Survey on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Market

Technology has the power to shape the future of the legal profession. The emergence of unconventional legal services delivery enabled by technological advancements has prompted legal professional bodies around the world to reflect on the future use of technologies and its development boundaries. As stakeholders, our responsibility is to actively engage ourselves in the process and ensure that our professional identity, characterised by the values we uphold, remains intact. To be able to actively engage in the process, competence in the use and management of law-related technologies in an ethical manner is essential.

With the spirit of building a smart Belt and Road among the various jurisdictions, through this questionnaire, The Law Society of Hong Kong (“Law Society”) would like to reach out to its members and law associations around the world that are enthusiastic about this matter to share information on the use of artificial intelligence in the local legal service market.

This survey aims to collect market data and views on the future use of technologies within the legal profession. The results will facilitate The Law Society to formulate strategies and provide suitable training and facilities to enhance the competitiveness of the legal profession in Hong Kong.

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Survey Result
(Questionnaires received: 70)

1. Which country / region / jurisdiction are you from?
   - Hong Kong (51)
   - Czech Republic (1)
   - From UK, Based in Hong Kong (2)
   - Canada (1)
   - Italy (1)
   - Kazakhstan (1)
   - Poland (1)
   - PRC (4)
   - New Zealand (1)
   - Taiwan (5)

2. Which of the following categories is your age group?
   - □ Below 25 (5)
   - □ 26 – 35 (21)
   - □ 36 – 45 (12)
   - □ 46 - 55 (15)
   - □ 56 – 65 (12)
   - □ 65 or older (2)
   - □ Not specify (0)

3. Which of the following category best describes your position?
   - □ Paralegal (0)
   - □ Trainee lawyer (8)
   - □ Associate / Senior Associate (21)
   - □ Partners / Senior Partner (12)
   - □ Managing Partner (7)
   - □ In-House lawyer (13)
   - □ Others, please specify (8)
     - • Assistant solicitor (1)
     - • Consultant solicitor (1)
     - • Consultant (3)
     - • Academic teacher (1)
     - • Law student (2)
4. Is Artificial Intelligence (“A.I.”) a threat and/or an opportunity for the legal community?

☐ Threat (3) ☐ Opportunity (20) ☐ Both (45)

5. How would A.I. enhance your legal work? (can choose more than one option)

☐ Increase accuracy (44) ☐ Enhance efficiency in meeting client demands (44)
☐ Improve productivity (55) ☐ Increase cost effectiveness (48)
☐ Others, please specify (8)
  • Unknown yet
  • Improve job satisfaction
  • Translation
  • Databases will contain concrete information
  • No, it cannot
  • Assist in discovery and research
  • Disagree with the term A.I. in its truest sense, as there is no true A.I. yet and we are not even near.
  • Improve work life balance as it saves time for routine work

6. Percentage of your work that presently relates/relies on the use of A.I.?

☐ None (28) ☐ Below 20% (33) ☐ 21% - 40% (5)
☐ 41% - 60% (1) ☐ 61% - 80% (0) ☐ Over 80% (1)

7. In your opinion, what percentage of work/fees in the legal profession would be produced by the use of A.I. in ten years from now?

☐ None (2) ☐ Below 20% (18) ☐ 21% - 40% (28)
☐ 41% - 60% (15) ☐ 61% - 80% (4) ☐ Over 80% (0)
8. Do you believe A.I. would achieve mainstream adoption and deployment in the legal community?

□ Yes (41)  □ No (27)

If your answer is yes, how long do you think it will take?

□ Already here (1) □ 1 to 5 years (10) □ 6 to 10 years (16)
□ 11 to 15 years (7) □ 16 to 20 years (2) □ 20+ years (4)

9. Which area would A.I. be most successful in?

□ Document analysis (29) □ Case outcome prediction (11)
□ Electronic discovery (26) □ Document automation (41)
□ Legal advice (3)
□ Others, please specify (2)
  • Structured of deals projects
  • Routine work such as due diligence in IPO exercise?

10. What is the key resistance against the implementation of A.I.?

□ Cost (23) □ Resistance from staff (24)
□ Learning curve (19) □ Accuracy / Errors (14)
□ Lack of accountability (18)
□ Others, please specify (7)
  • Fear of Change
  • The fact that A.I. works are still unregulated. Cannot delete data on block chain – cyber security issues.
  • A.I. is difficult to accurately understand the needs of the client and to choose the applicable laws to match the needs of client / cases
  • Lack of knowledge of how to implement
  • Misunderstanding of what true A.I. is
  • Restrictions in existing procedural rules and laws
  • Security and safety
11. How best to integrate A.I. in the legal profession?

- Hire I.T. specialists (18)  
- Hire lawyers with technology background (19)  
- Staff training (27)  
- Organisational restructuring (17)  
- Others, please specify (5)
  - Will pondering
  - Invest
  - Provide free legal databases like Law Society Lexis
  - Engage IT professional firms
  - Should not

12. Do you think A.I. can replace positions in your firm in the next decade?

- Yes (27)  
- No (42)

If your answer is yes, which of the following positions will most likely be replaced?

- Paralegal (18)  
- Lawyers with 1 to 5 years of experience (12)  
- Lawyers with over 6 years of experience (2)  
- Partner (1)  
- Others, please specify (4)
  - There will be a proportional rationalization (1)
  - Clerical / Secretary staff (2)
  - Supporting and general staff (1)

13. Which of the following global initiatives would you support to regulate the ethical development and deployment of A.I. in the mainstream society?

- A.I. used for profiling then refusal of service/selection and discrimination (22)  
- A.I. being placed in charge in warfare and life and death situation (26)  
- Machines communicating and making decisions in a form that are not transparent to human intelligence (29)  
- Others, please specify (6)
  - Medical & Genetic analysis
  - None of the above
  - All above. Perhaps more.
- “Slow” and “Stage” development similar to development of Pharmaceuticals. Not to compromise ethnical development against speed or convenience.
- None at this stage
- Transparency, free information and security