

Toward a Leaner & Cleaner Practice: A Professional Responsibility to Innovate?

Adapting to a World That Wants A Better, Faster, Cheaper Legal Solution

NC Bar Center, Cary, NC Dec. 5, 2014

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Three analytical lens





1997 Dodge Caravan

2003 VW Passat

2014 Honda Accord

"All models are wrong, but some are useful."

-- George E. B. Box, Statistician

Two-Hemispheres Model

Heinz-Laumann "Two-Hemisphere" Theory

Growth driven by Population and ability to pay



Growth driven by business opportunity and complexity

1975

Heinz-Laumann "Two-Hemisphere" Theory

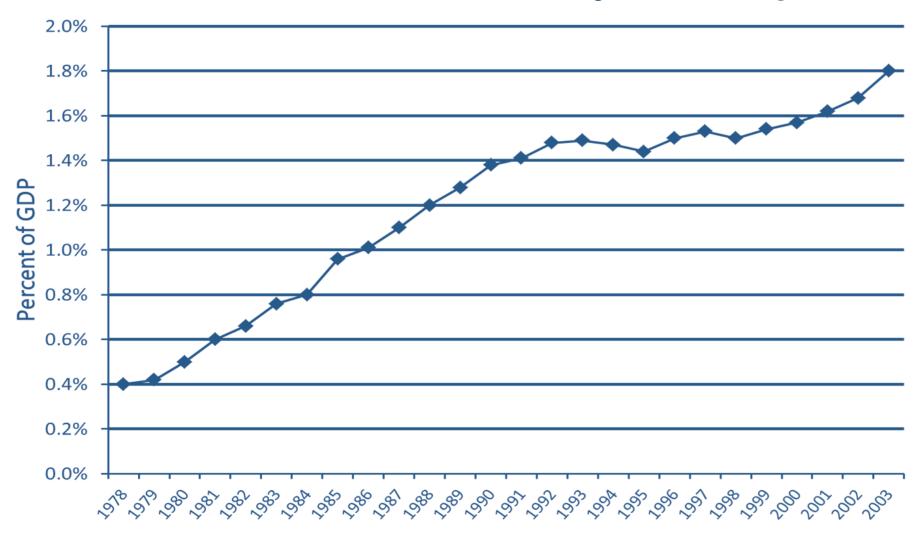
Growth driven by Population and ability to pay



Growth driven by business opportunity and complexity

1995

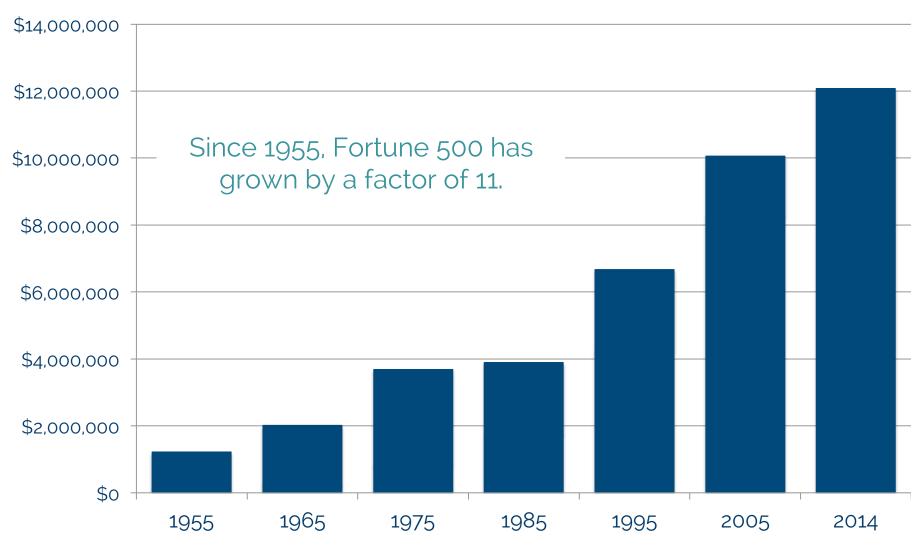
Expenditures on Legal Services as Percent of Gross Domestic Product, 1978 to 2003



Source: Marc Galanter, Planet of the APs, 53 Buff. L. Rev. (2006)

