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Emerging Technology and the Legal Profession

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ABSTRACT

Technology has become an integral part of the legal profession and has significantly transformed the manner in which legal services are delivered. From legal research and legal education to dispute resolution and client communication, technological advancements are reshaping the legal industry and making the justice delivery system more efficient, accessible, and cost-effective. Innovations such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain technology, and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) have simplified several legal processes. AI enables faster legal research and drafting, blockchain ensures the secure and tamper-resistant execution of smart contracts, and ODR provides an affordable alternative to traditional court proceedings. The growing use of digital platforms, virtual hearings, and online legal services has also enhanced access to justice, particularly for individuals residing in remote areas.

However, despite these advantages, the increasing dependence on technology in the legal profession has also raised several concerns. Improperly designed or unregulated AI systems may lead to bias, discrimination, misleading content, and inaccuracies, which can adversely affect the legal system. Concerns relating to data privacy, cybersecurity, and the protection of confidential client information have also become significant issues requiring proper legal regulation and ethical oversight.

Although some believe that AI may replace lawyers in the future, the legal profession continues to require human reasoning, ethical judgment, practical experience, and emotional understanding, which cannot be fully replicated by technology. AI can assist legal professionals and reduce their workload, but it cannot replace the essential human elements involved in legal practice. Therefore, there is a need to equip legal professionals with technological skills while simultaneously ensuring proper regulation, ethical standards, and data-protection mechanisms to maintain fairness and justice in the evolving legal landscape.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The legal profession has long been regarded as one of the most traditional and precedent-driven fields, where human reasoning, advocacy, and interpretation form the foundation of justice. For centuries, lawyers and judges relied upon books, statutes, journals, and judicial precedents for legal research and adjudication.¹

However, in the 21st century, there has been a remarkable shift with the rise of emerging technologies and innovations such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Legal Technology (LegalTech). These technologies have become an inseparable part of modern life and have entered almost every sphere of human activity, including education, healthcare, finance, business, and the legal profession. Technology is reshaping every aspect of society and has become central to daily functioning, without which many tasks now seem difficult to perform.²

These innovations are gradually transforming the manner in which legal professionals work, communicate, and deliver justice, thereby making legal services more efficient, accountable, and accessible to modern societal needs. Emerging technologies also help legal professionals remain updated with the latest legal developments, rules, and concepts. The traditional image of lawyers spending long hours reading extensive volumes of documents is gradually changing, as technological advancements continue to transform the legal profession.³

Technology is revolutionising the legal industry by improving the enforcement of laws and the maintenance of social order, thereby contributing to social justice and good governance. It has significantly reduced the time and effort required in legal proceedings. Earlier, lawyers had to spend long hours on legal research, drafting, and maintaining records; however, today many of these tasks can be performed through software within a short time. Courts have also adopted e-filing systems, virtual hearings, and digital case management, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated the need for remote access to justice.⁴

This transformation has enhanced the efficiency and accessibility of the justice delivery system, especially for economically weaker sections and people residing in remote or underdeveloped

¹Esther Salmerón-Manzano, *Legaltech and Lawtech: Global Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities*, 10 LAWS 24 (2021).

²Matthew N. O. Sadiku, Paul A. Adekunle & Janet O. Sadiku, *Emerging Technologies in the Law Field*, 9 IJTSRD 405 (2025).

³See *infra* note 13.

⁴Anubhav Singla & Ekta Gupta, *The Impact of Technology on the Legal Profession*, 10 INT'L J.L. 112 (2024).

areas. Such technological advancements have provided a new dimension to the legal profession, making it more time-efficient, effective, and justice-oriented for all.⁵

Although the integration of technology into the legal profession offers various benefits, it also gives rise to certain serious risks. The adoption of new technologies, ensuring their ethical use, and addressing potential biases in AI algorithms present significant challenges for legal practitioners. There are also concerns regarding employment displacement in certain legal roles due to increasing technological dependence.⁶

One of the major challenges associated with these technologies concerns the data privacy of clients, which requires proper regulation to ensure that sensitive information is not disclosed or misused. It is essential for those involved in the legal profession to develop effective solutions to address these challenges. The future of the legal profession lies in balancing innovation with ethical responsibility and ensuring that technology serves justice rather than controlling it.⁷

II. HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY IN LAW

The legal system existed long before technological advancement, as systems of law have been present in one form or another since the rise of human civilization. With the emergence of technological developments, the legal system gradually began adopting them to improve the justice delivery system, legal research, communication, and dispute-resolution mechanisms. From handwritten manuscripts to artificial intelligence, technology has significantly transformed the legal system.

