

AI IN

HOW GENERATIVE AI IS TRANSFORMING

LEGAL

LEGAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW

TECH

CAT CASEY



**AI IN
LEGAL
TECH**

AI IN LEGAL TECH

HOW GENERATIVE AI IS TRANSFORMING
LEGAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW

CAT CASEY

WILEY

Copyright © 2026 by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 750-4470, or on the web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permission>.

The manufacturer's authorized representative according to the EU General Product Safety Regulation is Wiley-VCH GmbH, Boschstr. 12, 69469 Weinheim, Germany, e-mail: Product_Safety@wiley.com.

Trademarks: Wiley and the Wiley logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and the authors have used their best efforts in preparing this work, including a review of the content of the work, neither the publisher nor the authors make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives, written sales materials or promotional statements for this work. The fact that an organization, website, or product is referred to in this work as a citation and/or potential source of further information does not mean that the publisher and authors endorse the information or services the organization, website, or product may provide or recommendations it may make. This work is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a specialist where appropriate. Further, readers should be aware that websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read. Neither the publisher nor authors shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services or for technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department within the United States at (800) 762-2974, outside the United States at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic formats. For more information about Wiley products, visit our web site at www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied for:

ISBN 9781394304721 (Paperback)

ISBN 9781394304738 (epub)

ISBN 9781394304745 (epdf)

ISBN 9781394352265 (oBook)

Cover Design: Wiley

Cover Image: © putilich/Getty Images

*For Nick, Ollie, and Klaus.
The three most patient
creatures I know.*

*Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable
from magic.*

—Arthur C. Clarke

CONTENTS

PART I	
BRAVE NEW LEGAL AI WORLD	1
CHAPTER ONE	
INTRODUCTION	3
CHAPTER TWO	
AI FOR THE UNINITIATED: A CRASH COURSE	9
CHAPTER THREE	
FLAVORS OF AI	23
CHAPTER FOUR	
THE GENERATIVE AI RENAISSANCE	75
CHAPTER FIVE	
MUST-HAVE AI GADGETS FOR THE MODERN LEGAL PROFESSIONAL	93
CHAPTER SIX	
THE FINE PRINT: ETHICS OF AI IN LAW	135
PART II	
AI MAKEOVER FOR YOUR LEGAL CAREER	173
CHAPTER SEVEN	
HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE LEGAL AI	175

CONTENTS

CHAPTER EIGHT	
ROBOTS STOLE MY JOB: AI AND THE LEGAL JOB MARKET	191
CHAPTER NINE	
SUITS, SYNTAX, AND SUPERPOWERS: WHY LAW PROS ARE BUILT FOR THE AI AGE	207
CHAPTER TEN	
THE FUTURE OF AI IS LAWYERED	223
PART III	
YOUR LEGAL AI SURVIVAL GUIDE	239
CHAPTER ELEVEN	
THE PROMPT PRIMER: LAWYERED EDITION	241
CHAPTER TWELVE	
YOUR LEGAL AI ROSETTA STONE: COMPREHENSIVE AI GLOSSARY FOR LEGAL	259
CHAPTER THIRTEEN	
TALES FROM THE FRONT LINES: HOW WE LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE LEGAL AI	293
INDEX	325

PART I

BRAVE NEW LEGAL AI WORLD

This section breaks down the evolving dataverse and legal AI landscape today. It sets the record straight on what AI in law actually is, not the version pushed by headlines or marketing hype. Starting from the beginning, it defines AI, from the OGs of legal machine learning to the new kids on the generative AI block. It explores the evolution of AI in legal practice, beginning with the foundational tools of legal machine learning and culminating in the latest advancements in generative AI. It unpacks how legal AI crawled out of forgotten academic corners and doc review obscurity and landed

in the middle of every strategy session, CLE panel, and pitch deck in the industry. It concludes with a deep dive into the ethics of legal AI and the risks that lawyers embracing AI should be aware of. When you leave Part I, you'll know the tools, see the risks, and be ready to build a legal career that thrives in the age of AI, without outsourcing your judgment.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The robolawyers are not coming; they are here! Are you ready? Artificial intelligence (AI) is now hotter than Taylor Swift, the Beatles, and Beyonce combined. Every day, there's another headline about AI reshaping industries, with platforms like ChatGPT generating text, DALL-E producing images, Sora crafting video, and models like LLaMA, Gemini, and Groq leading the charge. AI has become a cultural phenomenon; even *South Park*¹ dedicated an entire episode to AI with ChatGPT credited as a writer!