Fortune 500 Revenues

(inflation adjusted dollars, in millions)



Model 1: type of client

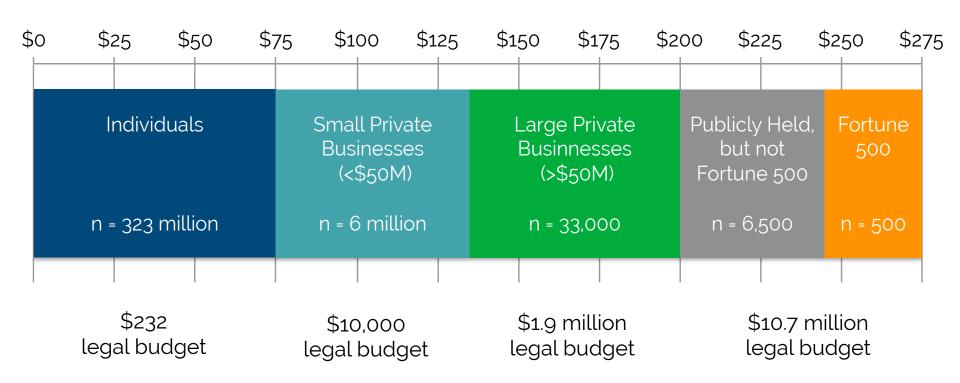
People

My clients are people and small businesses

Organizations

My clients are large organizations, often with a general counsel

Size of U.S. Legal Market



Model 1: type of client

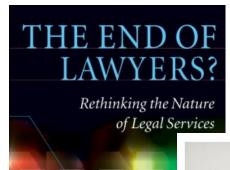
People

Unmet legal need, underemployed law graduates

Organizations

Wealthy clients complaining about cost

Five Stages of Legal Evolution



RICHAR SUSSKIN OXFORD

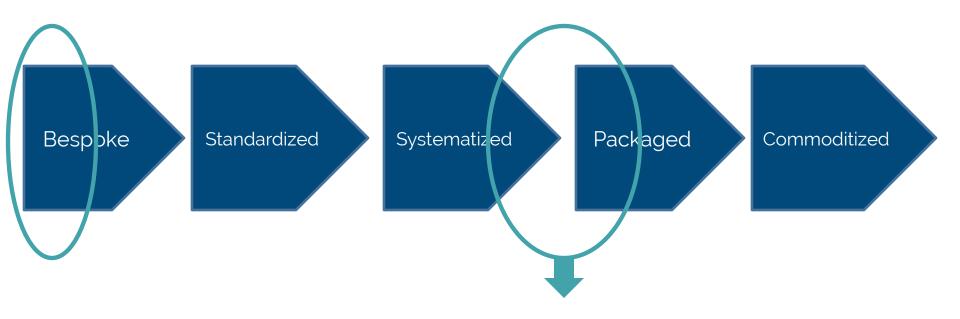
TOMORROW'S LAWYERS

An Introduction to Your Future

RICHARD SUSSKIND



Susskind's Five Stages of Evolution



Needed human capital:

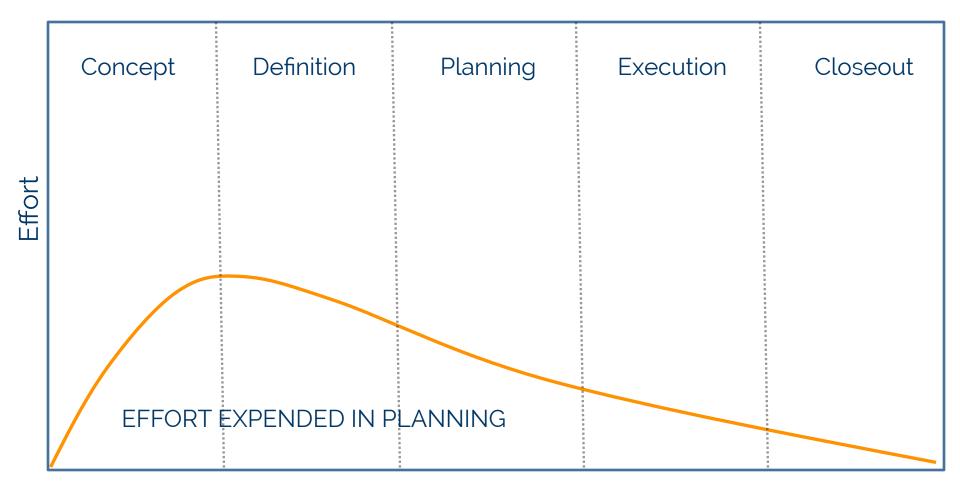
- Information technology
- Systems engineering
- Finance
- Marketing
- Project Management
- Law

Project Management vs. Project Improvement

A project is "... a temporary endeavor undertaken to produce a unique product, service, or result" PMBOK (2004).

