Legal Project Management Fundamentals Practice Management © Therese Linton

October 2017



LEGAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT FUNDAMENTALS

Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Legal Outcomes with Legal Project Management (LPM) Therese Linton

October 2017 UD





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THERESE LINTON

Founder and Principal Consultant, The BASALT Group

- Therese Linton is Australia's leading expert in legal project management. She is a highly competent transformation professional with over 25 years' experience in strategy development, change management and program delivery in the IT, Banking and Finance, Telecommunications, Manufacturing and Legal sectors.
- Since 2013 she has been working with external law firms and in-house legal teams to introduce and embed Legal Project Management in order to better meet client expectations in terms of transparent and reliable delivery of legal outcomes. This work has expanded to include related disciplines such as Legal Portfolio Management, Legal Process Simplification, Legal Procurement and Pricing, Communications and Client Relationship Management.
- Therese has both practical and academic credentials which place her in a unique position within the legal project management market. With 7 years' experience as a Lecturer and Unit of Study Coordinator for Sydney University's prestigious Masters of Project Management and 2 years' lecturing for the College of Law's Masters of Inhouse Practice in multi-disciplinary project management. She also conducts regular continuing legal education workshops for various Law Societies and internal Learning & Development functions.
- Qualifications and certifications include a Bachelor of Commerce (Information Technology) with Merit, UNSW; Executive Masters Programme (Delivering Information Technology), Harvard Business School; Advanced Diploma of Project Management; Cert IV Training and Assessment; Six Sigma Black Belt; Certified Practicing Project Director (CPPD) AIPM.







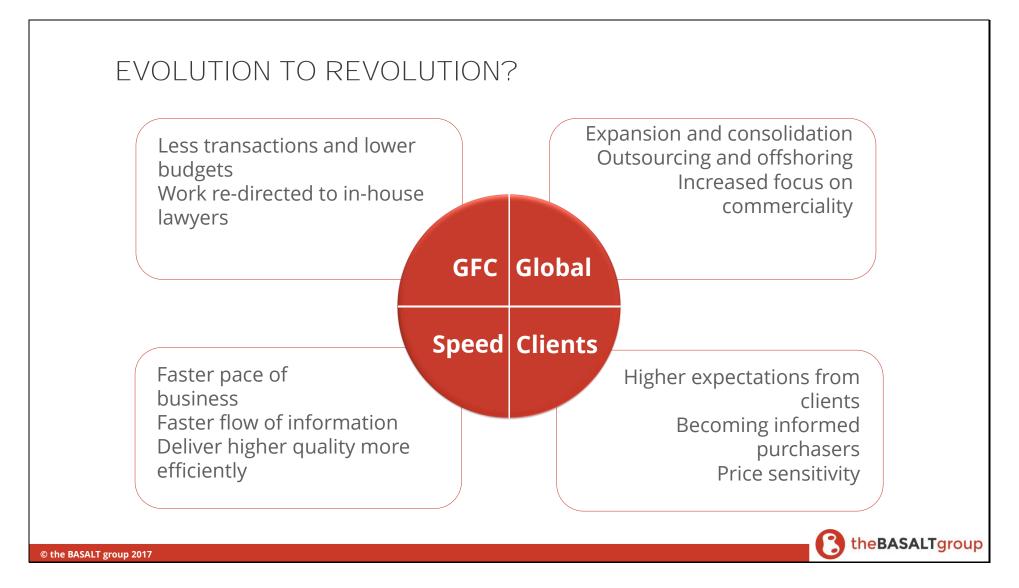
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

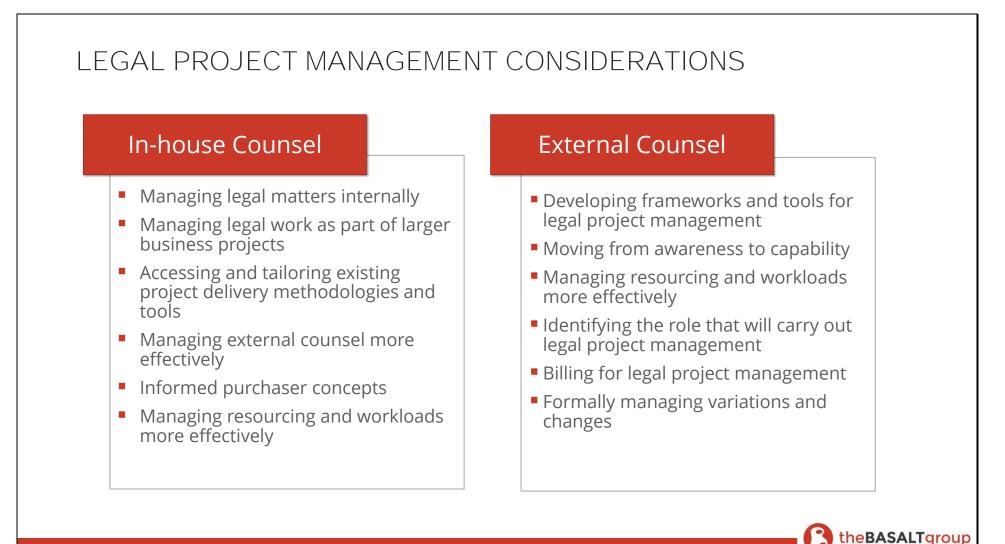
This session covers the foundation concepts of Legal Project Management and how these can be applied to improving the delivery of ALL legal matters. The focus will be on the Triple Constraint and the key concepts of Matter Scoping, Matter Scheduling and Matter Costing. The adoption of these simple tools and concepts has substantial benefits for in-house counsel, external firms and most importantly clients.

- ✓ INTRODUCE foundation legal project management concepts
- ✓ **UNDERSTAND** how project management applies to legal transactions
- ✓ APPLY key concepts to improve delivery on client expectations
- CONSIDER how to use the tools to manage variations
- ✓ INTRODUCE the foundations to get more out of your legal spend
- ✓ **ESTABLISH** frameworks to develop legal project precedents

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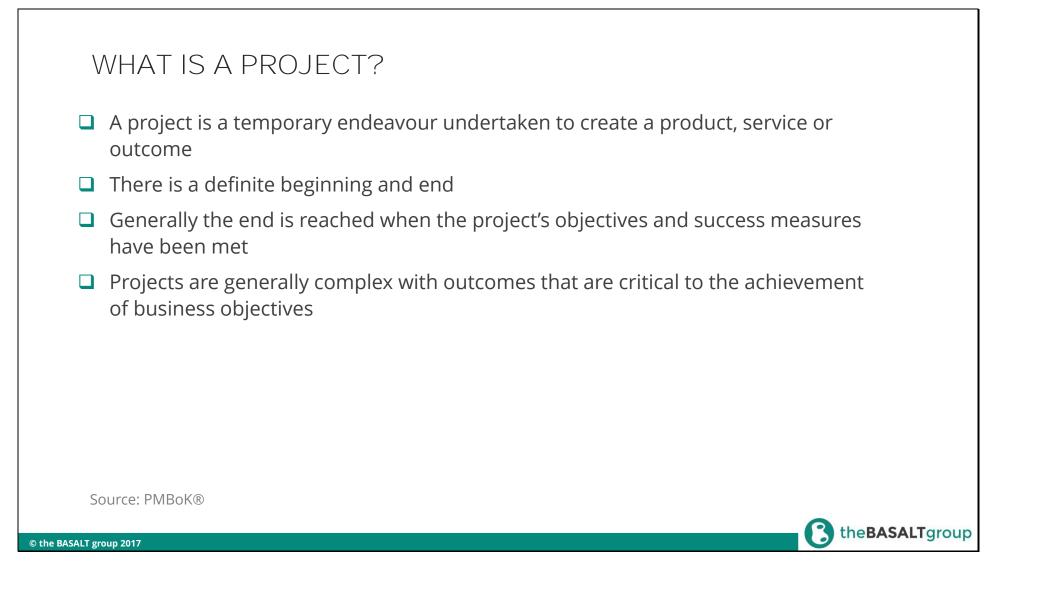
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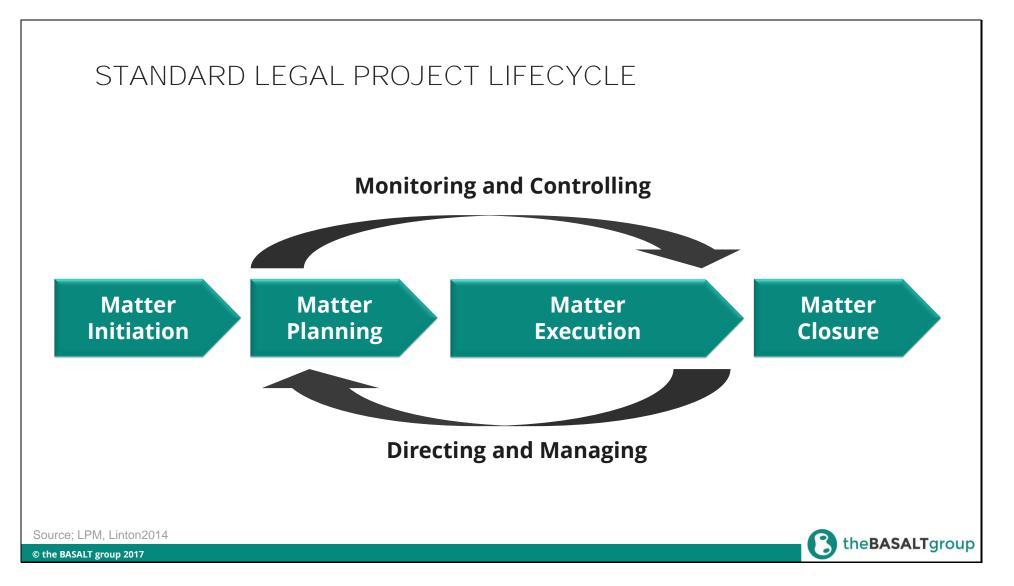
WHAT IS LEGAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT?



