

*Commentary***Applications, industry context and societal issues of legal technology****George Berman\***

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**DESCRIPTION**

Legal tech is another name for legal technology. In order to provide legal services and support the legal sector, technology and software are used. Start-ups that specialise in legal technology are frequently created with the intention of upending the traditionally conservative legal industry. For legal duties, the several methodologies and technologies have been used. For goals like making case law accessible, traditional software architecture and web technologies have been utilised. It has been possible to uncover documents using machine learning techniques to aid with due diligence or discovery. Aspects of user experience design are used in efforts to make contracts easier to use.

**Applications**

The design of contracts, which have historically been seen to be papers created by attorneys for lawyers, has been attempted to be improved. Contracts might be designed in a way that would better answer business goals, graphically express more information, and foster better connections between the parties to a contract. The adoption of so-called self-executing contracts, in which the terms of the agreement are automatically updated by a computer based on established principles, has been advocated by academics. The creation of a machine-readable representation of the contract that can be used in other automated procedures, including contract lifecycle management, would be a further step. The judiciary has shown interest in the possibility of electronic filing to lower costs and boost efficiency, as well as online ADR as a way to lower costs for claimants and boost access to justice. In some courts, technological methods, such as those based on machine learning, are being employed to provide direction for sentencing and pretrial detention (which have been criticised for potential racial bias issues).

**Industry context**

The customer experience at the majority of law firms hasn't evolved much in 50 years, according to Law Technology Today, which notes that the legal sector is typically perceived as conservative and traditional. Since they pass on expenses to their clients directly, law companies are less motivated to cut costs than other professions, and they are also perceived as being risk-averse, means as a minor technological error could have significant financial consequences for a client. Many attorneys are searching for innovative strategies to compete as a result of the market's saturation. Law companies have embraced cloud-based services due to the exponential development in the volume of documents (mainly emails) that must be analysed for litigation cases. This has substantially accelerated the adoption of e-Discovery technology, which incorporates machine learning and artificial intelligence.

**Societal issues**

Many detractors have expressed worries about the possibility of prejudice in judgments made by models trained using machine learning techniques, such as sentencing judgments, and have claimed that a model could pick up the bias in previous judgments. Some people have expressed concern about the predictability of the choices made by machine learning models, claiming that these models can be a "black box." There are worries that models can be mistakenly believed to be objective and infallible when they are not. There is interest in using legal technology to improve justice access. Legal technology has been used in programmes that aim to increase access to justice by streamlining procedures, automating the availability of legal information and counsel, and enhancing user involvement.

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