RESEARCH ARTICLE

▪ Vol. 5, No. 1 (Winter 2024) ▪ p-ISSN: 2791-0237 ▪ e-ISSN: 2791-0202
▪ Pages: 307 – 317 ▪ DOI: 10.55737/qjss.203679344

Open Access

QLANTIC JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Legal Research: A Comprehensive Analysis

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Abstract: *This paper conducts a thorough investigation into the profound ramifications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) on legal proceedings and the justice system. It assesses how these technologies are reshaping existing legal structures and principles by fundamentally altering judicial practices. Looking ahead, the paper anticipates a promising trajectory for AI and ML in legal research, elucidating their developmental pathways and introducing novel areas of inquiry. It emphasizes the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach, advocating for collaboration between legal professionals, data scientists, and ethicists to effectively address the ethical and practical challenges inherent in the integration of AI with the law. This synergy is deemed essential for navigating the complexities of ethics and practice that arise from the intersection of AI and the legal domain. Moreover, the research underscores the pivotal roles played by AI, ML, and related technologies, asserting that they transcend mere instrumental functions to become catalysts for comprehensive transformations in legal research methodologies. By embracing these technologies, the legal field stands on the brink of a substantial transformation, heralding the end of traditional practices and the dawn of a new era characterized by digital-age legal research paradigms.*

Key Words: Artificial Intelligence, Ethical Challenges, Interdisciplinary Approach, Legal Research, Machine Learning, Transformation

Introduction

This paper explores in depth the substantial effects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) on the legal results, the legal system, and the formation of regulation policies, contemplating how these two technologies have changed our legal system, which is heavily led by the combination of documents, rules, regulations, and laws. Artificial intelligence has always been the first one in law, understanding, decision-making, or restructuring, empowering the legal procedure using its computing power to find the law, clarify understanding, and improve our decision-making. Historically, evaluating and retrieving legal information has been a time-consuming, laborious process involved in the manual perusal of legal documents (Anderson, 2022). It is relatively complicated and frequently mistyped by human processes. As the legal practice encounters the proliferation of legal documents, growing statistics show the need for better research and effective methodology. The birth of artificial intelligence and machine learning gives rise to a new kind of legal research that explores the possibilities of the suitability of data analytics and predictive functions (Khan, A. 2024).

Hence, this research paper expresses the journey into the study of artificial intelligence and machine learning in legal research. This resource seeks to discover distinct areas of employment of such technologies and investigate their applicable power the law professionals acquire, process, and consume legal information. Besides that, it considers the challenges and ethical considerations confronted by this

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▪ **To Cite:** Zakir, M. H., Bashir, S., Ali, R. N., & Khan, S. H. (2024). Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Legal Research: A Comprehensive Analysis. *Qlantic Journal of Social Sciences*, *5*(1), 307-317. https://doi.org/10.55737/qjss.203679344

shifting mode of work, specifically the issues of bias, transparency, and information privacy that artificial intelligence and machine learning inevitably bring. The introduction of artificial intelligence and machine learning into law goes beyond a mere trend; it is a transformative factor able to remodel the ground where the legal profession is practiced fully. Researchers in the legal field should have a thorough understanding of the benefits, intricacies, and essence of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Such an awareness is of vital importance for those who are to make laws, legal professionals, and researchers, and it is the task of the stakeholders to pursue principles of fairness, justice, and accountability. We comprehensively examine the advent of artificial intelligence and machine learning in legal research and explain how these technologies can alter legal practice (Khan et al., 2023). Through an application of literature reviews, case analyses, and critical thinking tools, we will create a landscape of this transition by looking at where we are now, where we are heading, and the ethical implications of this advance in law and practice (Khan et al., 2023).

Literature Review

Traditional conducting in-depth studies of all the bibliographic sources on the law, which include court records, relevant laws, and case laws. However, some keywords are very wide in their implications (e.g., 'artificial intelligence,' 'machine learning') and are frequently used by various professionals in the industry. Thus, the subsequent information will provide a clear path and direction. This Literature Review aims to conceptually provide a brief account of AI and ML technology development and its application in the field of legal research, focusing on the most important inventions, working methods, and research field.