- An emerging discipline in the legal sector that utilises project management techniques and adapts these for application to the management of legal matters
- Practitioners of legal project management apply it to the process of providing legal services rather than to the substantive legal work itself
- It is becoming increasingly common, especially when faced with alternative fee arrangements or where there is a commitment to improving efficiency and client service

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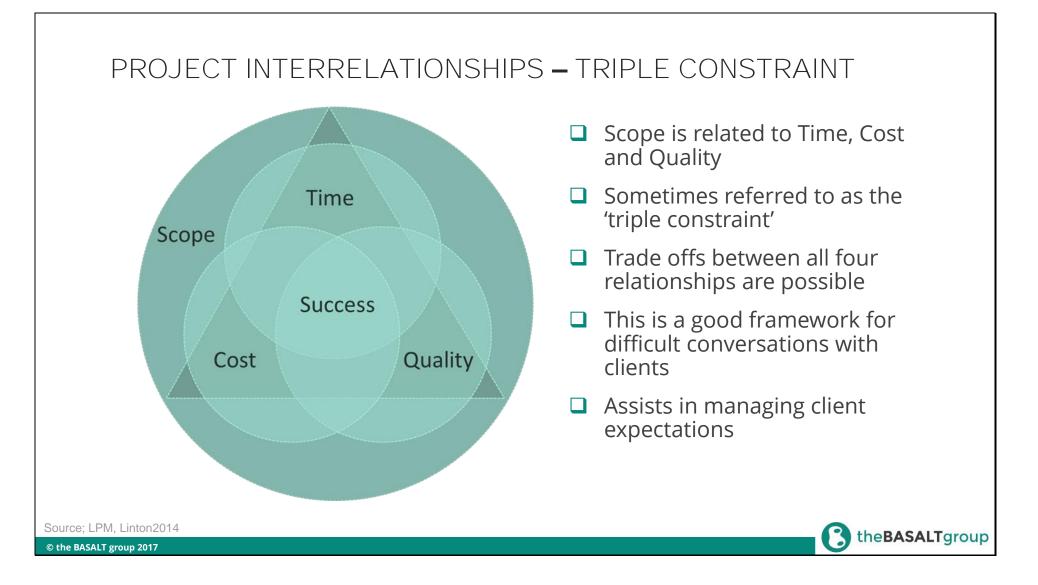
Scoping • Matter Structures and Overviews • Deliverables • Exclusions • Assumptions • External Factors • Constraints Besourcing & People	 Scheduling Matter Timeline Activities Effort vs Duration Matter Checklists Responsibility Assignments Progress to date Effective team leadership and people management
Management	Resource utilisation and the assignment of accountabilities and legal expertise
Stakeholder & Client Management	 Identifying stakeholders and understanding their objectives Managing client and stakeholder communication requirements
Monitoring & Controlling Source; LPM, Linton 2014 © the BASALT group 2017	 Assessing and reporting on schedule & budget progress Understanding risks and resolving issues Managing variations to control impacts on scope, time and cost theBASALTgroup

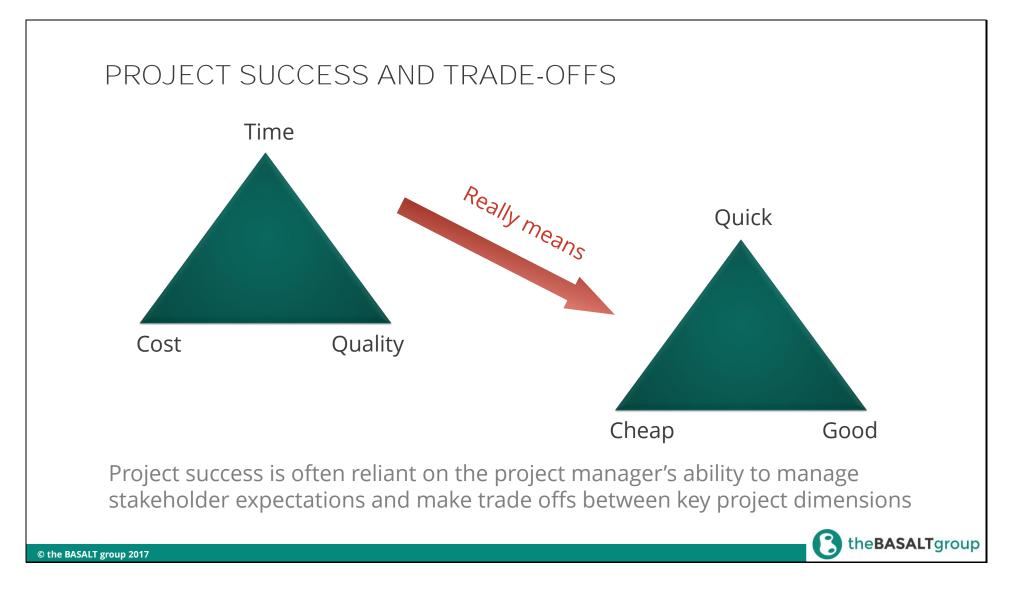
Discuss

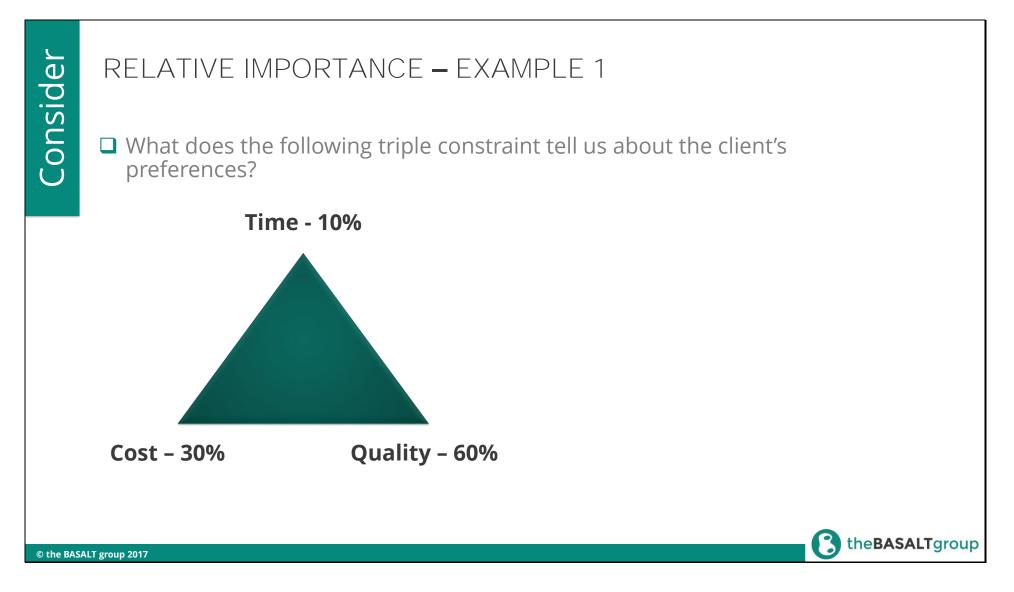
REFLECTION ACTIVITY - THE NATURE OF YOUR WORK

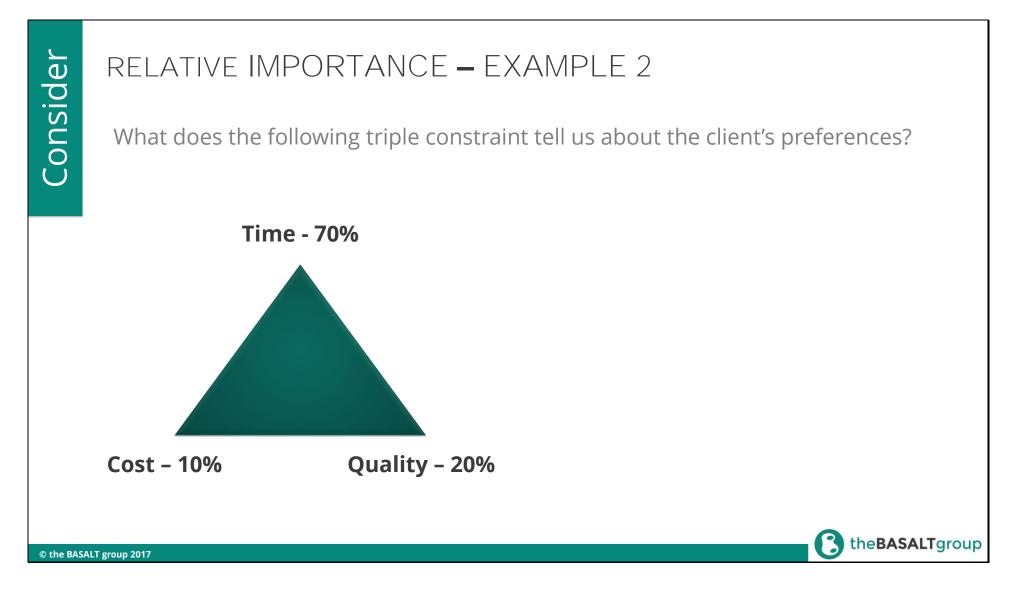
- 1. What sort of work is undertaken by your team?
- 2. Could this be run more effectively as discrete projects?
- 3. How many matters are assigned to each lawyer?
- 4. Do you contribute to the outcomes of organisational projects?
- 5. Are you satisfied with the delivery of external legal work?
- 6. Do you have internal project management methodologies that you could apply?