Process improvement "is ... a series of actions ... to identify, analyze and improve existing business processes These actions often follow a specific methodology or strategy to increase the likelihood of successful results." Process Improvement: A Handbook for Managers (1996).

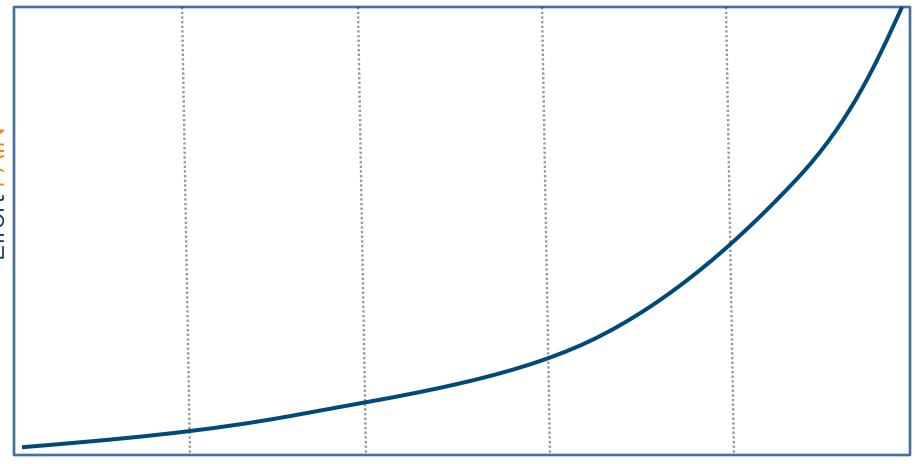
Project Life Cycle



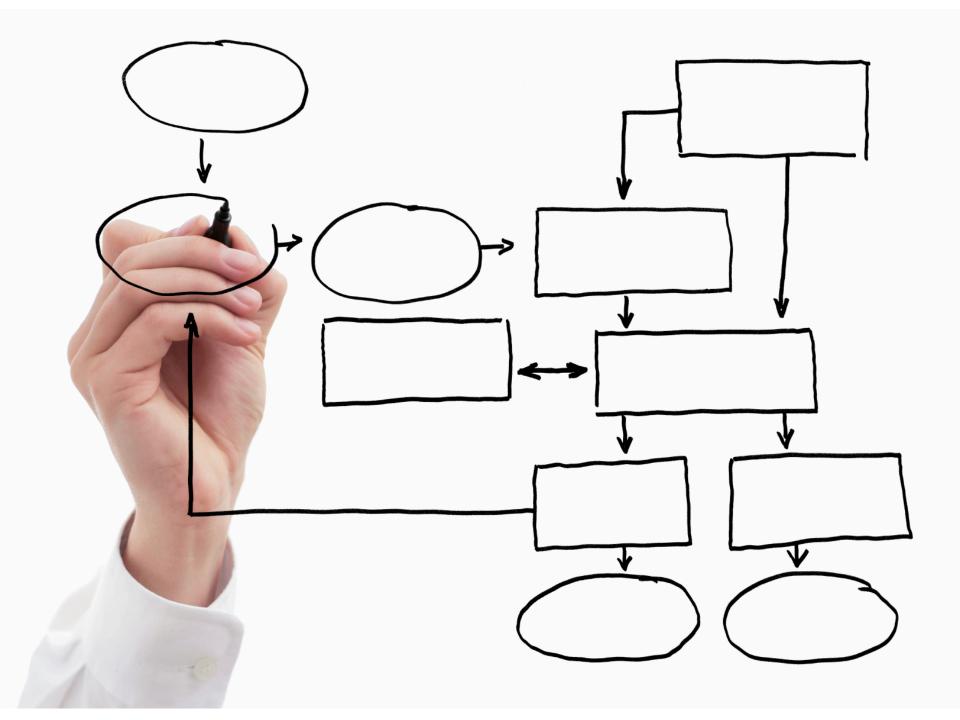
Time

Excerpted from James P. Lewis, Fundamentals of Project Management (3nd ed. 2007)