Evolution of Legal Research Methodologies

How research was conducted for law in the past was seemingly outdated, with people using their hands to determine relevant cases by going through them physically, statutes, and precedents. It was a work that was long and frequently yielded bad or inaccurate results. Following this period in time, plenty of new legal research tools were developed and similar to internet databases and search engines, affecting accessibility but not the methodology (Baker & Smith, 2023).

Emergence of AI and ML in Legal Research

AI and ML Integration into legal research has caused a profound revolution in how research is being redefined. AI-based research systems like ROSS and LexisNexis computers natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning algorithms and do the work of reading, picking out the information from the documents, and providing legal entities with personalized insights. Such platforms grant a smooth path of research to legal practitioners, using which they prioritize higher-level issues, titling case strategy, and client counseling (Carlton, 2021).

Document Analysis and Predictive Analytics

AI and ML algorithms have great capabilities in document analysis; the ability for them to pick out relevant case law and statutes in a very quick and accurate manner is incredible. Legal professionals may use these technologies to read contracts, carry out prospection, and evaluate the possible outcome of cases based on historical data. Predictive analytics models, with their large set of data on legal decisions, have valuable value for them because they help to make assumed legal strategies and outcomes (Davis, 2022).

Legal Document Review and E-Discovery

AI-empowered e-discovery technology has made the handling of big review cases in litigation far less complex than it was. These tools apply a complex technology that detects, separates, and deletes particular content, thus cutting down discovery phase time and costs. Furthermore, AI can discover patterns and trends from scan-ins of documents, thus involving the development of a case plan.

Ethical Considerations and Bias

It has been difficult to implement artificial intelligence in legal research as moral issues have been brought up with it, mainly on the issues of bias and transparency. AI algorithms could end up with copying of the

biases present in the legal texts or historical data they use if not done properly. AI transparency and fairness are perpetual hurdles, and scholars and practitioners of law make great efforts to work on them. The guidelines and rules of ethical behavior are being created to control these risks.

Interdisciplinary Collaborations

AI and ML not only apply in one single area, but they do so in interdisciplinarity. Experts in the law, data science, and ethics are jointly brainstorming AI technologies that interface well with morals and legal standards. Because of this multidisciplinary nature, these two technologies enhance the legal and development processes and align with AI and ML realities (Edwards, 2023).

In Conclusion, AI and ML are the drivers behind the entire revolution in legal research, which is ultimately bringing about to the legal fraternity an era of increased efficiency, accuracy, and availability. On the one hand, they allow scientific development to make great strides, but on the other hand, these technologies should be treated responsibly and fairly. The review presented here lays the foundation for a thorough examination of AI and ML utilization, constraints, and implications of the combinations in the legal area of research.

Methodology

The study uses holistic methods to explore the application of AI and ML approaches in the legal research field, as both of these technologies have the potential to revolutionize this area. The approach involves a thorough literature review alongside a case study analysis and an empirical assessment of the real case scenarios of AI utilization in the law domain. AI and ML legal research implementations are also utilized in monitoring and enforcing regulations related to this industry to facilitate the generation of new policies that will protect both workers and the environment. These case studies were drawn from various laws and legal contexts, such as contract review, legal document analysis, and predictive analytics. For the sake of our empirical analysis of the topic, we obtained the data from various resources, including legal documents, court cases, statutes, and old historical decisions.

Limitations

This research takes note of some limitations that include the availability of high-quality legal data, algorithm bias, and AI technology development, which keeps changing, resulting in evolvement. This is vital, and it is embodied clearly in the study scope. Consequently, the research follows a methodology that integrates literature review, case study analysis, empirical assessment, and ethical evaluation to furnish a nuanced perspective on AI, as well as ML, in the legal research areas. Through the implementation of a detailed and interdisciplinary methodology, our goal is to find out as much as we can about the different ways these innovations affect the legal profession.

AI and Machine Learning in Legal Research: Real-life Case Study and Practical Experience

AI and ML have extensively been leveraged in law research, and now, due to their presence, the legal profession has embraced a new law research era characterized by refined competencies, accuracy, and innovativeness. This part gives examples and case studies of the mentioned technology's applications and living shreds of evidence for potential transformative power in the legal field (Khan, A. 2023).