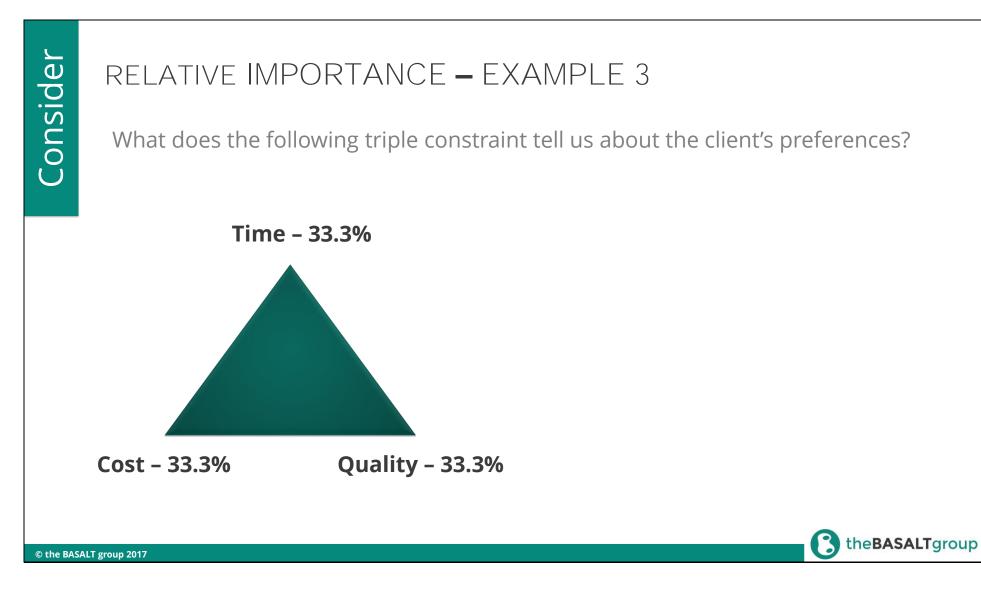








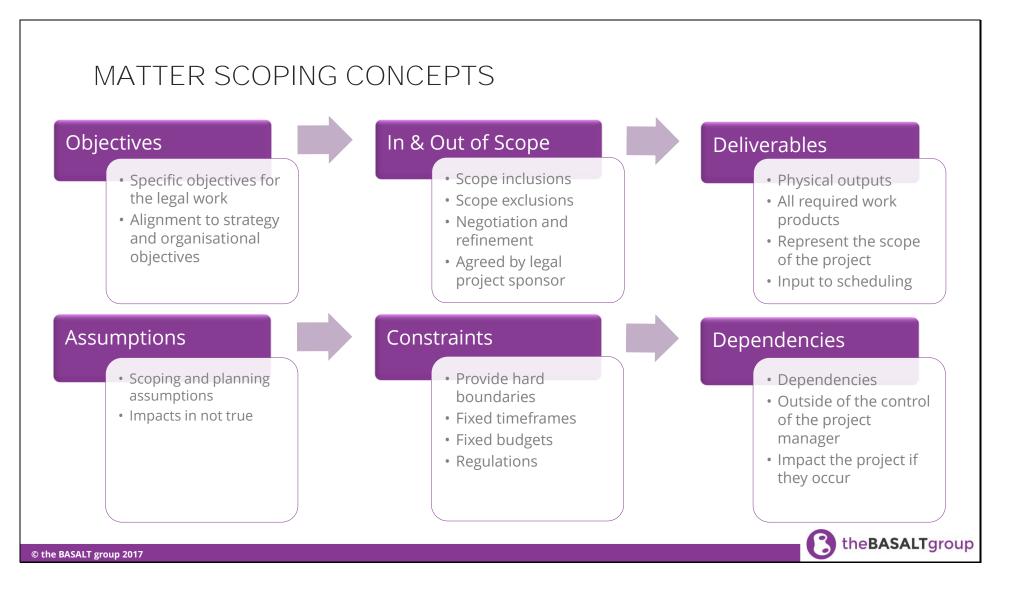
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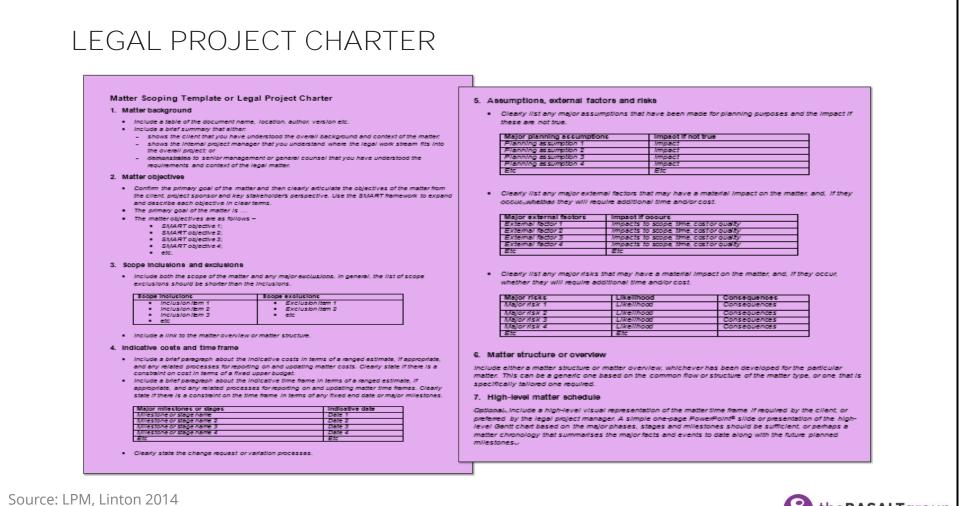
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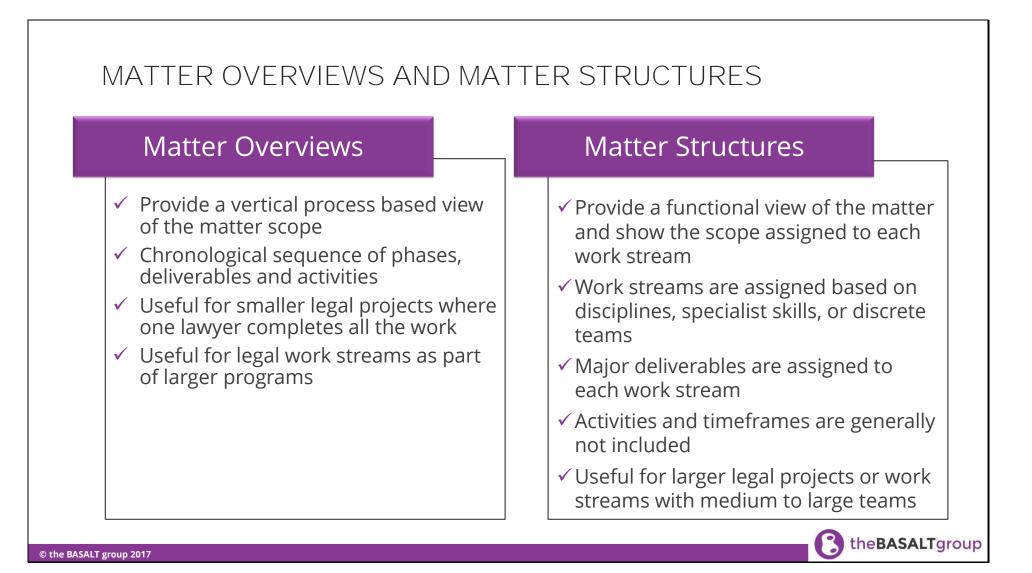
MATTER SCOPING BEST PRACTICE
Best practice in matter scoping requires the identification of all of the deliverables required for a matter in order to improve the accuracy of matter scheduling and subsequent work allocation
If the matter work starts before adequate scoping has been undertaken, the matter team will inevitably uncover additional scope items along the way. This will lead to additional effort, extra costs and potentially extend the time frame.
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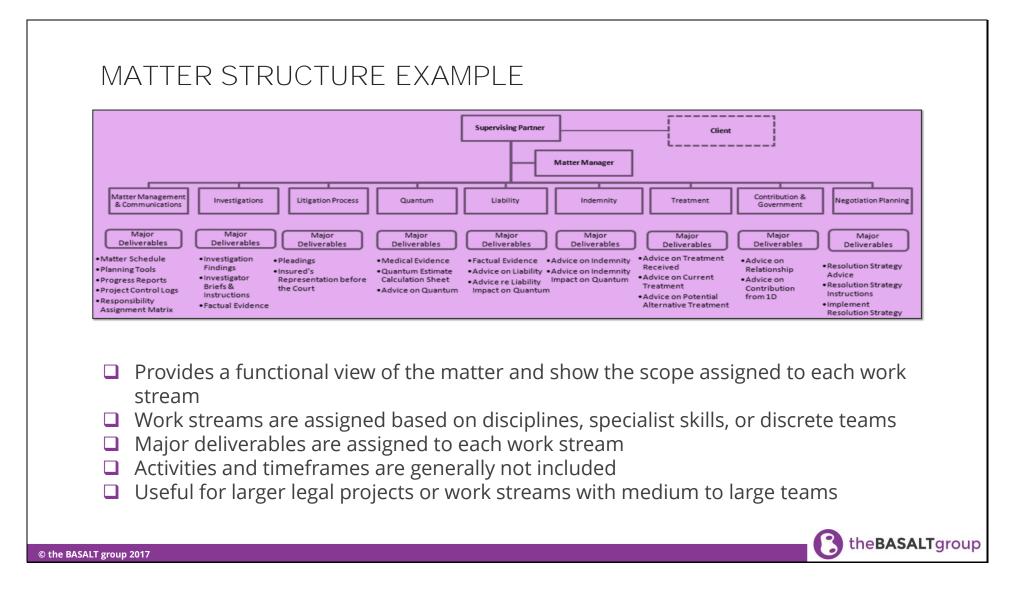
Objective clarification question	Response
What is the primary goal or outcome of the matter?	
Are there any detailed or supporting objectives?	
What are the specifics of each objective?	
What is the rationale for proceeding with the matter?	
Are there any business outcomes related to the matter?	
Are there any particular time frames that need to be met?	
Do any other stakeholders have objectives relating to the matter?	