In ancient times, legal systems were primarily based on oral traditions, wherein laws and customs were transmitted verbally across generations. However, with the gradual evolution of societies, formal legal codes such as the Code of Hammurabi and the Manusmriti emerged, marking the transition towards documented legal frameworks. Subsequently, during the medieval period, the invention of the printing press revolutionised the dissemination of laws by enabling legal texts to be recorded in written form and widely circulated through printed materials, thereby enhancing the accessibility, uniformity, and preservation of legal principles.⁸

In the modern era, the legal system underwent significant transformation, particularly after the invention of sound recording by Thomas Edison in 1877. Although the legal industry did not initially recognise its potential, by the 1950s sound recording devices had proved to be highly

⁵Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 406.

⁶*Id.*

⁷Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 113.

⁸Diana Hlaic, *Understanding the Legal System: Roots of the Law*, ARCADIA (Apr. 21, 2024), <https://www.bycarcadia.org/post/understanding-the-legal-system-roots-of-the-law>.

effective for recording evidence required to be presented before courts.⁹ Until the 1970s, lawyers conducted legal research primarily through books and written documents to locate case laws, a process that was highly time-consuming, prone to errors, and limited in its ability to identify all relevant cases and legal materials. However, in 1973, LexisNexis developed the red “UBIQ” (Ubiquitous) terminal, which enabled lawyers to search for cases electronically and significantly transformed the legal industry.¹⁰ With the passage of time, the invention of word processors further transformed the legal profession by enabling the digital drafting, editing, and storage of legal documents and case records.¹¹

By the 1990s, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) was first introduced by e-commerce companies such as eBay to resolve disputes between buyers and sellers. ODR proved to be highly beneficial for individuals who were unable to access courts physically for the resolution of disputes. In 2014, the first court-annexed ODR system was launched, and by 2016 there were 66 ODR sites operating across 12 states.¹²

In the 1990s, the Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system emerged as one of the first electronic filing systems, significantly transforming the legal landscape for federal judges and lawyers. This development reduced the burden of mandatory in-person filing and also saved considerable time in court procedures.¹³

With the development of pen drives in the 2000s, important documents, evidence, and other materials that could not be conveniently presented in physical form could now be stored and produced electronically. Furthermore, with the advancement of technology and the internet, court records and legal documents gradually became digitalised.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, video conferencing had only a limited and supplementary role in courtroom proceedings. However, the imposition of lockdowns significantly accelerated the transition towards virtual hearings and remote testimonies across various judicial forums. The absence of any requirement for physical travel contributed to the growing acceptance of online court proceedings, making them more convenient and time-efficient as compared to traditional in-person hearings.¹⁴ During this period, the concept of e-Lok Adalats also emerged as an innovative mechanism to ensure continued access to justice amidst the pandemic. In the

⁹Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 113.

¹⁰Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 113.

¹¹Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 406.

¹²Hlaic, *supra* note 8.

¹³Gregory N. Mandel, *History Lessons for a General Theory of Law and Technology*, 8 MINN. J.L. SCI. & TECH. 551 (2007).

¹⁴Peeyush Singh, *A Brief Overview of the Evolution of the Legal Technology Sector*, APPINVENTIV (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://appinventiv.com/blog/evolution-of-legal-technology/>.

post-pandemic phase, several courts introduced dedicated digital applications to facilitate smoother, more accessible, and better-informed judicial processes. Furthermore, virtual conferencing proved particularly beneficial for victims of sensitive offences, such as rape, by enabling their participation in proceedings without requiring physical presence in court, thereby enhancing convenience, privacy, and psychological comfort.¹⁵

The advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has substantially enhanced the efficiency and accessibility of legal research and drafting, enabling legal professionals to reduce the costs associated with legal work while maintaining consistency and uniformity in the quality of outputs. However, despite these advantages, the effective integration of AI and video-conferencing technologies continues to face significant challenges arising from technical constraints, including limitations in hardware infrastructure, software reliability, unstable internet connectivity, and persistent concerns relating to data security and privacy.¹⁶

III. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Emerging technology has transformed every sphere of life, including society, interpersonal relationships, and the way individuals understand the world, and its impact has also extended to law and the legal profession.¹⁷ Emerging technology has provided a new dimension to the legal field through innovations such as e-court applications, online FIR filing systems, online court proceedings, and other digital legal services.¹⁸

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are revolutionising the legal industry. These technologies provide innovative solutions and easier access to legal services and processes. AI is often misunderstood as a replacement for human beings because of its ability to perform certain tasks more efficiently and rapidly. It has simplified various legal activities such as drafting, legal research, and data management. However, the increasing use of AI has also raised concerns regarding ethical and legal standards, particularly in relation to accountability, transparency, and fairness in automated systems.¹⁹

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 407.

¹⁷Mohamed Chawki, *AI Moderation and Legal Frameworks in Child-Centric Social Media: A Case Study of Roblox*, MDPI (Apr. 25, 2025), <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-471X/14/3/29>.

¹⁸*Id.*

¹⁹Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 407.

The legal ambiguity surrounding AI-driven functions, such as determining liability for accidents caused by autonomous vehicles, highlights the absence of clear regulatory frameworks governing such technologies.²⁰

Blockchain technology, defined as a decentralised and distributed ledger that records transactions across multiple computers in order to ensure security, transparency, and immutability,²¹ has gained prominence through cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. Beyond its financial applications, blockchain is disrupting the legal sector through smart contracts, that is, self-executing contracts whose terms and conditions are written in code. While smart contracts promise greater reliability and efficiency, they also raise legal questions about enforcement and dispute resolution in cases of faulty code or ambiguous terms.²² Traditional contract law does not address blockchain, so new laws are needed to deal with it.²³

The Internet of Things (IoT), a vast range of interconnected networks capable of collecting and exchanging data,²⁴ is expanding rapidly in both the commercial and domestic sectors. The main issues relating to IoT concern data privacy, security, and ownership, as it holds large volumes of data, which raises the risk of data breaches. The current laws are not adequate to deal with the problems posed by IoT.²⁵ All these emerging technologies require new laws and regulations to govern them.

IV. ITS ROLE IN LAW

These emerging technologies have a direct relationship with the legal industry, as they are connected with various aspects of the legal field. At first instance, these technologies appear to offer a highly advanced and efficient framework for legal processes. Technology plays a vital role in shaping the legal profession by increasing the productivity and efficiency of legal offices. It has also enhanced transparency between law firms and clients by providing regular updates regarding the progress of cases.

If used wisely, technology can perform several tasks traditionally carried out by individuals. Moreover, technological advancements are also influencing the development of new laws across the world, which can be understood through the following aspects:

²⁰Omena Akpobome, *The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Legal Frameworks: A Model for Adaptive Regulation*, 5 IJRPR 5046 (2024).

²¹D. TAPSCOTT & A. TAPSCOTT, *BLOCKCHAIN REVOLUTION: HOW THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND BITCOIN IS CHANGING MONEY, BUSINESS, AND THE WORLD* 86 (2016).

²²M. FINCK, *BLOCKCHAIN REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE* 71 (2019).

²³Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 407.

²⁴Charith Perera et al., *Context-Aware Computing for the Internet of Things: A Survey*, IEEE COMM'NS SURVS. & TUTORIALS 1 (2013).

²⁵Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 407.

Increased Transparency: The growth of technology has made people more aware of ongoing developments and has provided greater access to information relating to their matters. In the legal field as well, transparency has significantly increased, as court-related information and case updates are now available online and can also be accessed by clients. This has reduced the complete dependency of clients on lawyers and has enhanced transparency between them, as clients are now able to independently verify the status and progress of their cases.²⁶

Ease of Research: As mentioned earlier, lawyers traditionally conducted legal research through books and written documents relating to legal issues and case laws. They were required to study numerous books and judgments to identify relevant rulings, often spending long hours in libraries for research purposes. However, in today's world, AI-based tools can provide relevant results with a single search, making the complex task of legal research much easier and enabling it to be completed within seconds with greater efficiency and convenience.²⁷