Legal Document Analysis:

AI systems have shown many signs of competence in the automation of the sentiment examination of legal documents. An instance of this is "ROSS" - an AI legal research platform, which is the most well-known AI legal research platform that uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) as a tool to execute complex legal authority analyses and understand them (Fischer, 2021). It will then work hand-in-hand with the legal practitioners to facilitate prompt case searching, reference to statutes applicable, and previous case decisions (Khan et al.; W., 2022).

Case Study: ROSS Intelligence

ROSS is used in legal environments because it supports the quicker completion of legal research work. AI-driven tools can overcome this challenge; they can search numerous legal bases in record time and tedious

citations and cite relevant legal material. Legal experts can focus on tactical planning and vectors by placing the documents into a set of categories, hence augmenting productivity and precision (Liu et al., A. 2023).

Contract Review and Due Diligence:

Contract review, which traditionally has been labor-intensive and time-consuming, has been transformed by AI and machine learning capability. The speed at which it is possible to extract important terms, clauses, and risks is increasing due to AI and machine learning functionality.

Case Study: Kira

Kira, an AI-driven contract analysis tool, has been widely leveraged by legal departments throughout. Use our artificial intelligence to write for you for free (Without Human Intervention!). This process relies on ML algorithms for figuring out and isolating facts and details from contracts that are pertinent to the review process, which greatly reduces the troublesome operations that are involved in this process. Legal professionals can grasp the issue of whether a contract complies and what risks it entails through fast contract assessment, which helps clients land a service and the risk to be managed.

Predictive Analytics

AI and ML-powered predictive analytics are the most common AI applications for predicting legal outcomes and forming strategic decisions.

Case Study: Lex Machina

Lex Machina, a legal analytics platform that is built on ML algorithms to analyze scores of previous litigation datasets, is used. It revealed the case outcomes, judge behavior, and the strategies of counterparts, which are important aspects of the process. Legal counselors can reach for evidence-based decisions about court case settlements, resource allocation, and trial management based on models and algorithms.

Legal Research Assistants

(Artificial intelligence-based virtual legal research assistants help legal professionals search for relevant legal information speedily and effectively.)

Case Study: DoNotPay

AI virtual legal assistant DoNotPay can detect and redress a wide variety of common legal problems and offers several services, including document drafting and legal advice. Utilizing AI, it can figure out what the user is searching for, and to do so, it will tailor the solution to the legal issues the user has. Although it, in the light of conceivable accountable legal advice, is not a replacement for a counsel, it makes access to basic legal information and assistance more available and democratic.

Intellectual Property Search

In the domain of intellectual property, AI, coupled with ML, has facilitated fast and accurate database searches, allowing both inventors and legal professionals to save valuable time.

Case Study

An IBM Watson Patents solution is IBM (Khan et al.; I., 2022). Artificial intelligence incorporated by IBM's Watson Patent Analytics helps scan huge patent databases. It can benchmark valuable current art, hence facilitating the implementations by patent attorneys and inventors in examining the degree of novelty in their inventions. AI here is the display of the possibility of using new technology to speed up the creation and protection of intellectual property (Goodman & Marshall, 2022).

The featured case studies could create a picture for us that AI and ML are turning themselves into important players in legal research. Being proficient in technology is not only a boon but also lies in

equipping legal experts to concentrate on the tasks of strategic development and counseling. Apart from being an example of the role AI and ML can play in legal research, this example shows that AI and ML's place in legal research is continuously changing. This presents an opportunity for the development of their capabilities, as well as challenges that need analysis (Khan et al., 2022).

Challenges and Ethical Considerations

The Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in legal research opens up some promising opportunities, but it has its distinctive problems and a few ethical dilemmas in the background. As AI technologies become increasingly prevalent in the legal domain, it is imperative to address the following issues. As AI technologies become increasingly prevalent in the legal domain, it is imperative to address the following issues:

Bias and Fairness

One of the main issues in incorporating AI in legal research is that there is always the likelihood that algorithms or data sets will have biases (Harris, 2023). The court system is not immune to historical biases, and the AI system could be a tool that helps perpetuate or even worsen this phenomenon. One example is that AI models trained with a history of legal decisions may be obedient to discrimination in these decisions, which then results in biased recommendations or outcomes (Khan, A. 2022).

Transparency and Interpretability

Decisions and suggestions often cannot be traced to the underlying steps that AI and ML algorithms use for the simple reason that becoming opaque is an inevitable result of this approach. This decline in transparency may inspire some doubts in AI systems that may cause blindness toward the justification of the legal outcomes. Ensuring transparency and interpretability are the key ethics in the consideration of AI systems (Khan et al.; X. 2021).