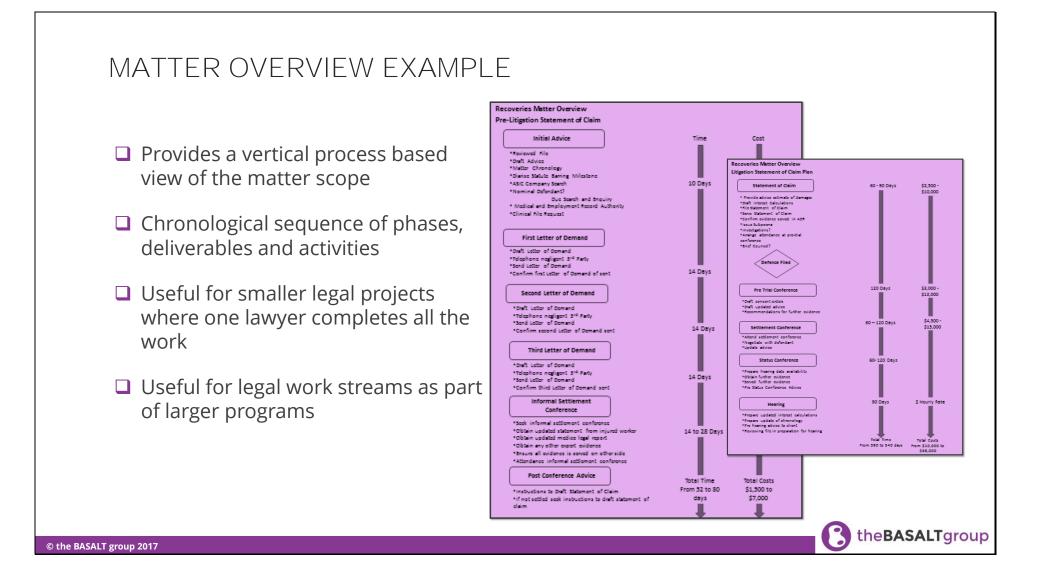
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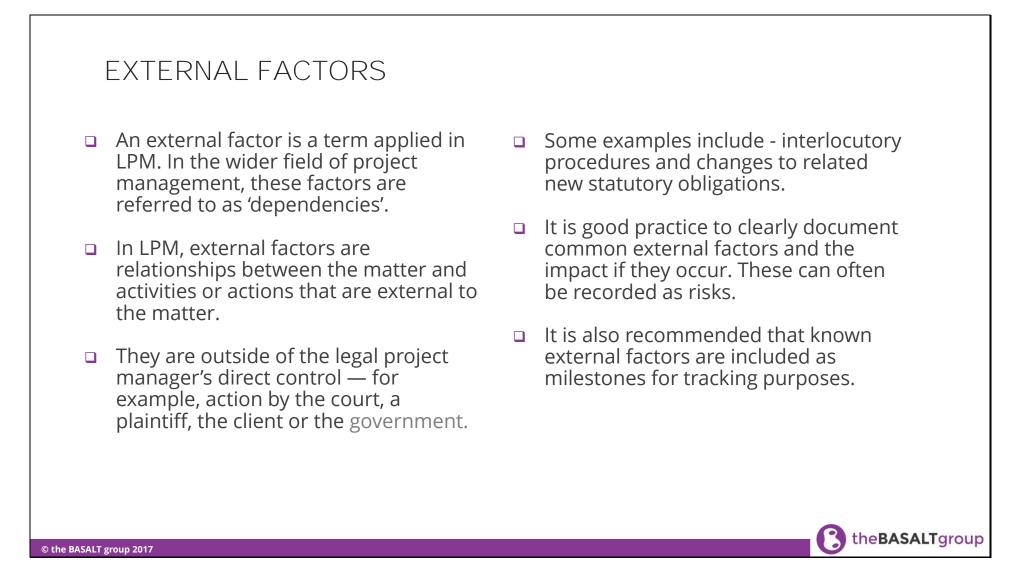
ASSUMPTIONS

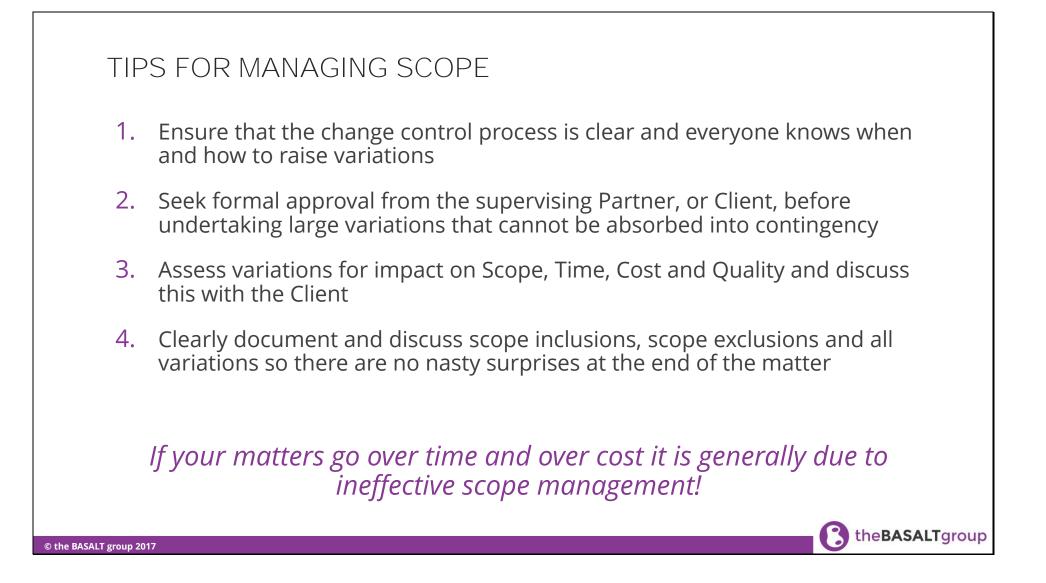
- Assumptions are factors that, for scoping and scheduling purposes, are considered to be true.
- Lawyers make assumptions all the time about the preferences and requirements of their clients, which are largely based on their own personal preferences that could be quite different from those of the client.
- Best practice dictates that assumptions need to be made consciously and deliberately, and to be clearly documented in the matter assumption log

- Assumptions need to be discussed with the sponsor and stakeholders.
- Strong assumptions are made based on experience and the application of good judgment.
- Assumptions introduce an element of risk into the legal matter.
- When a major assumption becomes untrue during the execution of the matter, there will normally be a material impact on scope, cost, time or objectives.



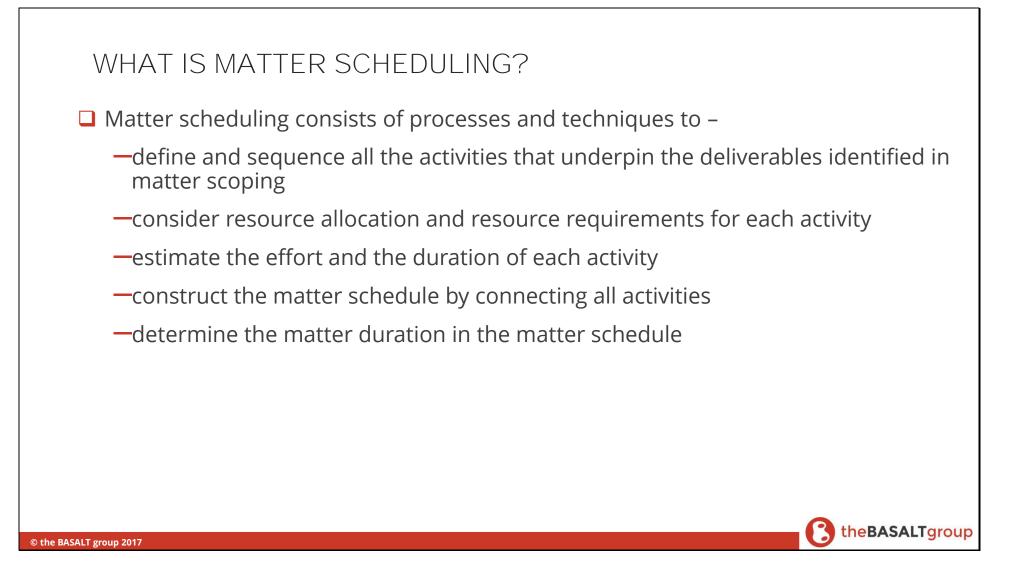
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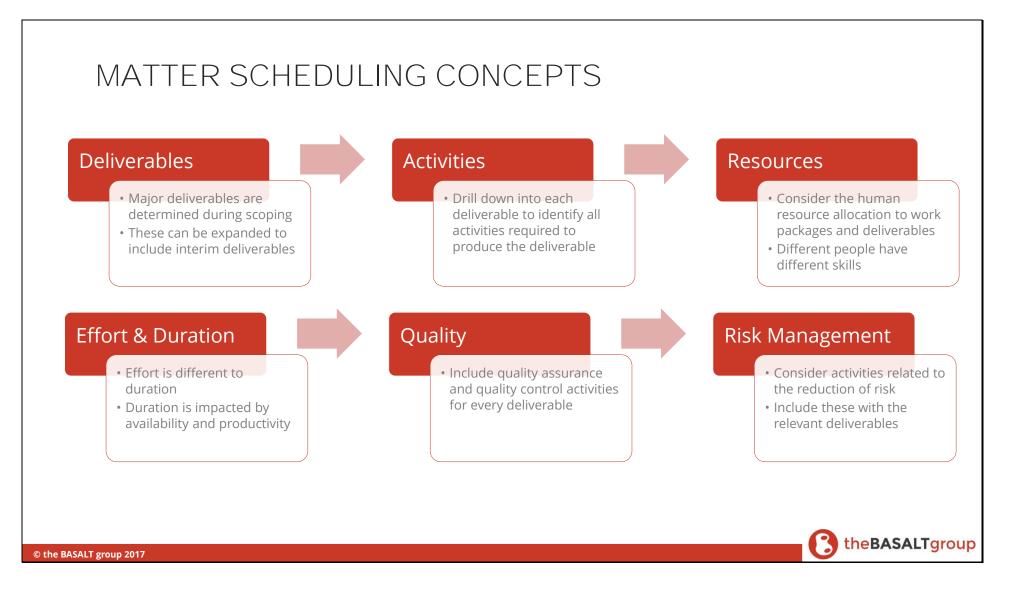