Everything from the 5 o'clock news to endless social media feeds is claiming we're on the verge of an AI takeover. If you've been following the buzz, you've likely seen predictions that lawyers will soon be replaced by AI-powered robolawyers. But is this truly the reality?

In legal, this AI takeover means the long-feared robolawyers are not just coming; they are already here. "Robolawyer," which

¹ Schwarz, J. (2023). Review: South Park "DEEP LEARNING." *Bubbleblabber* (9 March). Archived from the original on 9 March 2023 (accessed 24 March 2024). <https://www.bubbleblabber.com/2023/03/review-south-park-deep-learning/>.

sounds like something out of a sci-fi movie, is the buzzword for AI tools designed to take over tasks traditionally performed by lawyers. These AI tools automate legal tasks like drafting contracts, analyzing case law, and even assisting with litigation strategies. It's no surprise that some lawyers find them threatening. These systems can process mountains of data in minutes, handling tasks that used to take junior associates or paralegals days. That raises some serious existential questions for the profession: If AI can draft a brief or review a million documents, where does that leave the humans?

Does this mean white-shoe lawyers are an algorithm away from lining the streets in threadbare Brooks Brothers' suits holding cardboard signs saying, "Will litigate for food?" Will hordes of robolawyers kick their metal shoes up in their corner office as they replace human intelligence with artificial intelligence?

Not even close!

Artificial intelligence is shaking up the legal profession, but let's be clear—there's no "lawyer-nator" coming to steal your practice. The real threat isn't AI itself; it's falling behind while the lawyer in the office next door uses AI to outpace and outshine you. It's not a dystopian takeover; it's about staying relevant in a profession that's evolving faster than ever.

Authors and pundits alike have speculated that AI might soon replace the expertise of seasoned lawyers, but a far more likely scenario is that legal professionals who embrace AI as a tool will future-proof their careers and emerge as leaders in the profession.

So, how close are we to seeing high-powered attorneys swapped out for high-tech-powered counterparts? Looking closely around the trade shows and legal periodicals, I argue that this is occurring as we speak. AI is not likely to take over prestigious law firms any time soon, but the future of legal practice is already becoming a blend of traditional expertise augmented by advanced technology.

The specter of robot lawyers is nothing new. As of this writing, a Google search for "robolawyer" brings up over 41 million results.

A concept once confined to science fiction is now shaping modern legal practice. For instance, the cheeky startup DoNotPay grabbed headlines when it tweeted an offer of \$1 million to anyone willing to let its AI chatbot lawyer argue a case in the Supreme Court.² While their marketing stunt was quickly shut down as an unauthorized practice of law, it was a bold signal of what's to come.

From partners to paralegals, legal AI is here in a big way. Although robotlawyers will not replace legal counsel, AI will impact the practice of law much sooner than many envisioned. Savvy legal professionals are embracing AI-powered legal technology tools across all areas of law. AI technology helps legal professionals with contracts, eDiscovery, knowledge management, and practice optimization. In addition, AI can help legal teams uncover key facts and evidence faster, enhancing decision-making and improving legal outcomes for clients.

From the AmLaw top 100 firms to startups, organizations are doubling down on integrating AI technology across legal. By leveraging AI, they are differentiating themselves and gaining a competitive advantage. Practitioners embracing emerging AI technologies are dramatically accelerating their career trajectory.

The delta between AI-powered legal professionals and their old-school counterparts continues to expand. Now is the time for law students, lawyers, and legal professionals to embrace AI technology and to future-proof their legal careers.

