to manage people, which is an art.



What do you think is the most difficult part of managing a lawyer, or more precisely, in the process of managing a lawyer?

It's a complicated topic because every lawyer in the law firm, they're in a different grade, so their mental state is very different. But in general, lawyers are generally more argumentable and hard to convince, and if you make a point, they'll make more arguments about it.

This means that you can't manage a lawyer in a situation similar to "negotiating" with a client, you need to focus extremely on the point of issue you want to discuss and try to control the situation in which both parties get caught up in your arguments. At the same time, the ultimate motivation behind a deep-seated dig at a lawyer's behavior - perhaps a desire to be promoted, a dissatisfaction with his current job, or a career-planning confusion.

So managing a law firm is a labor-intensive thing, and you need to understand the motivations behind different grades of lawyers' claims and focus on those motivations to solve problems.

I once met a law firm that had problems preparing to dismiss a poor-performing partner. The dismissed man, upon learning that he was about to be dismissed, did not cooperate with any work at all and resisted violently. If you don't figure out why he's so emotional, you might think he's making a fuss.

The truth is that the partner, who has devoted his life to the law firm, is anxious about his poor performance in old age, and is afraid that he will be abandoned and useless; These reasons led him to resist the decision to be dismissed so much. You see, if you don't understand the motivations behind your actions, you'll never get to the point where you're going to solve the problem.



How do you collect and arrange the contents and cases in your book Law Firm Re-creation?

I've been in a management position at the law firm for decades, and I've accumulated a lot of experience and cases in the process. Before becoming a lawyer, I worked for a time as a business executive for an advertising ad company, and the experience tess per se understood how to think differently from a client's perspective about what products they wanted, and from an opponent's point of view about what they would do, and combine that information to motivate my members.

Therefore, digging deep and understanding the deep motivation behind each person's behavior has become my professional habit, and has been with me as a lawyer. But I have found that in law firms, paying attention to and focusing on the motivations behind the actors is something that few people know, or even know, are rarely put into practice.



How do you summarize the concept of "law firm leadership" and what are the key factors in wanting to lead a law firm?

There's a lot to talk about. The problem is actually very complex, and the first thing you need to understand is that when we're talking about managing partners at a law firm, we default to them as leaders, but in many cases that's not the case. Leaders and experts with leadership, there are some differences. Experts with influence and leadership are the ones who can really influence the operation and development of the firm.

So before we talk about law firm leadership, we need to be clear about who can be a leader, or who is the real decision maker. From

my personal point of view, the advice on how to successfully become a leader/decision maker is:

First, focus on the problems faced by law firm management and streamline and corred the problems. Everyone, especially team managers, has limited energy and too many priorities for themselves that not only reduce efficiency, but can also be caught up in repeated decision-making with no tangible results.

So leaders must learn to focus on the top priority issues at the moment, list 3-5, and then build logical relationships on those issues so that they can corred with each other so that they can be executed with a greater sense of direction and hierarchy when thinking about future planning.

Determination and patience. As a leader, in addition to the determination to implement change, but also to endure. Generally speaking, a new set of strategic planning will take about three years to come to fruita, Chemo in the process of eager to achieve lost patience, the country needs five years of planning!

Third, vigorously train outstanding members. What law firms need to understand is that effective management must be about putting time on the things that produce the most output. So what is the best outcome for a law firm? It's business ability, or revenue-generating capacity. In China, where the legal market is still vast and opportunities are high, the firm's internal management must focus on tapping and developing the most revenue-generating business people.



As a good partner of Chinese lawyers, what advice do you have on how to manage and develop Chinese law firms in the long term? China's legal market has only been in development for more than 40 years. During this time, the founding partners of the law firms started from their own hands and have made a first-of-its-kind performance, which is respectable. But founding partners need to understand that the path to success in the past cannot be replicated, that planning the path to future development is the point, that where we reach now is not important, it is important to think about where we need to go in the future.

Therefore, as a leader, future success requires the addition of more innovative ideas, and the intergenerational problems of law firms need to be addressed even better — that's what I'm saying about the need to focus on the up—and—coming, to focus on and nurture them, and to develop the main force for the achievement of future goals. Of course, the most important thing is that with the determination and patience to put strategic planning into practice, in the process of continuous calibration, adjustment of the plan to meet the needs of different stages of development goals, I believe that continuous practice is the best way to test the theory.



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Foreign mentor

Scott Westfahl

Director of the Executive Education Program at Harvard Law School

哈佛大学法学院高管教育项目主任 (Director of HLS Executive Education) ,负责哈佛大学法学院高管教育项目的核心课程,为来自全球的律所管理者和公司法总提供高端定制化领导力课程。他的高管教育教学重点包括:领导力和团队协作、设计思维和创新、专业人员的激励和发展、促进法律组织的多样性和包容性,以及从人才发展角度看战略和组织变革等课题。

Westfahl教授曾在美国高赢律师事务所担任管理合伙人,也曾任职于麦肯锡华盛顿办公室逾6年,他是一位经验丰厚的专业机构管理顾问。

Peter Zeughauser

Zeughauser Group法律咨询公司首席合伙人 Irvine Company前高级副总裁

Peter Zeughauser先生是国际著名的专业机构战略管理咨询专家,能够从薪酬体系、公司治理、合伙结构、领导力开发等方面,为全球领先的律所管理层提供顾问意见。他曾为多家中国律师事务所提供过战略管理咨询服务。

Peter曾被美国《国家法律杂志》(The National Law Journal)评为50位"真正推动律师事务所业务方式变化"的法律业务开拓者和先锋者之一。

潘言博 教授 (Professor Jaap Bosman)

TGO法律咨询公司CEO

Jaap Bosman (潘言博教授)是TGO法律咨询公司CEO,TGO法律咨询公司是一家专门为大中型律师事务所提供咨询服务的机构,在法律界拥有超过十五年的工作经验,他也是畅销书《律所再造》的作者。他在两家荷兰领先的律师事务所担任全球战略和业务拓展部总监。

潘言博教授曾被2013年《金融时报》(Financial Times)授予首个最具创新能力的国际策略律师奖(Innovative Lawyers Award for International Strategy)。



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