The <u>unplanned</u> project



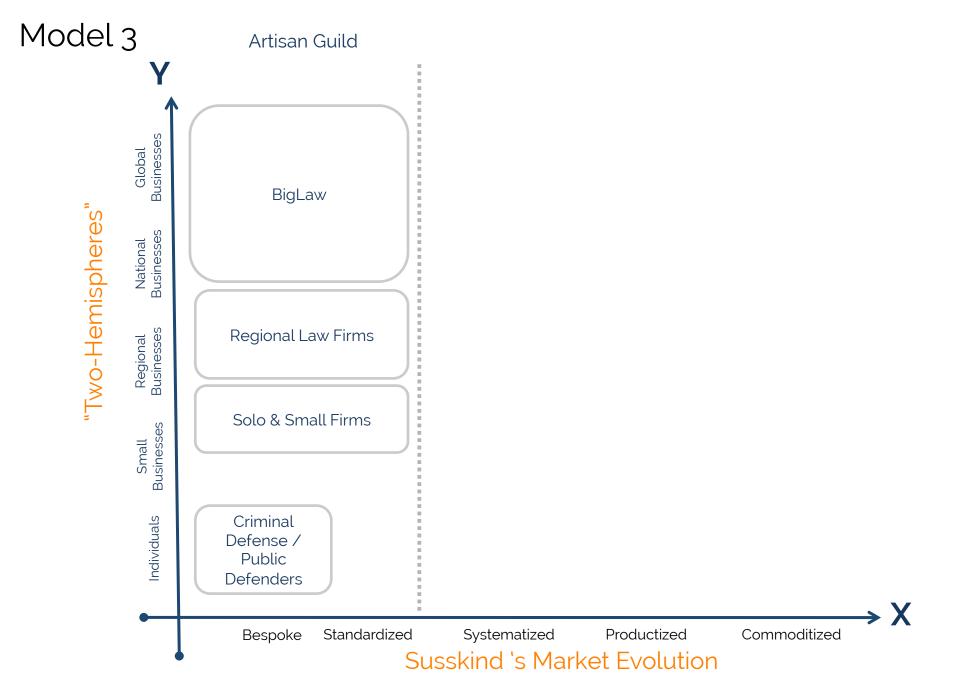
Time

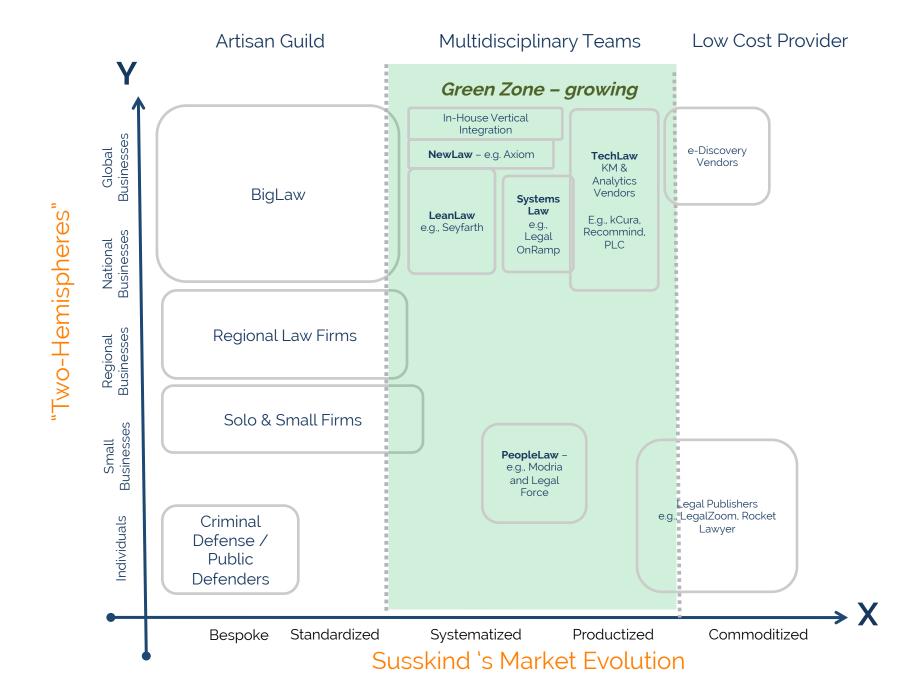


"You don't learn to process map, you process map to learn."