This book is a call to action for the legal profession to embrace the unstoppable AI revolution. It's tailored to those who want to not only survive but to thrive in the future of law. In essence, *AI in Legal Tech: How Generative AI Is Transforming Legal Technology and the Practice of Law* is more than just a book; it's a roadmap for the future-ready lawyer.

² Casey, C. (2023). "The robot lawyers are here, now what?" *Legal Tech News* (5 January). <https://www.law.com/legaltechnews/2023/01/05/the-robot-lawyers-are-here-now-what/>.

This is not just about surviving the AI revolution; it's about leading it. The first step is to educate yourself beyond what you may have learned in law school. Consider this your guide to navigating the future of the legal profession with confidence.

AT A GLANCE

This book is not for statisticians, mathematicians, or data scientists. It is tailored to legal professionals of all levels of tech know-how. AI is fundamentally transforming the practice of law today, whether you're a law student or a veteran rainmaker. The AI renaissance is a great equalizer and an opportunity to level up your legal career.

This book strips away the jargon and complexity often associated with AI, translating AI into the language of the everyday, curious legal mind. Throughout the book, I delve into the transformative impact of AI on traditional legal practices, shedding light on how these technologies automate mundane tasks, refine legal strategies, and open new avenues for legal research and practice.

At the same time, this book doesn't shy away from the tough questions. It offers a balanced view on the ethical dilemmas and challenges that AI introduces to the legal profession. The book highlights privacy concerns, the risks of AI bias in legal, the impacts of deepfakes, and the future of employment for legal professionals, offering insightful analysis and guidance on navigating the evolving legal landscape. This is all from the lens of AI as a companion, not a competitor.

Part I, "Brave New Legal AI World," comprising Chapters 1–6, breaks down the evolving dataverse and legal AI landscape today. Starting from the beginning, it defines AI, from the OGs of legal machine learning to the new kids on the generative AI block. This section explores the evolution of AI in legal practice, beginning with

the foundational tools of legal machine learning and culminating in the latest advancements in generative AI. It concludes with a deep dive into the ethics of legal AI and the risks lawyers embracing AI should be aware of.

Part II, “The Lawyer’s Guide to Riding the AI Wave,” unpacks the shifting perception of AI in the legal industry. From Chapter 7 on, the book takes an unvarnished look at the impact of AI on the profession and dives into the impact and adoption of AI across the globe. It breaks down the lingo and explores the mindset necessary to embrace legal AI. It then dives into tactical career strategies for thriving in an AI-driven world, while also addressing the human side of human-centered AI, bringing it all together with guidance on becoming an AI esquire and tips and tricks to empower you along the way. The section closes by investigating what the AI-impacted future of legal might look like, uncovering the future of the tech, and providing insights from practitioners at the frontlines. It also breaks down what legal professionals can do today to future-proof their careers as the AI renaissance continues.

At the end of the book, there is a legal AI survival kit. This survival kit includes a comprehensive glossary, a comprehensive generative AI prompting primer for legal, and actionable insights from the frontlines.

You are not merely reading about the future of AI-powered law; you’re preparing to help shape it. This book is a clarion call to the legal profession to embrace the AI revolution head on. Are you ready?

CHAPTER TWO

AI FOR THE UNINITIATED: A CRASH COURSE

NO PHD REQUIRED: BREAKING DOWN AI FOR THE LEGAL MIND

The path of legal education does not begin your first day as a 1L in law school. My journey dates to a swing set on a Southern California playground. Mid-swing, I had an epiphany: I was good at both math and writing. Choosing math and science would probably lead me toward becoming a doctor, while focusing on English would pave the way to law. My decision was clear; if I made a mistake as a doctor, someone might die, but as a lawyer, I could always appeal!

From that day on, I leaned increasingly toward liberal arts, and math and science took a back seat. After choosing my journey into

legal, I favored language, debate, and philosophy over calculus and other hard sciences.

As a result, when I found myself facing statistics, lambda calculus, and data science, it was a bit daunting. No one goes to law school to study relational databases, and yet, when it comes to areas of legal like eDiscovery and contract analytics, that is exactly what you find yourself doing!

