Turbocharge your legal practice with AI

Elisa Reiter and Daniel Pollack │ August 16, 2023

Let's get right to the point. Many lawyers could benefit from using AI in their legal practice. Here's how:

1. **Reduced workload:** AI can automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks such as document review, proofreading, and legal research, freeing up lawyers' time for higher-level work.

2. **Enhanced analysis and identification:** AI can assist lawyers in analyzing and identifying persuasive precedents by providing quick access to relevant information and improving the quality control of documents.

3. **Improved client relations**: By delegating low-level tasks to AI, lawyers have more time to engage with clients, develop strategies, and keep clients better informed throughout the legal process. This can lead to stronger client relationships and satisfaction.

4. **Increased productivity**: AI tools can increase attorney productivity by reducing the time spent on manual tasks, allowing lawyers to focus on more complex and value-added work.

5. **Efficiency and cost-effectiveness**: AI can help lawyers streamline their workflow, leading to increased efficiency and cost savings for law firms.

6. **Legal research and analysis**: AI can assist lawyers in conducting legal research more quickly and consistently, spotting issues, and finding relevant documents.

7. **Automation and task management**: AI can automate routine tasks such as scheduling, client intake, and email communication, improving efficiency and organization within a law firm.

Of course, it's important for lawyers to use AI responsibly and ethically, considering potential biases and privacy concerns. A Clio article suggests that proper training and education are key to ensuring the responsible use of AI in the legal profession. Exactly what is AI? The article states:

AI systems leverage intelligent algorithms that classify, analyze, and make predictions from large amounts of data. These algorithms are

trained using large datasets (i.e. "training data") so that they can identify patterns in data, make predictions, and recommend actions.

As an example, do you ever struggle through analyzing discovery requests or subsequently writing up a motion to compel when someone fails to respond to discovery in a timely and thorough fashion?

Upload a document and set the proper prompts, for which attorneys Charles Hardy and Chase Hardy suggest the following:

Prompt: "You are a brilliant attorney and legal writer. Your task is to summarize requests for production in a plain text table. Create a plain text table as follows, Column 1 the Request for Production Number, Column 2 short 5–10-word plain language description of the materials requests, Column 3 possible objections to assert. Here are the requests for production: (Paste the raw requests for production, formatting does not matter)."

The result is a brilliantly formatted table that will form a first step in helping our clients understand in simple language what type of documentation they are to gather and produce. The table will also facilitate preparation of a motion to compel in the event a litigant has been less than responsive to the initial discovery requests.

While AI can enhance legal practice, it cannot replace the human element in the practice of law. Lawyers will still play a vital role in tasks that require human judgment, strategic decision-making, client relationships, and courtroom presentations.

Yes, one must use caution lest one experience an unwanted 15-minutes of fame. Many of us are old enough to remember the revolution

engendered by word processors, and have lived through the advent of desktop computers, laptop computers, cell phones and more.

In summary, lawyers should consider using AI in their legal practice to improve efficiency, reduce workload, enhance analysis, and strengthen client relationships. However, it's important to strike a balance between leveraging AI tools and maintaining the essential human element. AI cannot replace empathy. AI cannot replace courtroom flair. AI is technology that, if used wisely, may be used by an astute lawyer to ease the daily burdens of the practice of law.

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