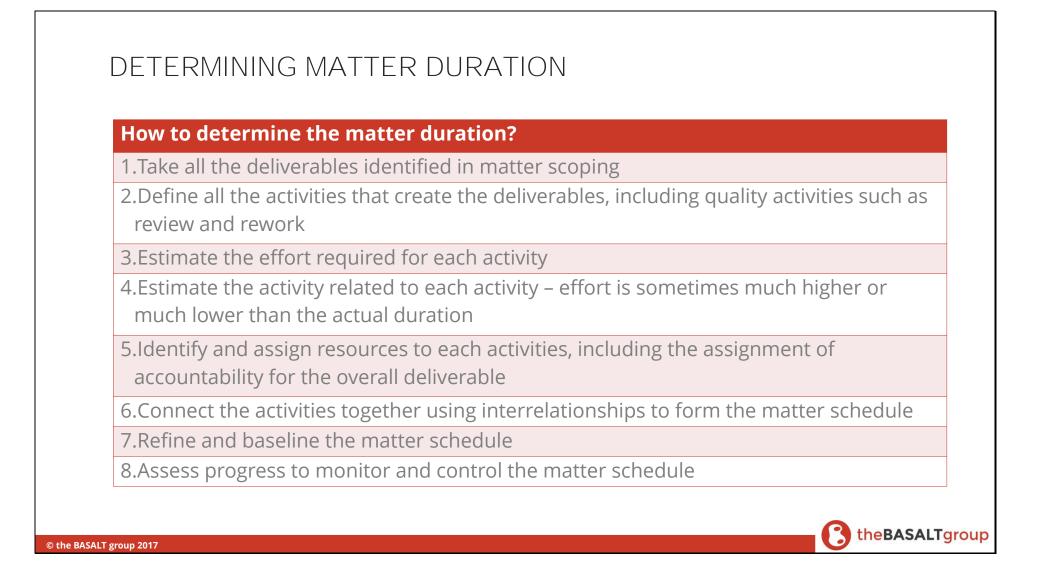


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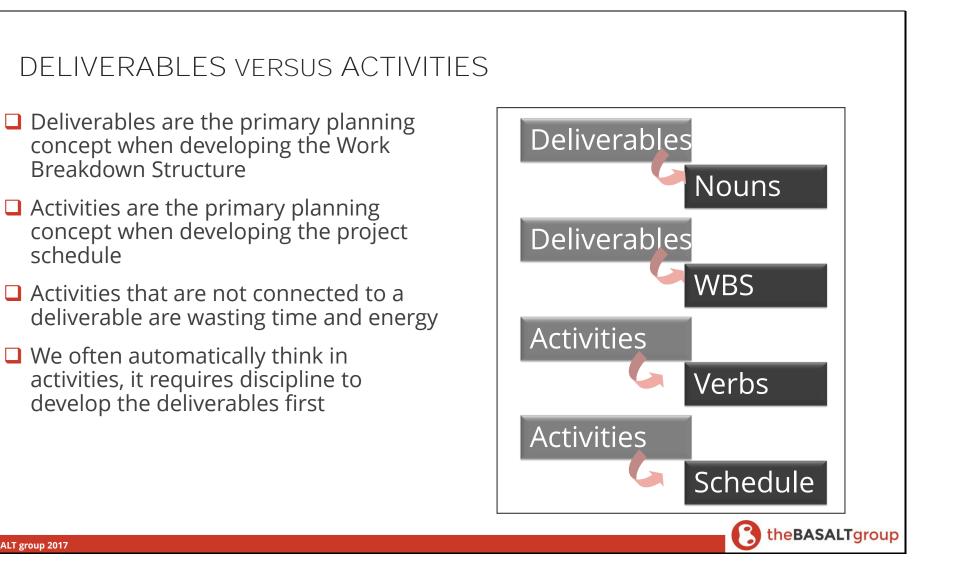








schedule



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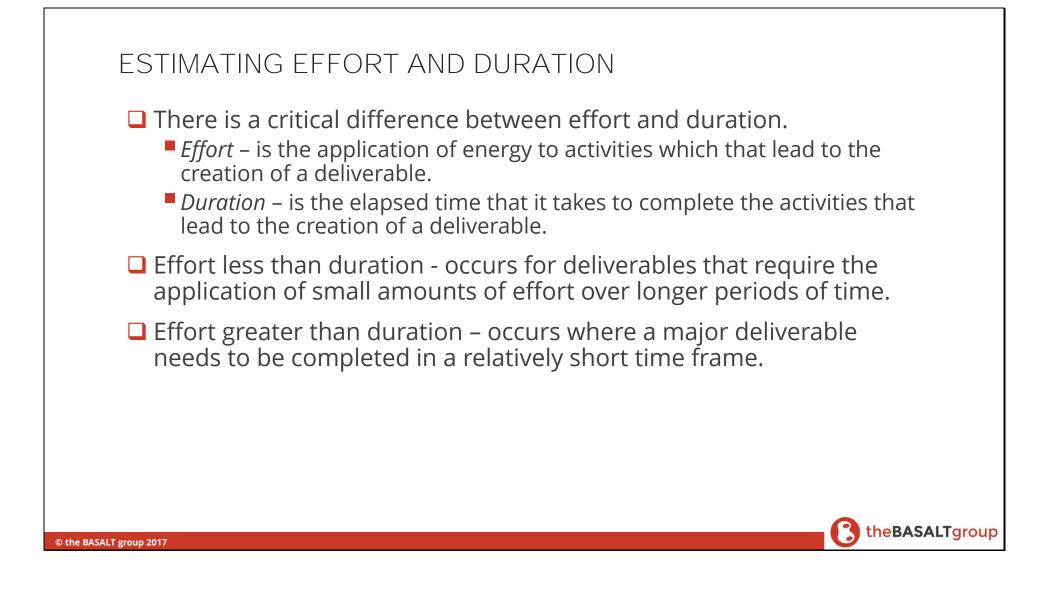


