

The Evolving Role of Lawyers Navigating the AI Co-Pilot or ‘Assistant’ Era of Legal Practice

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Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the legal world, just as it has been doing with many other industries. Yet, there are more ethical considerations as AI interfaces with the legal industry. Lawyers have begun utilizing AI as a collaborative assistant or co-pilot in several processes such as predictive analytics in litigation and contract analysis. However, such use relies on responsible AI practices to ensure that these AI tools operate transparently, free from bias, and under the guidance of legal professionals.

The co-pilot concept in AI is based in a four-stage Maturity Model using the mnemonic LITE, which stands for **Leveraging** foundational AI capabilities; **Integrating** specialized tools; **Transforming** expertise; and **Empowering** the broader enterprise. This approach focuses on the interconnection of human supervision and AI enhancement to create a balanced partnership.

In the first of the four stages, the Leveraging stage, AI relieves legal professionals of the more mundane tasks in their day to day so that they can focus on the more intensive, complex tasks. AI provides recommendations, but decisions are left to the legal professional. More precise insights are offered in the second stage, Integrating. Here, AI tools focus on specific areas of law and are able to handle more nuanced tasks and complex scenarios. The AI’s ability to handle complex scenarios grows even more in the Transform stage, as they begin to predict litigation outcomes and review intricate contract sequences. But, as the AI’s capabilities grow so do the roles of the legal professionals. While AI can provide a more complex understanding of the law, legal professionals are still tasked with the most nuanced—and critical—aspects of the analysis. Finally, in the Empower stage, AI becomes a critical element of law firms and legal departments. Not only can it provide expertise in a variety of areas, but it creates a more efficient environment for the legal professionals to operate in.

Nevertheless, at all stages, AI requires the oversight of legal professionals to ensure that it is operating efficiently and responsibly. As AI continues to develop in the legal industry, it is crucial that legal professionals develop alongside it to maintain control and ensure that ethical considerations are met.

For more information, check out the full article [here](#).