When it comes to artificial intelligence and the law, many legal professionals feel a bit like Andy Dwyer from *Parks and Recreation*; fully aware of their cluelessness but hesitant to ask questions, fearing that doing so will make it painfully obvious to everyone else. Or, worse yet, they embody the *Dunning-Kruger Effect*, the cognitive bias where if you don't know something, you also don't have the ability to recognize that you don't know it.

Well, my legal compatriots, fear not. You don't need to learn to code or how to create an algorithm to understand the risk and opportunity posed by the AI revolution. What you do need to learn are the lingo, the players, and the legal issues that arise when working with AI in legal.

THE BIRTH OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

While click-bait headlines portray AI as a shiny new toy, it's less a "New Kid on the Block" and more like a seasoned "Rolling Stone." Like the septuagenarian rockers, AI has been around for decades, and while it might not always be what lawyers want, it is what modern lawyers need.

Based on the latest Hollywood blockbusters or a casual perusal of the evening news, artificial intelligence has been categorized as everything from super sentient robot overlords to little more than smart toasters.

John McCarthy, often referred to as the father of artificial intelligence, is credited with naming and defining artificial intelligence in 1956. If John McCarthy is the father of AI, then Dartmouth College is its birthplace. It was at a Dartmouth Summer Research Project on artificial intelligence in the summer of 1956 that McCarthy defined artificial intelligence as “the science and engineering of making intelligent machines.”¹ Put more simply, he envisioned a future where computers could think like humans.

What Exactly Is Artificial Intelligence?

While the underlying concept of the “science and engineering of making intelligent machines” was first discussed nearly 70 years ago, the father of AI did not just believe in the possibility of smart computers; he believed that “every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it.”² Quite literally, he saw a future where machines could and would do anything a human can do.

Many science fiction horror movies are based on this conception of AI—born of nightmares about sentient machines that operate without human input, like *the Terminator*. But the reality of AI today is far from the autonomous AI robot overlord of dystopian nightmares. Since its inception in 1956, AI’s purpose has evolved. Instead of replacing humans, AI now focuses on augmenting human intelligence and empowering data-driven decision-making.

¹ Kline, R.R. (2011). “Cybernetics, automata studies, and the Dartmouth conference on artificial intelligence.” *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 33 (4): 5–16.

² BBC News. (2011). Artificial intelligence community mourns John McCarthy. *BBC.com* (25 October). <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-15444222> (accessed 24 April 2024).

The goal is no longer to replace human decision-making or cognition with AI. Instead, it aims for something more akin to J.A.R.V.I.S. in Tony Stark's Iron Man suit—a powerful technology working alongside humans to enhance decisions by providing faster, more accurate insights. Much like Iron Man's suit, these tools act at the behest of and in concert with humans and not in their stead.

While the specter of robolawyer overlords displacing legal practitioners is an apocalyptic nightmare some might have, this fantasy is best left for sci-fi. There is quite a bit of “fear, uncertainty, and doubt” (FUD) floating around the legal industry. Legal professionals are grappling with questions about how AI will reshape traditional roles and responsibilities, leaving many professionals uncertain about their legal futures. People are uncertain about how artificial intelligence will be integrated into the practice of law without putting everyone out of work. The legal profession is also grappling with ethical concerns like AI bias, which could impact fairness in case outcomes and confidentiality, as sensitive client data is processed by AI tools. Lawyers must navigate these challenges carefully to integrate AI responsibly.

While fears of AI replacing lawyers make for great Hollywood blockbusters, the reality is far less dramatic: AI is becoming an indispensable tool for legal professionals, augmenting their skills and expanding their capabilities.

Over the last seven decades, data scientists and non-techies alike have realized that John McCarthy's definition missed the mark. It did not account for the fact that it is hard to digitally replicate things like human intuition, creativity, and emotional intelligence—facets of human cognition that machines are far from duplicating. As a result, the desire to replace human cognition fell out of favor, replaced with something known as *augmented intelligence*, or human-centered artificial intelligence.

