



Artificial intelligence in the digital age: its impact and significance in legal practice and in the legal profession

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in the digital age, significantly reshaping the structure, functioning, and future trajectory of legal practice and the legal profession. With the exponential growth of data, advancements in machine learning, and increased computational power, **AI-driven** tools are now widely used in areas such as legal research, contract analysis, document review, predictive analytics, and dispute resolution. These technologies enhance efficiency, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness by automating routine and time-consuming tasks, thereby enabling legal professionals to focus on complex legal reasoning, strategy, and client advocacy. The impact of AI on legal practice is both operational and ethical. While AI improves access to justice by reducing legal costs and increasing the availability of legal services, it also raises critical concerns related to data privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency, professional accountability, and the potential displacement of traditional legal roles. The legal profession is consequently undergoing a paradigm shift, requiring lawyers to acquire technological literacy alongside doctrinal knowledge and ethical competence. This abstract highlights the growing significance of AI as an indispensable tool in modern legal systems, emphasizing its role in augmenting—rather than replacing—human judgment. It underscores the need for robust regulatory frameworks, ethical guidelines, and continuous professional adaptation to ensure that AI is integrated responsibly and effectively within legal practice.

Key Words: Artificial Intelligence, Digital Age, Legal Profession, Legal Technology, Access to justice, Algorithmic Bias

Introduction:

Advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies has led to changes in the way we carry out personal and work activities. The legal profession is no exception to this transformation. The use of smart virtual assistants and other types of AI tools is raising questions that are reshaping the legal profession. This brief describes the different ways AI can be embedded in the legal practice to assist the work of lawyers and other legal professionals. It provides examples of current solutions used by lawyers, of scenarios where AI tools could perform tasks traditionally implemented by lawyers, and examples of questions and requests for a smart virtual assistant. As AI continues to be integrated into legal practice, this brief considers legal and ethical concerns related to the integrity of the legal system, the duties of lawyers, and protection of the rights of clients.

The AI effect is the tendency for tasks deemed to require “**intelligence**” to be excluded from the definition of AI as machines get more sophisticated. Although it is still in its early stages, several nations, legal firms, and judiciaries are gradually embracing AI in the legal system. By highlighting the legal flaws in decisions, helping with the drafting of contracts, doing due diligence, helping with legal analytics, and other tasks, it offers attorneys cost-effective solutions. Like this, AI can catalyze reducing the court's workload, particularly in cases involving minor offenses, so that human judges can focus on making decisions in more complexes¹.

As far as we are aware, Homo sapiens are the most sentient species on Earth. On the other hand, technology is developing quickly, and it is undeniable that machine learning is now replacing human skills. **Arthur McCarthy** first used the term **artificial intelligence** in 1956. The ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to carry out actions typically associated with intelligent beings is known as artificial intelligence (AI). AI has a wide range of applications in the legal field. Technology in the legal field has advanced because of globalization. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being utilized in courts in nations like the United States and the United Kingdom, where technological advancement has reached incredible heights. The technology is being advanced to assist judges in making decisions. Artificial intelligence is intangible and concentrates on tasks with the help of intelligence techniques such as: But artificial intelligence has the potential to transform everyone's daily life drastically. Whether this is a good or bad thing, we must adhere to the right framework to guarantee that AI has a positive impact.

Artificial intelligence is a tool not a threat in any fields. This is the growing feature that is adopted by the world in some or the other fields. Introducing artificial intelligence in legal profession resulted in creation of various benefits such as e-discovery, ecommerce, e-governance, freedom of expression in cyber space, copyrights and trademark issues in digital platform and digital courts. However from 2019 Supreme Court of India adopted artificial

intelligence for better and flexible administration². The research reflects that artificial intelligence in legal framework is part of country's technological and economic growth and development. This work attempts has been highlighted to increase the use of artificial intelligence by new techniques but not as substitution to the lawyers, judges or the courts. My findings indicate that there are several opportunities and obstacles in implementing artificial intelligence in field of law. The goal of this study is to develop a model of artificial intelligence that could help in saving time, money and reducing risk in fields of law³. Law is wider platform in which artificial intelligence is useful in many branches of law such as space law, maritime law, cyber law and even regular civil and criminal branches, to the extent they need the forensic investigation. This research reflects in favor of artificial intelligence despite the changes that will impact manpower.

2. Statement of the Problems-

This research paper deals with current issues related to Ai, the legal profession and legal practices. Such issues includes: algorithmic transparency, cyber security vulnerabilities, unfairness, bias and discrimination, lack of contestability, legal personhood issues, intellectual property issues, adverse effects on workers, privacy and data protection issues, liability for damage and lack of accountability. This research paper uses the framework of '**vulnerability**' to strengthen understanding of critical areas of concern and guide efforts to mitigate risks and impacts in order to protect human well-being.

3- Objective of the Research Paper-

- To understand the word artificial intelligence and examining the role of AI in the present-day's legal profession.
- To explore the role and application of artificial intelligence in various aspects of law, such as in the civil and criminal fields.
- To analyze the jurisprudence and legal practices of artificial intelligence used in India.

4. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Digital Age-

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Digital Age refers to the development and application of computer systems that can perform tasks traditionally requiring human intelligence—such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and language understanding—within a highly connected, data-driven digital environment.

In the digital age, AI is powered by big data, high-speed computing, cloud technologies, and advanced algorithms like machine learning and deep learning. These technologies enable AI systems to analyze vast amounts of data in real time, identify patterns, make predictions, and continuously improve their performance without explicit programming⁴.

AI has become a transformative force across sectors such as healthcare, education, finance, transportation, governance, business, and law. It enhances efficiency through automation,

supports decision-making with predictive analytics, improves user experiences via personalization, and enables innovations like virtual assistants, autonomous vehicles, smart cities, and intelligent legal research tools⁵. At the same time, AI in the digital age raises important ethical, legal, and social concerns, including data privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency, accountability, job displacement, and the need for appropriate regulation. As a result, responsible AI development—emphasizing fairness, explainability and human oversight—has become a critical priority. In essence, AI in the digital age is not merely a technological advancement but a paradigm shift that is reshaping how societies function, how professions evolve, and how humans interact with machines.

5. Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Practice and in the Legal Profession-

- One of the most notable impacts of AI in legal practice is automation of routine legal tasks. Activities such as legal research, document review, contract analysis, and due diligence are now performed with the help of AI-powered tools. These systems can analyze vast volumes of legal data in a fraction of the time taken by humans, thereby reducing workload and minimizing errors.
- AI has also improved legal research and case analysis. **Advanced algorithms** can quickly identify relevant statutes, precedents, and judicial trends, enabling lawyers to prepare stronger arguments. Predictive analytics helps in assessing the possible outcomes of cases, assisting clients in informed decision-making⁶.
- Another significant impact is in contract management and compliance. AI tools can **draft, review, and monitor contracts, detect risks, and ensure regulatory compliance**. This is particularly beneficial for corporate legal departments and law firms handling complex transactions.
- AI has further contributed to **online dispute resolution (ODR)** and virtual legal services. Chatbots and AI-based legal assistants provide preliminary legal advice, increasing accessibility for individuals who may not afford traditional legal services.

6. Significance of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession

- The significance of AI lies in its ability to increase efficiency and reduce costs. By **automating repetitive tasks, lawyers can focus more on strategic, analytical, and advisory roles**. This improves the quality of legal services and client satisfaction⁷.
- AI promotes access to justice by making legal information and assistance more widely available. Small businesses and individuals benefit from affordable AI-based legal solutions, bridging the gap between legal needs and legal resources.
- AI also enhances accuracy and consistency in legal work. Data-driven insights reduce human bias and errors, leading to more reliable outcomes. Additionally, law firms adopting AI gain a competitive advantage in an increasingly technology-driven legal market. However, the use of AI raises ethical and legal concerns, including data privacy, transparency, accountability,

and the risk of over-reliance on technology. Therefore, AI should be used as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for human judgment.

7. Key case law & rulings-

1. **State v. Loomis⁸ — COMPAS risk assessment in sentencing**; what happened: Wisconsin Supreme Court allowed a court to consider a proprietary risk-assessment (COMPAS) when sentencing but warned about its limitations and the defendant's inability to challenge the proprietary methodology.

Significance: The decision recognized algorithmic tools' potential usefulness while emphasizing defendants' due-process concerns and the need for caution and human judgment when tools affect liberty. It's a touchstone for debates about automated risk tools.

2. **Recent U.S. sanctioning for unverified AI output; Hagens Berman (Only Fans litigation) (reported)**; what happened: A federal judge fined lawyers after briefs contained AI-generated, but fabricated, legal citations and authorities. The court found counsel violated their duty to ensure filings were legally supported.

Significance: The practical enforcement shows that courts will hold lawyers accountable for unverified AI prose and citations – a cautionary precedent for any counsel using generative tools⁹.

8. Practical recommendations for legal practitioners (actionable)

- Verify everything — never file AI-generated case law, quotations, or factual claims without human verification and citation checks. The risk of sanctions is real.
- Create an AI use policy — specify permitted tools, types of data that may be uploaded, approval workflows, and required disclosures to clients. This protects privilege and sets expectations.
- Data protection & vendor due diligence — ensure processors/providers have contractual terms (data residency, retention, confidentiality) and technical safeguards (encryption, access limits).
- Document human oversight — keep records showing how outputs were reviewed and by whom; this helps demonstrate competence and reasonableness in court or ethics inquiries.
- Train staff — basic training for associates and support staff on AI limits, hallucinations, and privilege risks.
- Client disclosure & informed consent — where appropriate (especially for large or sensitive matters), inform clients about AI use and obtain consent if client data will be processed by third-party models.

Conclusion-

AI offers striking productivity gains and new service, but it does not remove lawyers' professional and ethical duties. Courts are already penalizing careless reliance on AI; other litigation is testing IP and privacy boundaries. The sensible approach; adopt AI for efficiency,

but pair it with strict verification, sound governance, and clear client communication. In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence has a profound impact and growing significance in legal practice. While it cannot replace human expertise, it serves as a powerful tool that enhances efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness in the legal profession. A balanced and ethical integration of AI is essential for shaping the future of law in the digital age.

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