Privacy and Data Security

AI, in the process of legal research, utilizes a lot of confidential legal inputs, hence the need for immense privacy and data safety measures. Ensuring the privacy of the clients and strictly observing these laws are the core ethical values. Unauthorized system access, data breaches, and inappropriate use of legal resources are the most critical factors.

Human Oversight and Accountability

Although AI can be a beneficial assistant for legal professionals, computers will not substitute human judgment and a sense of responsibility for the common good. For the sake of AI-inspired automation and human intercession efficiency, preserving the balance should not be underestimated. The responsibility of lawyers is to be held accountable for the ethical and legal impact of AI-generated reorientations or decisions (Abdelrehim et al., N2021).

Regulatory and Ethical Guidelines

AI and ML policy areas attract the attention of the legal community, which is not regulated by uniform procedure and ethics norms. Implementing articulate, transparent regulations and ethical guidelines that provide the legal profession's use of AI with directions to prevent misuse and abuses is a hastened task to be done to allow the responsible adoption of AI.

Access and Inclusivity

AI systems lacking the consideration that would make them inclusive might unintentionally leave behind those with disabilities or who don’t have access to sophisticated technology. The chance of providing legal services and information on equal terms to all categories of society is over.

Impact on Legal Employment

The rising scope and ability of AI to automate and increase efficiency in legal research may act as a potential cause of job displacement by professionals within a given law legal community. Amidst the

technological revolution, it is important to foresee the legal profession's future demand and the younger chance generation's aptness to be prepared for changing work patterns via skill retraining strategies (Khan et al., 2021).

Evolving Technology and Legal Expertise

AI and ML technologies are being regularly updated, hence Continuous Development. Attorneys, as well as other legal professionals, need to be aware of the alterations and withhold the talent to cynically evaluate AI-produced reports that comply with legal principles and ethics.

Ethical Use of AI-Generated Legal Content

AI systems are capable of generating legal documents, contracts, and legal advice. It is so needful to pinpoint the ethical framework of AI-generated legal content for maintaining the impeccable morality of legal affairs.

Overcoming these difficulties and ethical issues through the concerted actions of specialist lawyers, AI designers, ethicists, and policymakers is the key. Ethical structures, directives, and regulatory codes ought to progress at the same pace as developing artificial intelligence technology to guarantee that AI implementation within the legal area is trustworthy and fair. By smartly tackling these issues, lawyers can make AI and ML work instead of the law in legal research controllable at the same time, which preserves the very principles of law, such as equity, fairness, and accountability (Khan et al. Jillani, 2019).

The Effect on Legal Operation and Policy

The merger of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is not exclusive to the research and document assembly domains; rather, this behemoth spans a wider range than that. Broadly speaking, it affects the entire legal practice in question, and as such, it impacts the legal advisors and the jurists who establish the normative legal basis (Patel, 2023). Here, the intricate influence of AI and ML on the legal practice and system of peace is explored.

Enhanced Efficiency and Productivity

AI and ML converted the legal process, powering the ongoing digitization trends by increasing productivity and throughput rates tremendously. Now, law practitioners can utilize AI-based programs to do text analysis, case studies, and contract examinations successfully and at a fast pace. Law firms have now become more efficient with emerging technology, translating into lower costs for them and faster turnarounds for clients.

Informed Decision-Making

AI-based predictive analytics offer a smart way for lawyers to glean statistically based evidence as concerns case outcomes and judge well-motivated attitudes and litigation strategies. This leads to more precise decision-making by parties involved on the cases that should be settled and the resources that should be allocated among parties, as well as the types of legal strategies that should be used. Through alignment with anticipated legal outcomes, attorneys become capable of taking actions that follow legal norms (Khan, A. 2018).

Access to Legal Services

Assistance and information from legal AI-driven virtual legal assistants and chatbots are helping to devote more positions of legal information and services. Such legal systems have the potential to provide new low-cost services for individuals who may have been deprived of legal advice, if not before. The development of online courts possessed this hidden advantage of increasing justice accessibility for those from the bottom rungs of the social ladder (Jackson, 2022).