Better Resource Management: Earlier, junior attorneys were primarily engaged in tasks such as gathering information, managing case files, and maintaining the schedules of lawyers. However, with technological advancement, various applications and software systems began performing these administrative functions more efficiently. This development has increased the efficiency of junior attorneys by providing them with more time to focus on learning, legal analysis, and court proceedings. It has also enabled senior attorneys to utilise human resources in a more effective manner, thereby contributing to improved professional outcomes.²⁸

Time-Efficient: As technology advances, it provides answers to questions from almost every field, including law, within a matter of seconds. Technology can also be used for drafting, legal research, and critical analysis. Under normal circumstances, legal drafting may take several hours to complete; however, with the assistance of AI, the same work can often be completed within minutes. This helps preserve one of the most valuable resources, namely time, and enhances the efficiency and productivity of legal professionals.²⁹

No Scope for Error: As technology has the ability to analyse large amounts of information within seconds, it can also detect errors and suggest the most suitable solutions available in a

²⁶*What's the Role of Technology in the Legal Sector?*, LIBERATE IT SERVS., <https://liberateit.co.uk/whats-the-role-of-technology-in-the-legal-sector/>.

²⁷Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 115.

²⁸Sunil Nair, *Emerging Technologies Re-Shaping the Legal World*, INFOSYS BPM, <https://www.infosysbpm.com/blogs/legal-process-outsourcing/legal-world-technologies.html>.

²⁹*Id.*

given situation. It can refine even individual words used in legal drafting, suggest appropriate contextual usage, and analyse various possible circumstances related to a matter.³⁰

Analytical View: Books provide a general understanding of circumstances and legal concepts, and for a comprehensive outlook it is often necessary to refer to two or more books. Even then, some newly emerging concepts or developments may remain unnoticed. However, technology enables access to information in a more comprehensive and efficient manner, as it can provide answers to questions through multiple perspectives along with critical analysis. It offers a broader understanding of circumstances, including newly emerging issues and developments.³¹

Higher Convenience: Legal-based mobile applications and software have provided significant convenience to the legal industry. On one hand, they enable clients to connect with legal professionals without the need to physically visit offices. On the other hand, they assist lawyers in communicating with clients and other attorneys, sharing real-time updates regarding cases, performance, and work efficiency. This evolving digital legal ecosystem has made legal services more accessible, efficient, and convenient for all stakeholders.³²

V. HOW TECHNOLOGY IS REVOLUTIONIZING THE LEGAL SECTOR

Technology has transformed the legal industry from a traditional paper-based and time-intensive field into a faster, data-driven, and more accessible system. The rise of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), LegalTech, cloud computing, blockchain, and Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) has significantly changed the manner in which lawyers, courts, and clients interact. Legal processes that once required weeks of manual effort can now often be completed within hours through automation and digital tools.³³ Set out below are some points that demonstrate how technology is revolutionising the legal sector.

Automated Processes: Traditionally, legal work was performed manually. Lawyers were required to spend considerable time understanding the facts of a matter and gaining knowledge about the subject through discussions with clients, non-lawyers, and other individuals connected with the case. A significant portion of legal findings is based on factual analysis and repetitive processes that can be systematised. Legal software, such as word processors and AI-based tools,

³⁰*Id.*

³¹Chawki, *supra* note 17.

³²Singh, *supra* note 14.

³³Karolina Mania, *Legal Technology: Assessment of the Legal Tech Industry's Potential*, 14 J. KNOWLEDGE ECON. 595 (2023).

has accelerated these processes and provided attorneys with greater opportunities to focus on more productive and analytical aspects of legal work.³⁴

Automation of Routine Legal Work: Compliance checks, due diligence, document review, and contract renewal processes are increasingly being automated. AI tools are now capable of managing tasks such as contract review, drafting, and error detection in large volumes of documents, which were previously performed by junior attorneys. This demonstrates that AI-based technologies have streamlined documentation processes within the legal industry while also reducing operational costs. Start-ups and legal software providers are rapidly expanding these capabilities across various legal sectors. Such technological advancements enhance productivity and reduce inefficiencies associated with billable hours.³⁵

E-Courts and Digital Justice Delivery: Technology has also transformed judicial administration through e-filing systems, virtual hearings, online case tracking, and digital evidence management. During the COVID-19 pandemic, courts largely relied on video conferencing and digital platforms for conducting hearings, thereby making justice more accessible and reducing delays in the progress of cases. Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) and e-arbitration systems have also become increasingly prominent in commercial disputes and consumer claims. These processes help save time, reduce procedural costs, and provide greater access to justice, particularly for individuals who are unable to physically appear before courts.