Today, AI is designed to complement human expertise, enhancing decision-making, speeding up routine processes, and enabling lawyers, for example, to focus on higher-value strategic work. AI hasn't supplanted human intelligence or our unique consciousness; it has instead become a powerful tool that extends our capabilities. As AI continues to evolve and astonish, McCarthy's initial idea of replacement has been recalibrated to one of partnership and enhancement.

Artificial Intelligence Reimagined

Since the idea of machines capable of learning first emerged, industries like banking, medicine, and retail have embraced AI-powered applications at warp speed. Fraud detection, personalized shopping experiences, and even precision medicine have all undergone AI-powered transformations. Meanwhile, the technology itself has evolved dramatically, from the lofty dream of replacing human cognition to a more realistic and valuable goal: augmenting and amplifying the humans who use it.

Traditionally, the legal industry has taken a cautious, measured approach to adopting AI—more tortoise than hare in this technological race. Legal has fallen behind by sticking to tried-and-true technologies while industries like finance sprint ahead with cutting-edge AI innovations. Think of legal AI as the classic, well-tailored suit—practical, reliable, and unlikely to stir up controversy. But everything changed when ChatGPT burst onto the scene in November 2022, sparking a seismic shift in how the legal field views AI.

Thankfully, we're still a long way from a dystopian reality where robots take over the courtroom. Critical reasoning, creative problem-solving, and strategic judgment, the bread and butter of legal practice, are still best handled by humans. Over decades of

trial (and lots of error), computer scientists have realized something important: humans and AI aren't competitors; they're collaborators. Machines thrive at handling lower-value, repetitive tasks, like processing mountains of data or automating document reviews. But when it comes to the complex mental gymnastics of interpreting that data or making high-stakes decisions, the "living legal brain" is still the undisputed champion.

AI's modern definition focuses on its ability to "correctly interpret external data, learn from it, and apply those learnings to achieve specific goals through flexible adaptation."³ Or, in plain terms: Can it learn from data or human input and deliver actionable insights? This evolution in AI's role has given rise to what's known as augmented intelligence. Instead of creating machines to replicate humans, we're building systems that amplify our strengths.

Here's the big takeaway: humans outperform AI in critical areas like creativity, empathy, and judgment. Instead of replacing people, modern AI acts as a force multiplier for human expertise. Think of AI as your ultimate legal ally; AI makes you faster, sharper, and more effective. This is the shift: from robots that act like people to tools designed to enhance people.

Even with today's cutting-edge generative AI tools, like GPT-4, the human brain still reigns supreme. Sure, AI can process data at breakneck speed, draft impressive first-pass documents, and even offer insights—but it lacks the nuance, intuition, and emotional intelligence needed for true legal strategy. AI might run the fastest leg of the relay, but lawyers are still the ones anchoring the team and crossing the finish line.

³ Kaplan, A. and Haenlein, M. (2018). "Siri, Siri, in my hand: Who's the fairest in the land? On the interpretations, illustrations, and implications of Artificial Intelligence." *Business Horizons* 62 (1): 15–25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bushor.2018.08.004>.

Your Organic Computer

With the constant flood of headlines about AI breakthroughs, it's easy to forget the most powerful, organic supercomputer we all carry around: the human brain. Each of us is the proud owner of the absolute superstar of intelligence, and our organic computer is far less prone to hallucinations.

Let's break down the human computer by the numbers. Clocking in at just three pounds, less than your average Chihuahua, the human brain is a powerhouse of connectivity. The average human brain possesses around 100 billion neurons, each connected to up to 10,000 other neurons. Every second, your brain transmits signals across 1,000 trillion synapses—that's a quadrillion (1,000,000,000,000,000, or 10^{15}).⁴ Talk about the ultimate organic supercomputer!

And, unlike many of the machine learning and AI models on the market today, it's the ultimate multitasker, combining general intelligence with creativity, adaptability, and even emotional and social smarts. It's like having the whole Avengers team assembled in one brain, ready to tackle any situation!