Impact on Legal Research

AI adoption largely dictates how legal research is conducted. Lawyers can now easily obtain relevant case laws, statutes, and precedents more precisely. Legal scholars can quickly and certainly find the relevant

case law, statutes, and precedents. This expanded availability brings to it a certain quality, which allows the legal issues to be better explored and makes the legal arguments more precise.

Ethical and Bias Mitigation

While the AI and ML algorithms tend to get better, the measures to minimize bias while bringing in responsible AI adoption are thrown into the spotlight. Lawyers and rule makers are cooperating to create ethical codes and are devising mechanisms to tackle biases that come along with AI-driven legal processes (Khan et al., 2020).

Evolving Legal Policies

Having artificial intelligence used in legal service provision necessitates the reworking of regulations and legal procedures. Policy professionals are met with some questions related to data privacy, algorithm transparency, and ethics of using AI in the law courts. The drafting of these policies is a continuous process, as the inventiveness runs beside the pace of the technology itself.

Legal Tech Innovation

AI and ML have actuated the development of legal technology, making sure all corners are covered. Together, startups and established companies develop a lot of AI PR-driven programs to cure legal issues of various kinds. That groundwork supports the growth of innovation as well as the widening of the legal tech market (Kumar, 2021).

Job Roles and Skills

According to the changes in AI systems as well as technology in the legal profession, the role descriptions and job skills are affected. As legal practitioners face more demands to be effective with AI tools, they need to be more proficient in their interpretation of AI-generated data and ethically sound choices based on AI acceptance.

Legal Education and Training

Legal education is transforming in light of AI and ML to inculcate them into the curricula. Law schools have incorporated new courses into their curriculum that will teach students how to conduct legal research with the help of AI, interpret AI-generated legal information, and perceive the ethical concerns presented by AI in the legal profession.

To finish the discussion, there is no doubt that the incorporation of AI and ML into legal research made history for the legal profession. Not merely improves the judicial practice but, due to its nature, it tends to resolve various ethical, policy, and accessibility issues related to law practice. Legal lawyers and policymakers, together with school administrations, should be working to collaborate on the changes to ensure that AI ML contributes positively to the legal environment.

Future Implications and Research Perspectives

The possibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) systems in legal search is highly likely to have already redefined the way legal services are being processed. AI and ML will be progressing even more in the time to come. Hence, the research on possible future trends should be the fundamental priority, not giving the field a place in the sun.

Advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP)

The advancement of AI in legal research would be achieved by making models with the notions of NLP that could understand specific legal terms and the whole context. This kind of model will help lawyers in diving for significance in law documents more proficiently.

Explainable AI (XAI)

Pivotal to the solution of the challenge with transparency and interpretability, the research in XAI will be a key player. Processes of law-making through AI systems of the future should let the prospects produce explained decision-making processes, thus perfecting trust and accountability.

Bias Mitigation and Fairness

The next step of future research is customizing algorithms that provide effective methods against biases in legal AI systems. Standardization of the metrics aimed at estimation of fairness and training dataset diversity will be important steps to follow.

Regulatory Frameworks

The legal community will require an elaborate legal system for AI in the profession, and an appropriate legal system will be developed. Policymakers will come up with such laws, which will be launched as guidelines to unite the ethical considerations of technology with the laws in place.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

It will be more than ever necessary to have the political community comprised of lawyers, data scientists, ethicists, and cognizant of technology. The propagation of multidisciplinary research will usher in a more profound comprehension of the moral, legal, and technical foundations of AI and ML in the country's legal system.

Personalized Legal Assistance

The AI-based virtual legal assistants will have the ability to adapt not just to the group of users but also to a person, considering his personal needs and tastes. This technology will make it possible for them to get personal legal guidance and the documents created, which would eventually grow access to not only legal services but also.

Cross-Border Legal Research

AI supports cross-border legal research by providing individuals from different parts of the world the ability to access and process legal information of all jurisdictions concurrently. This lays the foundation associated with international decisions and as well jurisdictional conflicts.

Ethical Considerations in AI Adoption

AI implementation in the legal field will cause extensive interrogation about ethical issues. Next step-ethical issues relating to AI adoption in the legal profession will be revealed. A thorough analysis of the consequences of AI on the lawyer-client relationship will be particularly significant. Discussions on ethics and lawyers' obligations will be an essential element of a successful exchange.

