

## **LexGoTech Roundtable Series (1<sup>st</sup> Round)**

**Date:** 12 June 2025 (Thursday)

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m.

**Venue:** 1/F, Function Hall, Main Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road,  
Central

### **“LawTech and AI in Private Legal Practice: Challenges and Opportunities”**

#### **Welcoming Remarks of the President**

#### **Introduction**

1. Good afternoon, Deputy Secretary for Justice Dr. Horace Cheung, distinguished guests and fellow solicitors.
2. It is truly a pleasure to see so many familiar faces—and new ones—here today as we gather to explore a topic that is reshaping our profession. For many of us, the rapid rise of LawTech, in particular AI, has been both thrilling and daunting. I still remember when legal research meant hours in the library, poring over case law. Now, AI can summarize and even analyze precedents in seconds. However, while AI delivers speed, it does not currently guarantee accuracy.
3. That is why, with the advancement of LawTech and AI tools, it also brings profound responsibility for lawyers. How do we harness these tools ethically? How do we ensure they enhance, rather than undermine, the trust our clients place in us?
4. For our profession, we are now at a juncture where the question is not *whether* LawTech and AI will change our work — but *how* we, as

solicitors in Hong Kong, can lead the way in adopting LawTech and AI thoughtfully, strategically, and ethically.

### **Maintaining Professional Ethics in Using LawTech and AI**

5. Established in 1907<sup>1</sup>, The Law Society of Hong Kong has just celebrated our 118<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since 2009, The Law Society has been preparing for the application of LawTech and AI. We have introduced principles of professional conduct in the “Hong Kong Solicitors’ Guide to Professional Conduct” (the “Solicitors’ Guide”) to regulate the conduct of solicitors in the use of technology to ensure the compliance with legal and ethical requirements.
6. For myself, having humbly served in The Law Society in different capacities for 20 years, I have witnessed the Hong Kong legal profession’s growing recognition of the potential of LawTech and AI, particularly for its value-adding capabilities, cost-effectiveness and strategic decision-making.
7. One interesting question I often reflect on is this:  
*As the integration of LawTech and AI in legal services becomes the norm, would a lawyer’s refusal or inability to adopt such technological advancements constitute a breach of their professional duty to clients?*
8. The Solicitors’ Guide offers some insight. Principle 6.01 states that “*a solicitor owes his client a duty to be competent to perform any legal services undertaken on the client’s behalf ... [and] must serve his client in a conscientious, diligent, prompt and efficient manner.*”

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<sup>1</sup> The Law Society of Hong Kong was incorporated on 8 April 1907.

9. Given this, if AI can cut research time from hours to minutes with accuracy, would it still be ethical for us to ignore that advantage when we work on our legal advice? With this in mind, I would like to leave my earlier questions open to you as food for thought.
10. Early last year, The Law Society published a “*Position Paper on the Impact of AI on the Legal Profession*”. The paper aimed to impress upon our profession and other stakeholders including, *among others*, the Government, the Judiciary and academics, the urgent need for timely and proactive actions and reforms, so that we can guide the direction of the application of AI for the benefit of our profession as a whole. As outlined in our Position Paper, The Law Society has committed to a strategic roadmap that aims to guide the legal community through the transformative impact of AI, through a three-phased approach: Inform, Engage, and Implement.

### **To Play a Role in Legal Innovation**

11. As I often emphasize during my overseas duty visits, under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong, as part of China, operates under a common law system, which is unique in the country and remains the world’s only bilingual common law jurisdiction. This distinctive advantage of Hong Kong allows us to be at the forefront of legal innovation, and we must make full use of it. For example, let us all think about these questions –
  - (a) Hong Kong has a robust financial system and an equally robust legal common law system. These edges enable Hong Kong to attract global data resources and technologies, facilitating data exchange and cooperation with the Mainland and beyond. How might we further leverage these unique advantages to position our city as the region’s hub

for cross-border data flows and as a super-connector bridging the Mainland and global markets?

- (b) How can Hong Kong's legal community collaboratively build a "Common Law Large Language Model", which is trained on local case law and bilingual statutes, to enrich the database and enhance the precision and reliability of LawTech and AI tools? and
- (c) As legal practitioners, how can we better equip ourselves to cope with all the new initiatives driven by LawTech and AI, such as the use of integrated Court Case Management System (iCMS) and remote hearings for civil proceedings in Court operations?

12. These are just a few examples of the questions that we might ask ourselves.

### **Concluding Remarks**

13. Lastly, I would like to share a question I frequently encounter when engaging with our community and young people: *"Is law still a career worth considering in today's world?"*

14. My answer remains a firm "YES". I believe that while the legal profession may encounter challenges in developing and deploying LawTech and AI, these challenges also present valuable opportunities. Our stance is that: LawTech and AI will augment legal practice but will not replace lawyers.

15. It is imperative that we understand, apply, and ethically integrate these technologies while managing their associated risks. Let's learn, adapt, and lead — not just for ourselves, but for our profession, our community and our future generations. Thank you.