



5 Ways that AI is Changing the Legal Profession



Not too long ago, legal research involved spending hours in a library with massive tomes. That form of research would look arcane to today's newly minted lawyers who can pull up cases, statutes and law journal articles on their smartphones in seconds.

There's no denying that technology has already transformed the legal profession. Now, more changes are coming. Some experts believe that Artificial Intelligence will find fertile ground in the legal community. Although attorneys may sometimes seem resistant to innovation, current attitudes are changing. After all, the logical reasoning and reliance on precedent make law well-suited to machine learning.

However, before anyone starts picturing Android lawyers, readers should take a minute to understand what AI really means for the present and future legal profession.

Here are five ways that the legal world is already using advanced AI.

1

Researching and Performing Searches

Lawyers switched to doing most research in computer databases decades ago. Still, lawyers and law students can attest that performing research in these systems requires significant time. They still need to sift through search results to find relevant information.

Nuanced legal matters can lead to poor results when using basic keyword searches. AI can look beyond the results that only appear useful based on common language, but lack legal relevance. Those sophisticated abilities translate to significant time saved.



One study indicated that when lawyers used AI search software, they finished

24.5% faster than attorneys using other search methods.

AI also led to

21% more relevant results in searches. According to estimates, lawyers could **save between 132 and 210 hours** of research time annually with these tools.

Reviewing Contracts in Less Time

Tech companies are working to make contract review faster and simpler. AI can use 'natural language processing' technology to identify problematic sections in contracts. The tools will highlight specific areas to ensure that they get appropriate attention from an attorney.

One contract analysis test found that [AI outperformed 20 human attorneys](#). The average AI score for reviewing NDAs was 94 percent compared to 85 for the lawyers. While those numbers are compelling, the real difference is in speed. The average time lawyers required to complete the task was 92 minutes. The AI required just 26 seconds.

AI score for reviewing NDAs

94%

Lawyers score for reviewing NDAs

85%

2



3

Discovery and Document Review

The discovery process often involves reviewing massive amounts of documentation, recordings, video and other evidence. Much of the information will be of little use to the attorneys litigating the case. AI-powered tools can significantly speed up the process by filtering out relevant information.

In one instance involving the [Telephone Consumer Protection Act \(TCPA\)](#), AI reviewed 33,000 hours of recordings to identify the pertinent parts. Lawyers then reviewed just 140 hours. **The process cut review time by 99 percent**, translating to millions of dollars in savings.

4

Predictive Analytics

Lawyers predict case outcomes as a part of their analysis. Analytic tools can inform the parties of the likely outcome of a case given the facts involved. AI is capable of reviewing massive amounts of data and generating predictions. As an added benefit, the more information that goes into these systems, the better their predictions will become.

One study found that an algorithm predicted the outcome of [US Supreme Court cases accurately 70.2%](#) of the time, and the decision of each justice correctly 71.9 percent of the time. Top human experts are about 66 percent accurate in such predictions.

Algorithm predicted the outcome of US Supreme Court cases accurately

70.2% of the time

Top human experts predicted the outcome of US Supreme Court cases accurately

66% of the time

Expert analysis is one of the benefits of experience, but not even the most experienced attorneys can keep track of or remember the factors involved in every case they handled or read. Technology is far better at analyzing massive data sets. Lawyers can then review that information and make better informed decisions about budgets, settlements or whether to pursue litigation in the first place.



5

Court Reporting and Transcription Tools

The growing shortage of stenographers is helping to jumpstart the use of AI for legal transcription needs. Companies like [Verbit use AI to offer fully admissible, accurate](#) final transcripts. The use of AI means that digital court reporters can offer **reliable transcripts in a fraction of the time required by traditional methods. With Verbit, rough drafts take just one hour, with the final copy available in 24 hours.**

Verbit's advanced technology reduces background noise to produce quality audio. It identifies speakers, recognizes various accents and dialects and stays up to date with the incorporation of current events. Professionals are also benefiting from Verbit's production of live transcripts which can be referenced during proceedings themselves - a huge value-add. Court reporters utilizing Verbit's AI will also see improved and more accurate results with each use, as the machine gets smarter every time it's put to work.



The legal industry is not the only area where AI is disrupting the status quo. Technological innovation is [driving changes](#) in media, healthcare, transportation, education, agriculture and other industries as well. With [self-driving cars](#) and [robots performing surgeries](#), AI's use cases are seemingly endless in changing life as we know it.

While AI's impact in the legal industry is significant, it should not be feared. It's critical to note that humans still serve a vital role in the legal community. AI will only simply allow them to perform their jobs more effectively and efficiently.

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[Click here](#) for more information on Verbit's legal AI-based transcription tools. Learn why and how court reporters and legal agencies utilize Verbit's process of AI + human fact checking by a team of professional transcribers for trusted transcription accuracy.