# Legal professionals embrace the transformative power of AI



Legal professionals are increasingly recognising the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to revolutionise the industry, according to the latest Future of Professionals Report. This report reveals that 77% of respondents anticipate a significant or transformative impact from AI on their work within the next five years, marking a notable increase of 10 percentage points from 2023. Furthermore, a substantial majority of legal practitioners, approximately 72%, view AI as a positive influence on the legal field.

As AI technology advances, it has become a top priority for 50% of surveyed law firms. Legal professionals are keenly aware of AI's potential to bolster client satisfaction and enhance operational performance. The report highlights various ways lawyers can prepare to harness AI effectively, aiming to secure their career and job aspirations while adapting to the shifting landscape of the legal profession.

One of AI's most compelling advantages is its ability to streamline operations through productivity gains and task automation. AI tools can alleviate tedious and time-consuming aspects of legal work, which allows lawyers to concentrate on high-value services for clients. Notable applications of AI in legal practice include document drafting, where large language models can analyse extensive case law to create sound legal documents, thereby minimising dispute risks. Similarly, AI can efficiently summarise vast amounts of data, and improve research quality by evaluating numerous sources rapidly.

In addition to document handling, AI has the potential to enhance spending and matter management, providing valuable analytics and insights. Lawyers are encouraged to explore various AI solutions, such as AI assistants powered by generative AI, which can perform tasks like data analysis and compliance checks more rapidly than human counterparts.

The report underlines the importance of incorporating AI into legal workflows as a means to provide greater value to clients. According to the findings, 42% of legal professionals wish to engage more in judgement-driven work, and 59% believe that AI can facilitate the efficient management of large volumes of legal data. Additionally, AI's role in improving response times for clients and reducing human error has garnered significant attention.

Despite the benefits associated with AI integration, concerns remain within the legal profession. Issues of overreliance on technology, the risk of fraud, and ethical considerations regarding AI's capabilities are prevalent among lawyers. The survey indicates that 96% of respondents oppose the notion of allowing AI to represent clients in court, while 83% deem it unethical for AI to provide direct legal advice to clients. Legal professionals emphasise the necessity of human oversight in AI applications and the establishment of secure protocols for client data protection.

As lawyers navigate the integration of AI, the report suggests that it will likely lead to new roles and requirements within the industry. Approximately 85% of respondents believe that AI’s assimilation into practice will necessitate the creation of new positions focusing on implementation, training, and cybersecurity.

To prepare for an AI-driven future, legal professionals are advised to identify the specific needs of their firms concerning AI platforms, conduct thorough investigations into potential tools, and ensure staff are well-equipped to utilise AI technologies effectively. One such tool gaining attention is Thomson Reuters CoCounsel, a generative AI-powered assistant which promises to enhance legal workflows and empower attorneys as the industry evolves.

The ongoing transformation heralded by AI in the legal sector suggests not merely a shift in job functions, but a broader reimagining of professional services and client interactions. As companies prepare for this change, the adaptation to and understanding of AI's long-term implications will be critical for maintaining competitive advantage in the legal landscape.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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3. <https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/rulesofcourt.pdf> - Although not directly related to AI, this document outlines the rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, which provides context for legal processes that AI can enhance. Understanding these rules is crucial for integrating AI into legal workflows effectively.
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