-- Myron Tribus

Emerging Ecosystem



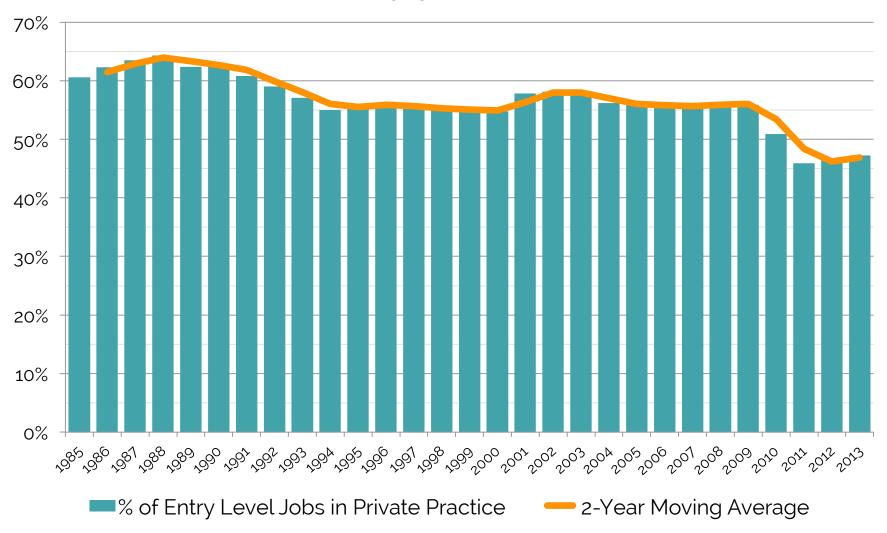


Implications

Three analytical lens

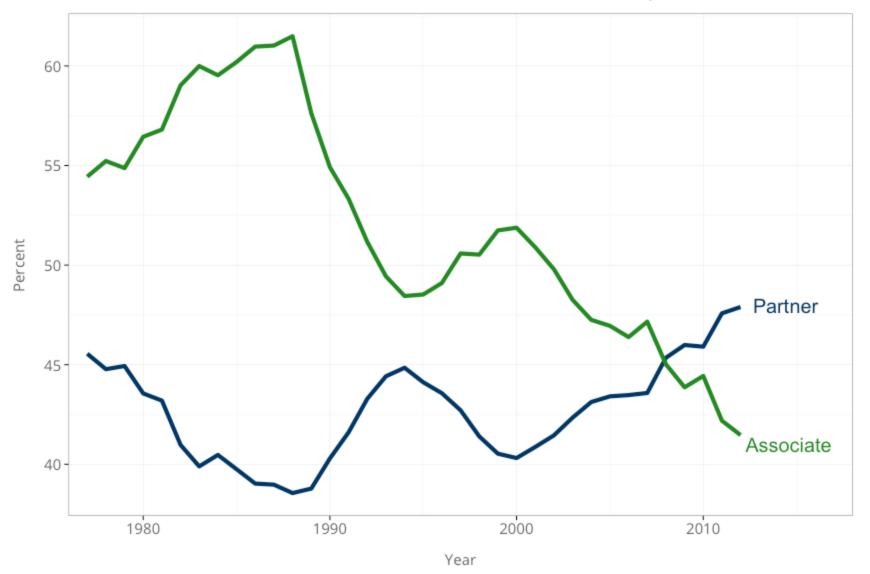


% of Entry Level Jobs in Private Practice 1985 to 2013

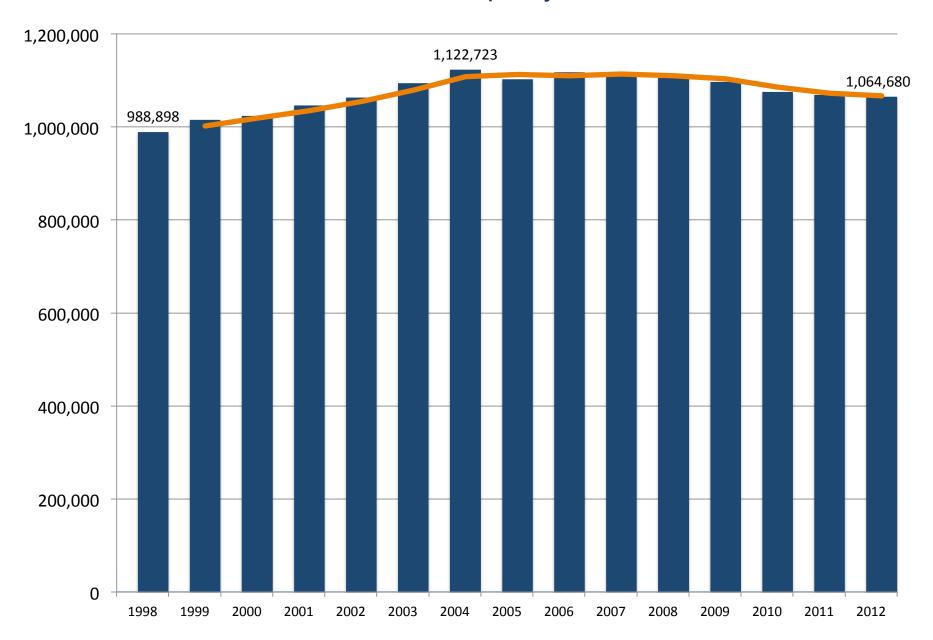


Source: NALP, charts generated by William Henderson

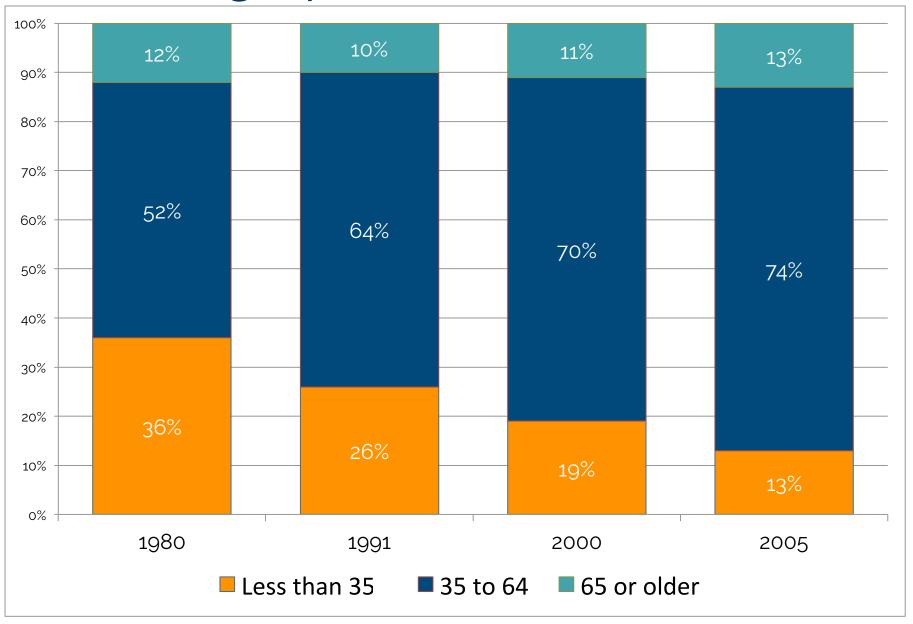
% Partners and Associates in the NLJ 250, 1977-2012



Total U.S. Law Firm Employment, 1998-2012



Demographics of Licensed Bar



Preamble to Model Rules

[6] We lawyers seek improvement in the law by ...

- acquiring knowledge
- engaging with the public
- acknowledging defects in the system
- and seeking changes in the public interest

Preamble to Model Rules

[9] In the nature of law practice conflicting responsibilities are encountered. Virtually all difficult ethical problems arise from conflict between a lawyer's responsibilities to clients, to the legal system and to the lawyer's own interest in remaining an ethical person while earning a satisfactory living.

Questions