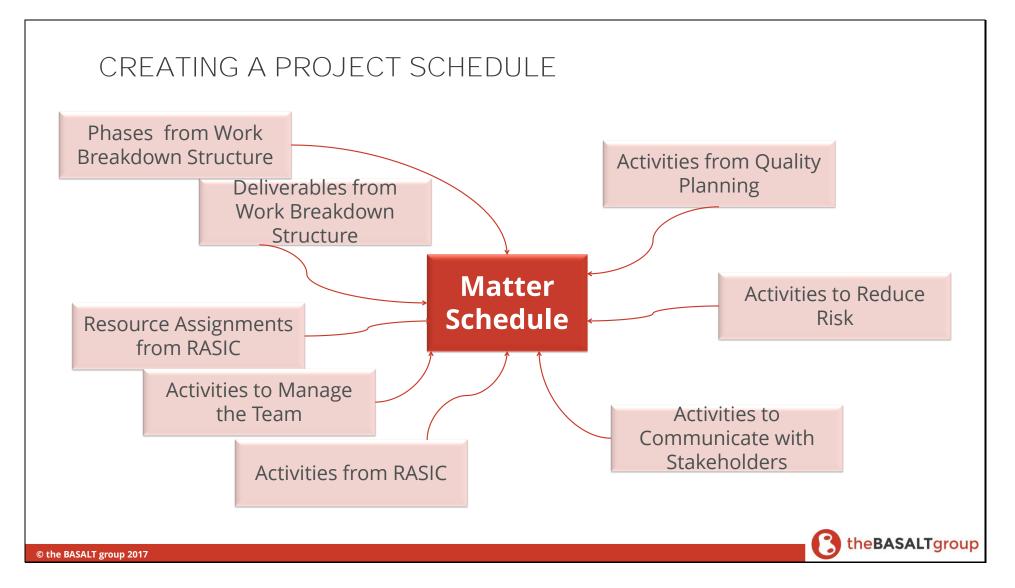
IDENTIFYING ACTIVITIES

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ed into the duration; otherwise activities will be overlooked
ng to additional time and cost
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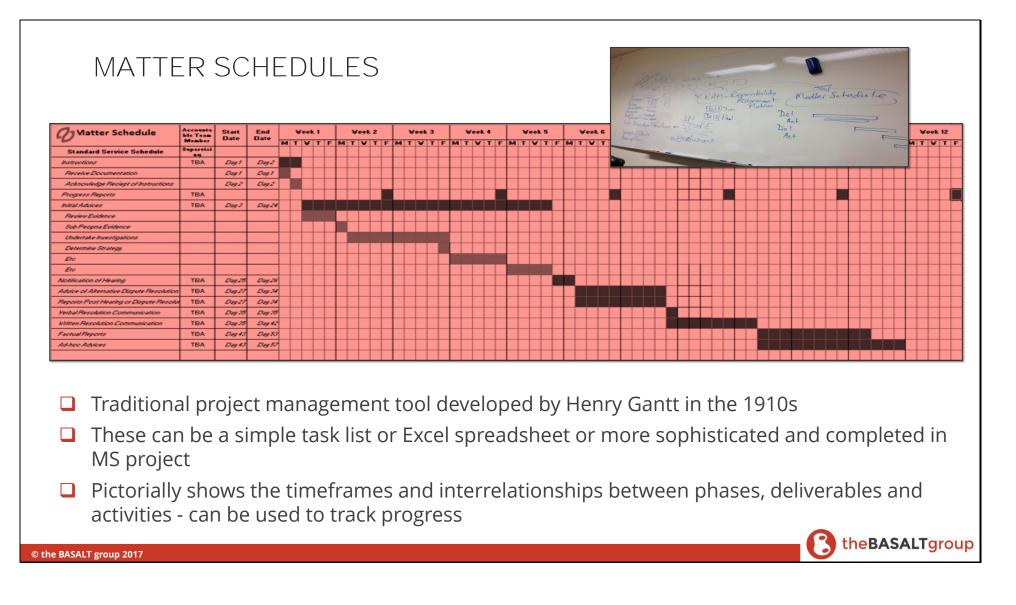
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ESTIMATING ACTIVITY DURATION
The next step is to estimate the duration of each activity and then to link them together to create the project schedule
Logic dictates that the best person to estimate the duration of an activity is the person who will be performing the activity
This is not always successful as –
Team members can be naturally optimistic or pessimistic
They often forget the quality activities including - review, sign off and rework
Different resources have different productivity levels
Time may be lost as team members gain skills and undertake training
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STEPS TO CREATE THE MATTER SCHEDULE

- 1. Create the initial matter schedule
- 2. Expand the matter schedule
- 3. Enhance the matter schedule
- 4. Refine the matter schedule
- 5. Monitor and control the matter schedule

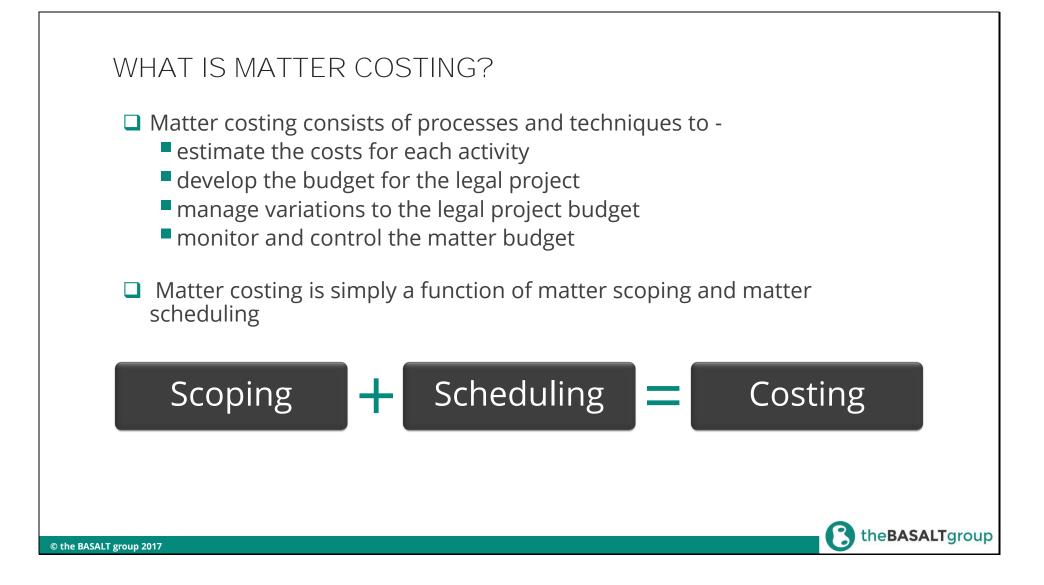
Complete scoping first!

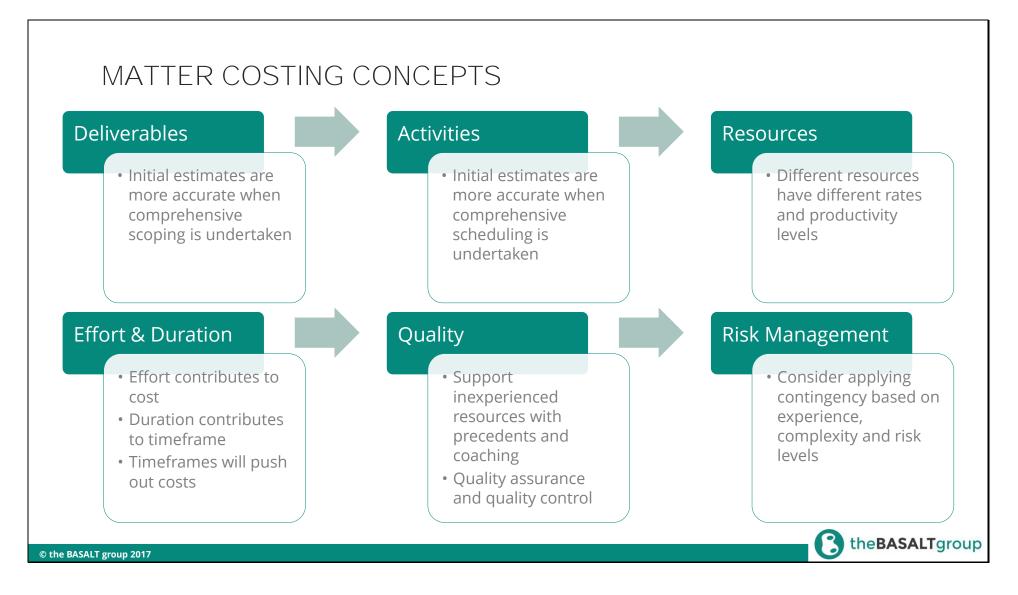
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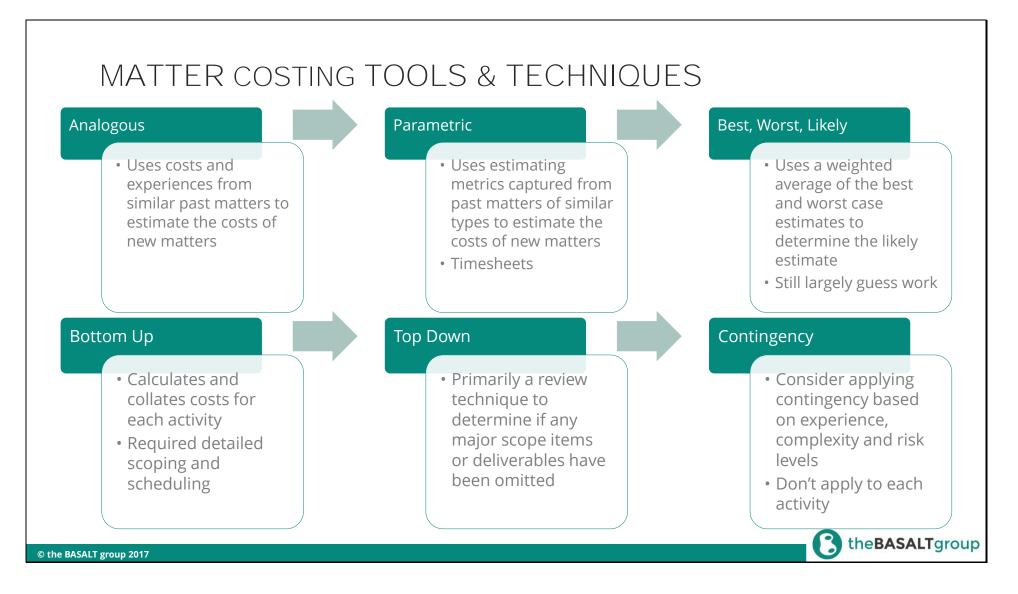
Discuss