The Artificial Contender

Now, enter AI, in this case, GPT-3.5. It's no slouch with its 175 billion parameters. And its successor, GPT-4, upped the ante significantly. The AI model is reportedly comprised of eight models, each with 220 billion parameters. The total parameter count of GPT-4 is estimated to be around 1.76 trillion. That's not too shabby, but this represents only 1/1,000th the computational connectivity of our human brain.

This advanced version of AI can generate text, answer questions, and pull off some impressive feats, but it lacks the depth of human

⁴ Zhang, J. (2019). *Basic Neural Units of the Brain: Neurons, Synapses and Action Potential*. Cornell University. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1906.01703>.

intelligence. Think of it like a specialized tool in your legal tech toolkit—brilliant at what it’s trained to do but not quite ready to take the lead. It’s like the dependable member of the Avengers team, great for specific missions, but it’s not Captain Marvel swooping in to save the day solo. A at least not yet.

Love at Second Sight

For years, the legal world treated AI like a bad Tinder date—swiping left without a second thought. From corner-office partners to fresh-faced associates, many viewed AI and machine learning with the same enthusiasm as a root canal. But let’s be real: labeling lawyers as tech-averse Luddites misses the mark.

The reality is that lawyers are not wired, nor taught, to embrace the novel without thorough analysis. We are naturally a skeptical bunch. Additionally, our profession’s deep-rooted traditions, obsession with precedent, and a stringent code of ethics naturally make us cautious about new technology. As a result, we are not the most willing group of professionals to adopt shiny new technology like AI.

The earliest entrants of legal AI in the eDiscovery game did legal professionals no favors in setting the stage for adoption. Predictive Coding in electronic discovery was among the first to seek judicial approval in the early 2000s. And to say it was onerous is an understatement. Deploying this early AI system involved multiple rounds of training and complex calculations of statistical concepts like precision and recall determining accuracy. It also required linguists and statisticians, and determining effectiveness often involved lambda calculus. If those terms have your head spinning, you are not alone. To make matters worse, few could explain how the algorithm functioned, leaving many in the legal field thoroughly confused. And, explaining it to a judge with limited technical understanding was daunting.

Thankfully, legal AI has evolved substantially in the last decade and a half. The process of using legal AI has gone from a bespoke and expert-driven “AI workflow” to one with AI baked into the normal course of conducting eDiscovery, contract analysis, case strategy, or practice optimization.

Over the past decade, the judiciary’s grasp of AI in legal proceedings has significantly deepened as well. Initially, judges approached AI tools like Predictive Coding with caution, often due to a lack of familiarity and concerns about accuracy. However, landmark cases have paved the way for broader acceptance. For instance, in 2012, Magistrate Judge Andrew Peck’s decision in *Da Silva Moore vs. Publicis Groupe*, 287 F.R.D. 182 (S.D.N.Y. 2012)⁵ marked the first judicial endorsement of Predictive Coding, setting a precedent for its use in eDiscovery.

Similarly, the 2016 UK case *Pyrrho Investments Ltd vs. MWB Property Ltd*, (2016) EWHC 256 (Ch)⁶ approved Predictive Coding, further validating its application in legal contexts. These decisions reflect a growing judicial recognition of AI’s potential to enhance efficiency and accuracy in legal processes. As a result, courts are increasingly open to integrating AI tools, provided they meet standards of reliability and transparency.

Additionally, the American Bar Association’s Model Rule 1.1⁷ mandates that lawyers provide competent representation, which now includes staying informed about relevant technology. This evolution signals that both the Bar and the bench are not just open to legal tech—they’re expecting attorneys to integrate advanced

⁵ *Da Silva Moore vs. Publicis Groupe*, 287 F.R.D. 182, (S.D.N.Y. 2012).

⁶ *Pyrrho Investments Ltd vs. MWB Property Ltd*, EWHC 256 (Ch), (2016).

⁷ American Bar Association. (2013). Model rules of professional conduct. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_1_1_competence/.

tools to enhance efficiency and uphold proportionality in legal proceedings.