Education and Training

Amongst the integration of AI and ML into the legal education process, several courses will be developed to help equip future lawyers with advanced technical skills. The studies will determine if these programs indeed can build an AI literacy among students that is open-minded and open to ethical AI use.

AI and Access to Justice

Further investigation will search for whether it is only there to make justice available for those who are left behind. The investigation will include studies that address AI-based programs to fill the justice gap and avail legal help to low-income communities.

Collaboration with Legal Tech Startups

Collaboration with legal tech startups is a big source of innovation that will have a driving force. Research might also be to assess the effect and scalability of the design of AI appliances manufactured by these startups.

Impact on Legal Employment

The research will stay with the measurement compliance of AI in the sphere of legal employment, including the transformation of jobs and tailoring of skills, as well as examine the method of workforce adaptation (O'Neil, 2022).

In short, AI and ML are likely to increase the productivity and accuracy of legal research while at the same time posing some ethical questions. The technology is growing rapidly, and researchers, legal experts, and policy specialists must exercise close cooperation to make the most of this prospect. They need to be watchful and, at the same time, respect the ethical principles and legal principles. Research in these emerging areas will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of legal research and practice.

Conclusion

To do so, the AI and ML integration in legal research, a trip to an era where legal professionals have changed the way they possess, process, and apply legal knowledge, has already come. The AI and ML used in legal research no doubt give out huge promises, but also present complex problems and ethical considerations remain.

AI-powered legal research like ROSS and Kira that help cut down the document analysis time and lead to faster due diligence processes are pointers that AI capacity is increasingly interfacing with lawyers' work already. The example of Lex Machina analytics tools demonstrates the ability of this type of programming to equip legal professionals with data-driven knowledge concerning case outcomes. Virtual Legal Assistants, for example, DoNotPay, enable anyone to have access to legal services regardless of their background or topography by making basic legal information and advice available to the whole public.

Nevertheless, the path on which the legal research AI and ML are being practiced has not been very smooth. These issues include discrimination in algorithms, business model supply chain traceability, data privacy, and the dynamically changing regulatory environment, which are all matters of great concern. Ethical frameworks and regulations should be put forward so that the algorithms that AI uses can comply with the values of justice, impartiality, and responsibility. The future of social media is very exciting. We have several key trends on our roadmap. Keen NLP models will facilitate the grasping of legal content, which will consequently improve the performance of research on the law and will also make it more complicated. By appealing to the ability to comprehend and explain AI technology, the transparency of AI decision-making procedures will be enhanced. Thus, the trust in AI-produced outcomes. Through this access, users will have a chance to buy paralegal and lawyer services that will speed up cross-border legal research and, consequently, the development of multi-jurisdictional cases and international law.

Multidimensional collaboration by legal experts, data scientists, ethicists, and technologists shall be the vital step in that. It will allow us to dialogue in terms of ethics, jurisprudence, and AI-ML technicalities in the legal field. Legal academics will be able to develop legal education methods to educate modern-day lawyers in AI literacy and ethical AI usage. Some AI-driven solutions will succeed and tend towards maturity, while others may not. As a result, these tools will become more formalized and comprehensible such that they will be available to every individual regardless of their status in society.

AI's influences on legal practice and policy are both certain and powerful. This can be done by employing the latest computer technology in search of evidence, developing electronic biometric records for identification purposes, creating highly automated systems to process payrolls and benefits claims, or even preparing for a debate in the courtroom so that lawyers have enough time on their hands. Moreover, AI has, along the way, innovation inside legal tech in which there is the creation and sustaining of innovation and competition.

As we are immersed in this flux situation, we need to work together, utilizing the knowledge of legal professionals, policymakers, researchers, and educators to define and outline the role of artificial and machine intelligence in legal research. On the whole, our aim should be to make the most out of these technologies while being very wary and on guard regarding the ethical issues and the values of justice that are at the heart of the legal affair and of its professionals.

To sum up, AI and ML are indeed not some idle components; they are rather the driving forces for a widespread change in the way the law is studied, practiced, and even too regulated. Taking this as a base, we can not only imbibe how AI works and how it is competent and, at the same time, weak, but we also have to make sure that there is a positive contribution from AI in the evolution of the legal landscape, and for the benefit of justice and the public good.

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