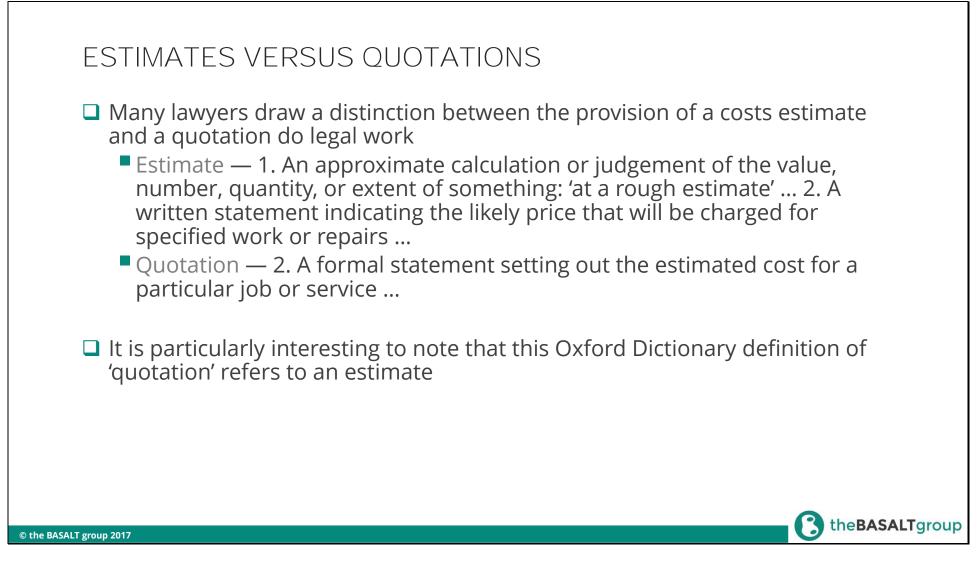
REFLECTION ACTIVITY – COST OVERRUNS

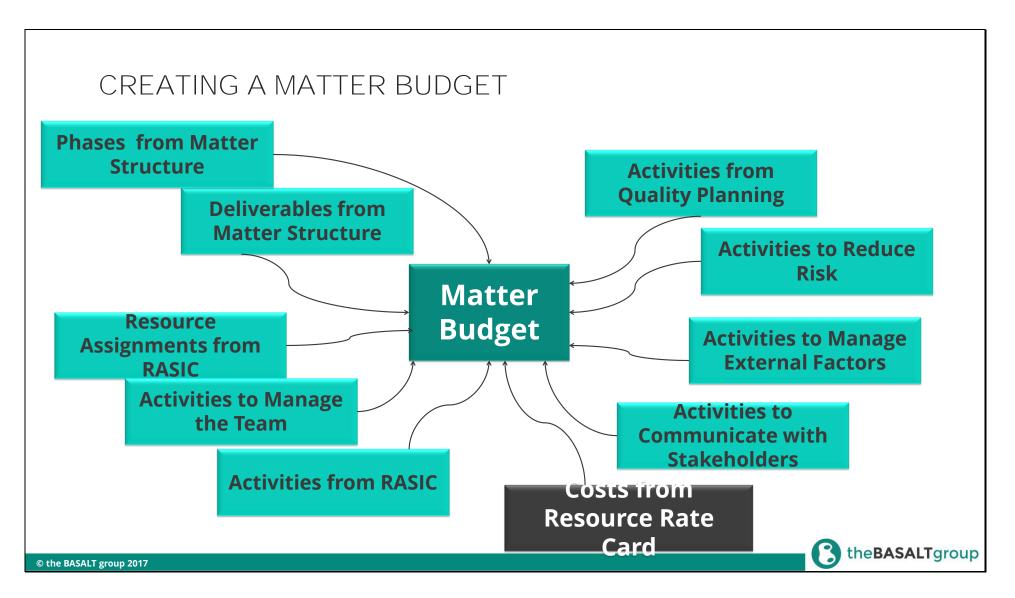
- 1. What are the main reasons for cost overruns on legal matters and projects?
- 2. How can LPM help to improve cost estimation?
- **3.** What are the benefits of legal project management precedents to support scoping, scheduling and costing?
- 4. Do you often have fixed legal budgets? How often are they achieved?

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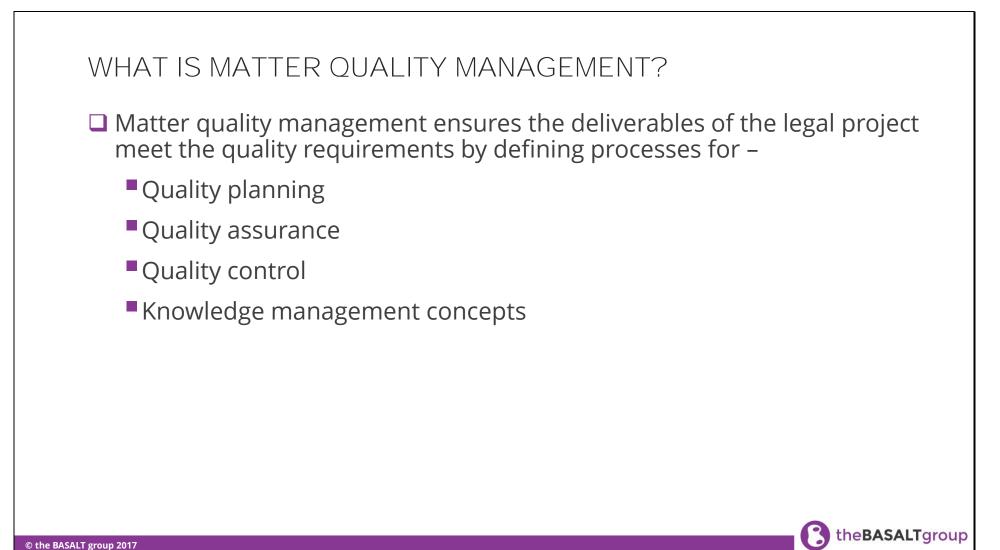






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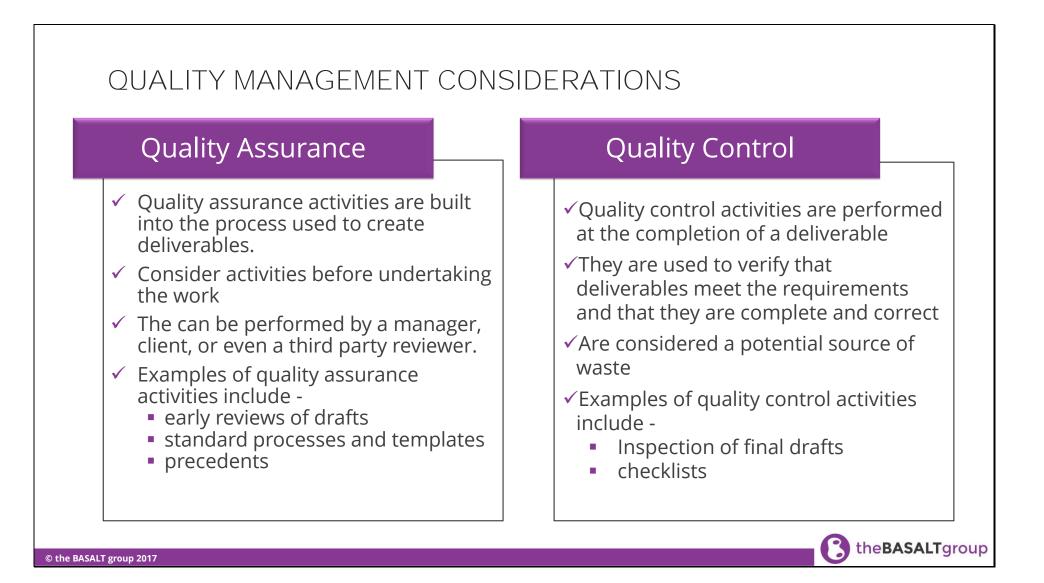




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Quality assurance tools	Quality control tools
Definition of competencies and behaviours	Checklists
for both legal practitioners and support staff	
Recruitment and selection of legal	Reviews
practitioners and support staff	
Legal templates and precedents	Rework
Legal project management templates and	Inspection
precedents	
Checklists	
Work processes, procedures and	
instructions	
Training on knowledge transfer and sharing	
Continuous improvement	
Resource selection and assignment	