Blockchain and Smart Contracts: Blockchain technology has introduced secure and tamper-resistant record-keeping in legal transactions. Smart contracts, that is, self-executing agreements coded on blockchain networks, automatically enforce contractual obligations once predefined conditions are fulfilled. This reduces dependency on intermediaries and minimises disputes relating to contractual performance and enforcement.³⁶

Document Management: Traditionally, documents were stored physically, which made it difficult to manage large volumes of paper records, as they required considerable storage space and protection from damage. However, technological advancements such as Google Drive and Microsoft Office have made it easier to organise, store, and preserve documents digitally for long periods without significant risk of physical damage or the need for extensive storage space. This has substantially reduced the use of paper, thereby contributing to environmental

³⁴Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 115.

³⁵Esther Salmerón-Manzano, *Legaltech and Lawtech: Global Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities*, 10 LAWS 1 (2021).

³⁶Daniel Schwarcz et al., *AI-Powered Lawyering: AI Reasoning Models, Retrieval Augmented Generation, and the Future of Legal Practice*, SAGE J. (Apr. 9, 2026), <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2755323X261427048>.

conservation while also saving money and office space, without the constant concern of protecting documents from deterioration, pests, or other physical damage.³⁷

Improved Client Access and Legal Services: Technology has made legal services more client-oriented, as online consultation platforms, chatbots, document automation tools, and legal assistance portals provide affordable legal guidance to individuals at any time and from any location. This helps people access legal services and advice whenever they are in need, thereby improving accessibility and convenience in the legal system.³⁸

Enhanced Customer Experience: In today's world, client satisfaction has become extremely important, and maintaining effective communication with clients is crucial for legal professionals. AI can improve client experiences by providing tailored services and assisting lawyers in understanding their clients more effectively. It can also send personalised emails and other communications to keep clients informed and engaged, thereby assuring them that their counsel is attentive and concerned about their matters.³⁹

File Sharing: In this technological era, file sharing can be completed within seconds, owing to advancements in technology that have made the process highly accessible and efficient. Modern digital file-sharing methods are designed to be secure and reliable, and they are significantly shaping the legal profession by enabling lawyers to share documents quickly with clients as well as with other legal professionals.⁴⁰

More Collaboration Among Lawyers: With the advancement of technology, lawyers are no longer required to be physically present at one place to discuss critical issues relating to a case. They can now communicate and collaborate online through productivity platforms such as Slack, Google Docs, Microsoft Teams, and similar applications. These technologies have also encouraged the growth of remote law firms and provided lawyers with greater opportunities to work for the benefit of clients irrespective of geographical boundaries.⁴¹

Contract Preparation: AI assists legal professionals in drafting contracts according to the requirements of a matter within a short period of time. It is also used to create standardised templates, which can subsequently be tailored to meet the specific needs of clients.

Patent Application: A significant amount of time spent by intellectual property (IP) lawyers is devoted to examining extensive documents and technical materials relating to intellectual

³⁷Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 116.

³⁸Ryan Whalen, *Defining Legal Technology and Its Implications*, 30 INT'L J.L. & INFO. TECH. 47 (2022).

³⁹Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 116.

⁴⁰*Id.*

⁴¹*Id.*

property rights in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the application. Filing a patent application has traditionally been an exhaustive and time-consuming process. However, with the advancement of AI, patent applications can now be structured, evaluated, and drafted more efficiently within a considerably shorter period of time.