Next-gen legal AI has incorporated many of the more common features that consumer-grade AI offers today, including seamless integration, intuitive user interfaces, and simple workflows that everyone from my five-year-old nephew to the managing partner can easily understand and master.

As AI proves it can handle the grunt work—like sifting through mountains of documents—faster and more accurately than a sleep-deprived junior associate, the legal community is starting to see the light. The net result is a transparent, easily employed and explained technology that saves massive amounts of time and money on any review, from the simple to extremely complex. We're not just warming up to AI; we're realizing it's the secret weapon we didn't know we needed.

HUMAN + AI > AI OR HUMAN ALONE

Early legal discussions centered around “to AI or not to AI.” And often the AI solutions we aimed at involved replacing human input with AI decision-making. However, our understanding of how and when to use AI has significantly evolved. The real magic isn't in choosing humans *or* AI; it's in realizing the unbeatable force multiplier that comes from combining them.

AI excels at automating repetitive tasks, analyzing vast datasets, and uncovering patterns at lightning speed. Meanwhile, the human brain can focus on strategy, creativity, and judgment—the distinct human abilities that no machine can replicate, yet. When combined, AI provides the tools, but it's the human mind that drives the outcomes.

Two groundbreaking advancements, large language models (LLMs) and human-centered AI (HCAI), are redefining the legal landscape:

- **LLMs** bring a deeper understanding of context, nuance, and intent, bridging the gap between raw data and actionable insights. They don't just find keywords; they interpret the story, identify gaps, and help lawyers craft airtight arguments.
- **HCAI** focuses on collaboration. Designed to work with humans, it amplifies judgment, creativity, and strategic thinking while automating repetitive tasks.

Together, LLMs and HCAI redefine legal practice by merging deep data insights with user-focused design, allowing lawyers to tackle challenges like eDiscovery, contract analysis, and case preparation with unparalleled efficiency.

Beyond Words and Phrases: The Power of LLMs

Let's face it: legacy AI couldn't keep up with the complexities of the legal practice. It lacked the ability to create, analyze, and interpret in ways that align with the nuanced demands of law. Enter *large language models* (LLMs), a breakthrough that laid the foundation for AI-powered legal applications with real-world impact. LLMs crunch massive amounts of data to understand the math behind the language. This foundational linguistic understanding means LLMs understand the meaning beyond words and phrases. This leap forward laid the groundwork for legal AI applications that can create and analyze as the precision lawyers demand.

Unlike previous technological advancements, which focused on brute-force data processing or narrow automation, LLMs bring

something transformative to the table. LLMs go beyond crunching numbers; they understand the context behind the data because they're built to handle meaning, nuance, and intent—three pillars of modern legal analysis. Whether it's interpreting a clause or spotting inconsistencies, these models think like a junior associate on their best day, helping lawyers strategize smarter.

In a world where the difference between “shall” and “may” can decide a case, that's a game-changer. Legal work isn't just about finding keywords; it's about interpreting the story, spotting the gaps, and crafting arguments that withstand rigorous scrutiny. LLMs bring something previous tech lacked: the ability to enhance how lawyers think, strategize, and execute.

Putting Humans in the Loop

The other major driver of legal AI adoption is the rise of human-centered AI (HCAI)—a technology designed with human users at its core. Unlike traditional AI approaches, which often feel distant or overly technical, HCAI embraces a human-first philosophy. HCAI isn't about sidelining human judgment, it's about sharpening it, making every decision faster, smarter, and more impactful.

Legal work thrives on nuance, creativity, and context, and these are skills that only humans can bring to the table. By blending AI's unmatched speed and precision with human expertise and strategic thinking, HCAI is reshaping how legal professionals operate. It's not just smarter or faster—it's more impactful. With HCAI, lawyers can rely on AI to process vast datasets and surface actionable insights while staying firmly in control of the decision-making process.

Here are some reasons why HCAI is a game-changer:

- **Collaborative by design:** HCAI automates tedious, time-consuming tasks like document review and data analysis,