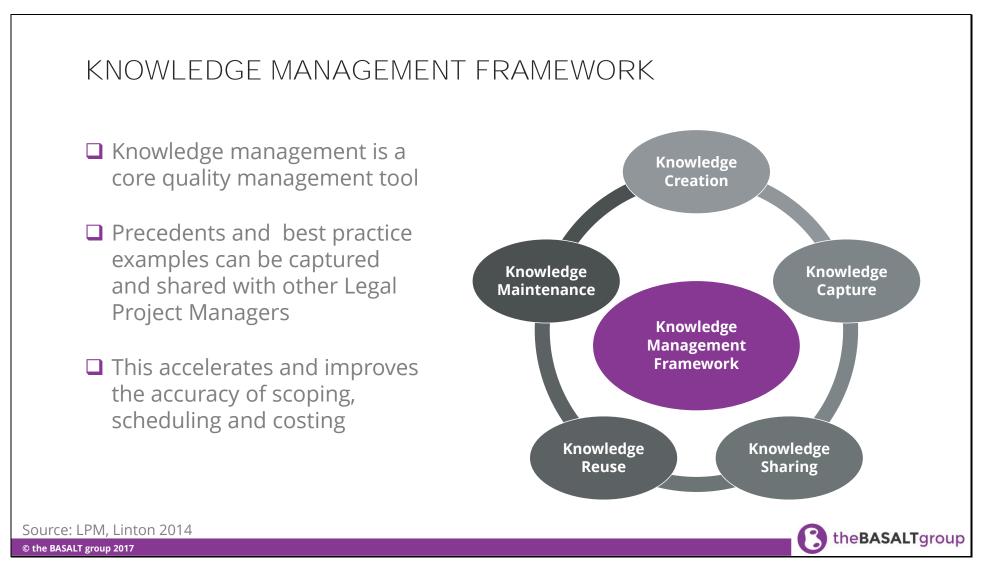


HOW TO MANAGE QUALITY?
Discuss and agree the quality expectations of the sponsor and major stakeholders
Seek approval for additional detailed work based on major risks that may be uncovered
Allow time to undertake reviews and rework in duration estimation for deliverables
Ensure team members know the quality expectations of the sponsor
Ensure team members know how long they have to complete activities
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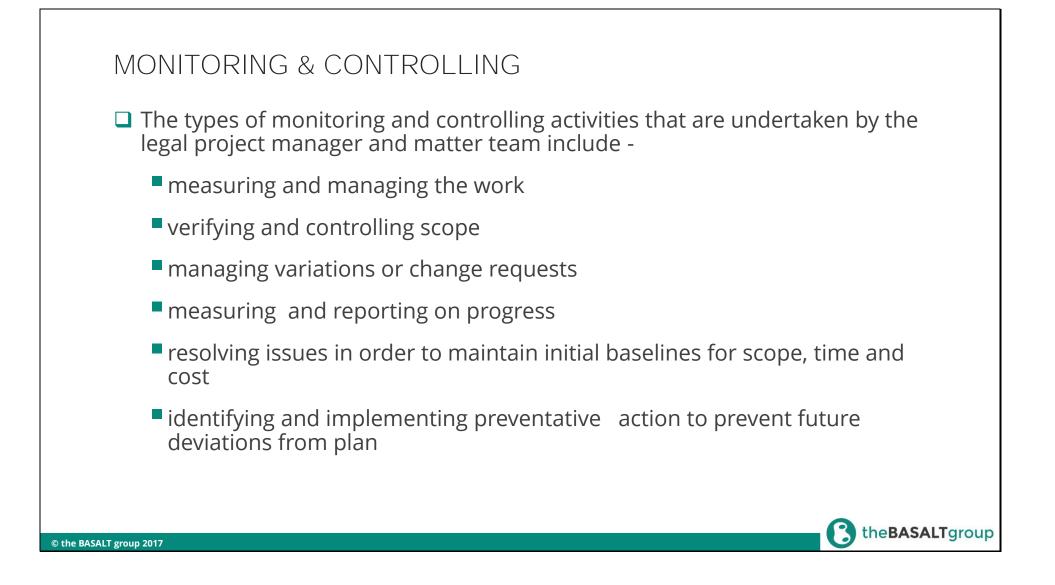


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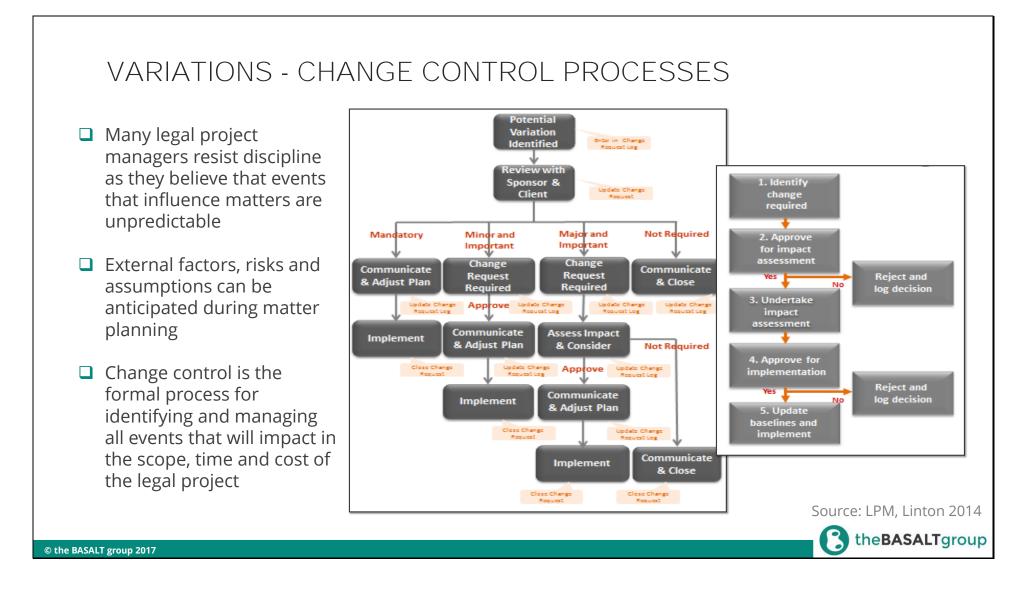


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REFLECTION ACTIVITY - VARIATIONS

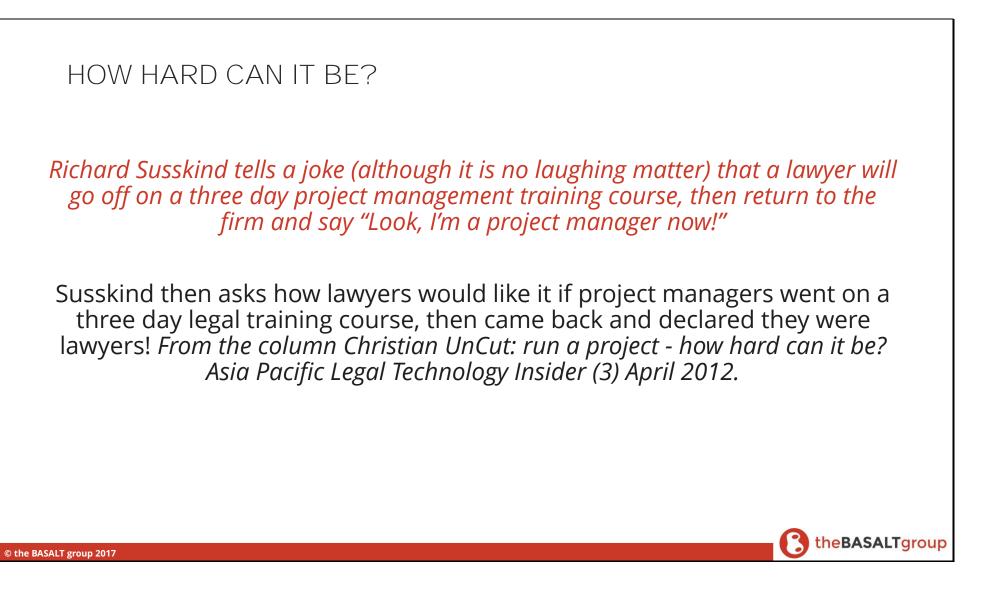
- 1. Consider recent project type work and recall the changes that occurred along the way.
- 2. What could have been done differently to avoid the variations and changes?

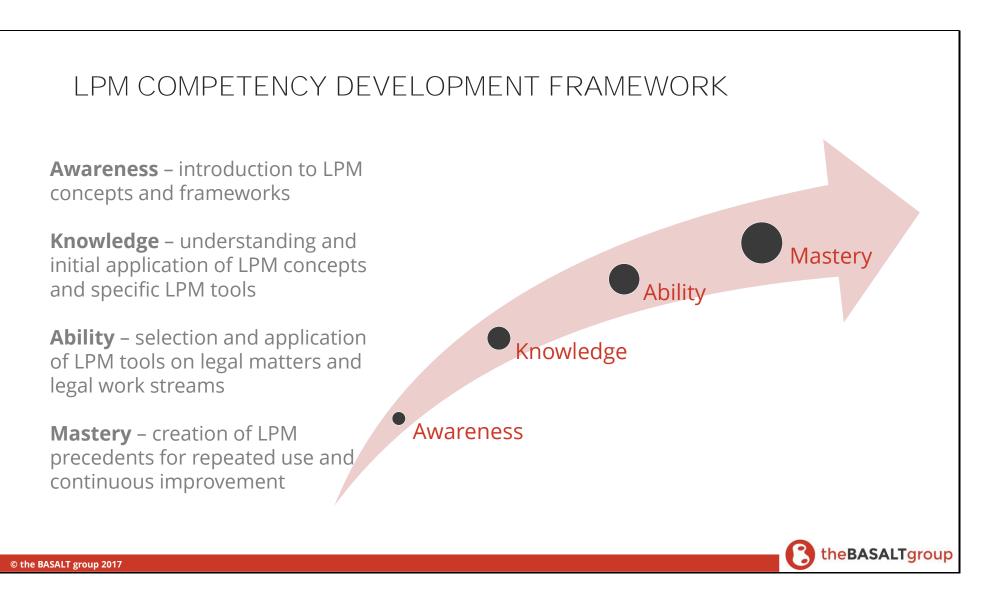


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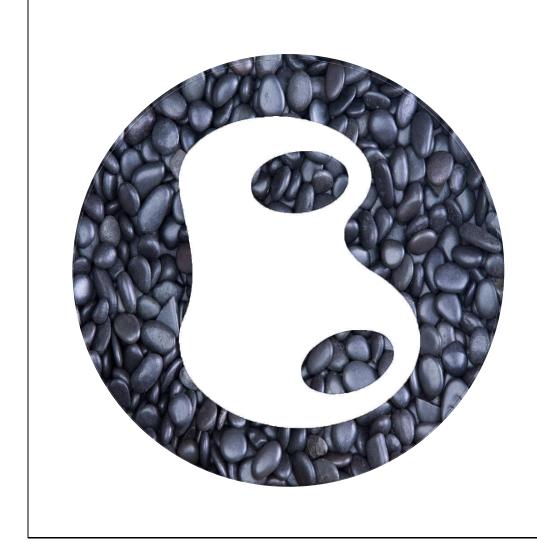
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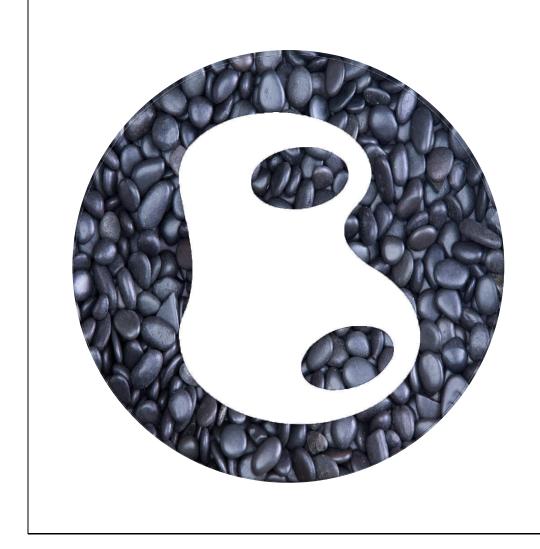
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I am happy to send anyone who contacts me a editable copy of my LPM Competency Framework

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