VI. CRITICISM

Technology is advancing rapidly, and with this development, AI has become a popular and integral part of the legal profession. However, despite its numerous advantages, AI also has several drawbacks and negative aspects. Some of these drawbacks are discussed below:

Client Communication: Generative AI technology is highly useful for drafting and other technical legal tasks; however, emotional support and personal understanding can only be effectively provided by legal professionals. Many individuals who are not familiar with technology may feel hesitant in sharing their concerns with AI-based systems. In certain situations, excessive reliance on AI communication may create an impression that the law firm is not genuinely concerned about the client's feelings and circumstances, which may ultimately lead to client dissatisfaction.⁴²

Legal Research: Conducting proper legal research, identifying relevant statutes, and interpreting their applicability to specific circumstances require comprehensive analytical and interpretative skills, which AI systems presently lack to a significant extent. Human legal professionals also develop research abilities and practical judgment through experience, which cannot be fully replicated by AI. Furthermore, certain AI tools may generate inaccurate information or “hallucinate” facts and legal authorities, including citing cases that do not actually exist.⁴³ For instance, the Supreme Court of India recently expressed serious concern over the use of fake judgments and citations generated through Artificial Intelligence in judicial proceedings and warned that such misuse could attract legal consequences. This highlights the risks associated with excessive reliance on AI without proper human verification and supervision.⁴⁴

Learned Error: Some AI programs contain bugs, glitches, and learned errors, which raise serious concerns regarding their reliability. While certain firms are investing time and resources in developing their own AI tools and carefully selecting the data on which such systems are

⁴²Simple Law, *Why AI Technology Isn't Ready for Important Legal Tasks*, SIMPLELAW.COM (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.simplelaw.com/blog/why-ai-isnt-yet-reliable-for-important-legal-tasks>.

⁴³*Id.*

⁴⁴Anahita Sachdev, *India's Top Court Angry After Junior Judge Cites Fake AI-Generated Orders*, BBC (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c178zzw780xo>.

trained, some flaws remain embedded within the learning process itself. Until these issues are adequately addressed and resolved, learned errors and inaccurate outputs will continue to remain a significant concern.⁴⁵

Bias: Many people are concerned that AI systems may be biased or may favour only one aspect of a particular circumstance. There is also a belief that AI may not be capable of fully understanding the complexities, emotions, and practical realities associated with an individual's situation. Such concerns raise important questions regarding fairness, neutrality, and reliability in the use of AI within the legal profession.⁴⁶

Several questions also arise regarding the functioning and reliability of AI systems, such as:⁴⁷

- What is the legal personality of Artificial Intelligence?
- Can Artificial Intelligence be recognised as a legal entity similar to natural or juristic persons?
- Who will be held liable if any loss occurs due to the functioning of AI, and what kind of liability would apply in such cases?
- Whether a person using such AI-based services would be considered a consumer under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019?

The above-mentioned points demonstrate that the issues and challenges associated with the use of Artificial Intelligence are extensive. Therefore, AI should be used only as an assisting tool for legal professionals, and even then, it must be used with proper caution, supervision, and ethical responsibility.⁴⁸

VII. WILL AI REPLACE LAWYERS?

Generative AI is not going to replace lawyers because it requires human supervision for its functioning. AI is not completely accurate; although it can efficiently perform routine legal tasks, it cannot independently handle complex and critical legal matters. AI is therefore unlikely to replace human professionals, but rather to supplement the legal profession by improving efficiency and reducing workload.⁴⁹ AI is intended to reduce the burden on legal professionals rather than displace lawyers entirely, as complete replacement would be detrimental to the legal profession. For example, an AI system may at times be unable to properly distinguish between

⁴⁵Salmerón-Manzano, *supra* note 1, at 28.

⁴⁶Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 410.

⁴⁷Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 115.

⁴⁸*Id.*

⁴⁹*Will AI Replace Lawyers? What Data and Experts Say About the Future of Law*, CLIO, <https://www.clio.com/resources/ai-for-lawyers/will-ai-replace-lawyers/>.

a legal principle and a legal precedent. The legal profession is highly disciplined and complex in nature, requiring human judgment, interpretation, ethical understanding, and practical skills that cannot be fully replicated by AI.⁵⁰

Three reasons why Artificial Intelligence will not displace lawyers are as follows:

Limited Accuracy: Not all AI systems provide accurate results in accordance with the requirements of a matter. At times, AI-generated statements may appear reasonable and convincing, but upon closer examination they may prove to be hypothetical or disconnected from reality. Therefore, attorneys must carefully verify the results produced by AI, review the basis of such responses, and ensure that they are logical, legally sound, and supported by facts.⁵¹ In recent times, the Supreme Court of India has, on several occasions, pointed out concerns relating to fake AI-generated content and fictitious citations relied upon by judges and attorneys.⁵² A few such instances are as follows:

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India warned of legal consequences after a judge was found to have adjudicated a property dispute by relying upon fake judgments generated through Artificial Intelligence.⁵³
- The Supreme Court of India recently flagged the issue of lawyers submitting AI-drafted petitions containing fake case citations. The exchange took place before a Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, and Justice B. V. Nagarathna. During the proceedings, the Chief Justice of India observed: “We are alarmed to reflect now. Some of the lawyers have started using AI to draft. It is absolutely uncalled for.”⁵⁴

Increased Risk: Every large law firm is concerned about mistakes in AI-generated content, particularly regarding its accuracy and relevance. Another major area of concern relates to the security of sensitive and confidential information, as modern technological systems are vulnerable to hacking and cyberattacks. Therefore, security concerns remain one of the biggest issues associated with the use of AI and technology in the legal profession.⁵⁵

⁵⁰Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 119.

⁵¹*Id.*

⁵²*Id.*

⁵³Sachdev, *supra* note 44.

⁵⁴Anmol Kaur Bawa, *Supreme Court Raises Concerns Over Lawyers Using AI-Generated Fake Citations*, LIVE LAW (Feb. 17, 2026), <https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/supreme-court-raises-concerns-over-lawyers-using-ai-generated-fake-citations-523441>.

⁵⁵*Id.*

Privacy and Ethical Issues: In today's era, lawyers are increasingly becoming dependent on AI for legal tasks such as writing, drafting, and research work. This raises an ethical responsibility upon legal professionals to carefully verify AI-generated work in the best interests of their clients. Consequently, many legal professionals do not completely trust AI with sensitive information and believe that the use of AI should be properly regulated.⁵⁶

VIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the use and impact of technology in the legal industry in India are undeniable, as it has significantly transformed the legal field. Technological advancements have provided better opportunities to lawyers, enabling them to conduct legal research with greater ease and within a much shorter period of time. These developments have revolutionised the legal industry by making the legal profession more effective, efficient, and accessible, particularly through online legal databases and digital platforms.

Technology has also provided a new perspective of the legal system among the public through mechanisms such as Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), while generating greater trust that legal proceedings are not necessarily lengthy and inaccessible.⁵⁷ These technological advancements have helped bridge diversity gaps and enhance inclusion within the legal sector. They have also dismantled geographical barriers by enabling lawyers in India to connect with clients across the world through remote access and digital communication platforms.⁵⁸

However, despite its various advantages, there are certain challenges and drawbacks that require proper attention and resolution. AI-generated content needs to be regulated, as it may produce fake or hypothetical cases and inaccurate legal information. There is also a need to regulate the use of AI for the protection of clients' data privacy and data security. Cybersecurity threats constitute another major issue that requires effective regulation. Furthermore, ethical responsibilities must also be imposed upon lawyers to ensure that AI-generated content is carefully verified before being relied upon or used in legal proceedings.⁵⁹

AI is not going to displace lawyers, as it still requires human assistance and supervision for its functioning. The legal profession is a highly sensitive field in which legal knowledge alone is not sufficient; it also requires human sentiment, ethical standards, practical experience,

⁵⁶Salmerón-Manzano, *supra* note 35.

⁵⁷Sadiku et al., *supra* note 2, at 410.

⁵⁸*Id.*

⁵⁹Singla & Gupta, *supra* note 4, at 120.

judgment, and an understanding of ground realities, which cannot be fully replicated by AI systems.⁶⁰

The legal profession in India is experiencing a paradigm shift in its standards, and technology is increasingly shaping the future legal landscape. Therefore, in order to cope with these changing needs, lawyers must also make themselves technologically proficient to enhance their efficiency and improve client services. Legal professionals need to continuously upgrade their technological knowledge and skills to remain competitive in an era of rapid technological advancement. Continuous education, training, and upskilling have become essential not only to stay competitive but also to survive in this digital age.

In essence, technology has completely transformed the legal industry, and to cope with this, legal professionals need to upgrade their skills. There is also a need to regulate the use of technology in the legal profession.

⁶⁰*What's the Role of Technology in the Legal Sector?*, *supra* note 26.