

Competence in the AI era is thus both a legal and ethical obligation and therefore requires:

- Awareness of how AI tools generate results
- Verification of AI outputs before relying on them
- Proper training and continuing legal education
- Understanding when AI use may be inappropriate or unethical
- Understanding the limitations of AI tools (e.g., hallucinations, bias, outdated models)
- Knowing when reliance on AI is inappropriate (e.g., sensitive human rights cases, criminal defence)
- Conducting reasonable investigations into AI vendor claims and reliability metrics

ADEBAYO ADELODUN & CO.,

7TH QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE

TOPIC: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND ETHICS

**HELD ON SATURDAY
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RESOURCE PERSONS

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1. Professional Competence and Technological Literacy

It is a duty on legal practitioners to act with competence, diligence, and professional skill. Competence in the age of AI increasingly involves technological literacy, requiring lawyers to understand the tools they deploy. Section 16 of RPC, 2023 requires lawyers to provide competent services, exercising the necessary legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation.

Failure to understand how AI tools function in particular their limitations, may lead to breaches of the duty of competence. For example, generative AI systems may produce hallucinated cases or statutes, leading to false submissions and potential disciplinary action.

challenge is ensuring ethical, equitable, and well-managed workforce transitions.

4.0 **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into legal practice raises critical ethical concerns that directly implicate the professional duties of lawyers. These include obligations relating to competence, confidentiality, independence, accountability, candor, and fairness, all central principles reflected in the Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners (RPC) 2023. As legal systems increasingly rely on AI tools for research, drafting, predictive analytics, and client interaction, it becomes imperative to evaluate how these technologies intersect with ethical requirements:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE AND NAME AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHERS	I
NAMES OF RESOURCE PERSONS	II
TABLE OF CONTENTS	III
EDITORIALNOTE/PREFACE	IV

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW:
OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND ETHICS
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM
ADEBAYO ADELODUN & CO.,
7TH ROUNDTABLE

PREFACE NOTE TO THE 7TH EDITION OF ADEBAYO ADELODUN & CO ROUNDTABLE

Welcome to the publication out of the proceedings of the Seventh Quarterly Roundtable hosted by Adebayo Adelodun & Co. This volume captures the critical discourse at a nexus point of profound professional significance: the dynamic intersection of legal practice and artificial intelligence.

Our thematic exploration, **“Artificial Intelligence and the Law: Opportunities, Challenges and Ethics,”** aimed to position our esteemed chambers and the wider Nigerian Bar at the vanguard of future legal jurisprudence. The papers compiled within these pages navigate the complex terrain where technology converges with established legal principles, demanding rigorous interrogation of the myriad opportunities AI presents, the formidable regulatory challenges it imposes, and the essential ethical guardrails imperative for its responsible integration.

The depth of this discourse was immeasurably enriched by the contributions of our distinguished

6. Displacement of Legal Jobs

The automation of routine legal tasks, raises significant concerns about job displacement within the legal profession. AI systems that perform document review, research, and drafting tasks may reduce the demand for junior Associates, and administrative personnel.

However, AI is also expected to generate new roles, such as AI ethics advisors, legal technologists, compliance engineers, and algorithm-audit specialists. The workers displaced from traditional legal support roles may lack the training or pathways to integrate into emerging tech-oriented positions.

Nonetheless, AI is expected to augment legal practitioners, shifting the profession toward higher-value analytical and strategic tasks. The

communications protected by lawyer–client privilege, making unauthorized access or data breaches especially damaging.

Data protection frameworks impose strict obligations on data processing, transparency, storage, minimization, and consent. However, AI systems often require continuous data inputs, model retraining, and cross-database integration, increasing the potential for privacy violations. Additionally, AI platforms may utilize cloud-based infrastructures, exposing sensitive data to third-party vulnerabilities. Cyber security risks also escalate when adversaries can exploit model weaknesses, poison training datasets, or manipulate outputs, threats with direct implications for legal integrity and fair process.

resource persons, **Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN**, the erudite First Kuliyan Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate; and **Professor Rasheed Gbenga Jimoh**, an esteemed authority in Computer Science and Information Technology, whose expertise transcend traditional professional boundaries. Their insights, encapsulated in this publication, provide invaluable guidance for navigating the integration of AI tools within legal frameworks.

This edition marked a pioneering moment for the Roundtable itself, seamlessly integrating the vibrancy of physical attendance with the expansive reach of real-time virtual streaming. This hybrid format, championing inclusivity and accessibility in a converging digital sphere, underscores our commitment to adaptability.

Furthermore, we are proud to note that the live programme was officially accredited by the Nigerian Bar Association Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NBA-ICLE), offering essential Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit points for

participating legal practitioners. This accreditation reinforced the Roundtable's standing as a structured, quality-driven platform for professional enrichment and lifelong learning within the Bar.

Ultimately, this publication, and the initiative it represents, transcends format and accreditation. It remains a testament to the core purpose of Adebayo Adelodun & Co.: a deliberate, meaningful contribution to the advancement of the legal profession. It is a space meticulously curated for testing novel ideas, interrogating nascent issues, and reinforcing foundational professional values.

We trust the contents of this volume will serve as an illuminating resource and stimulate continued engagement within the legal community.

ADEBAYO OBA ADELODUN, SAN, FCIArb

actions do not clearly map onto established legal categories¹⁴.

For example, generative AI's ability to produce legal documents raises intellectual property and authorship questions, while autonomous decision systems challenge traditional standards for professional negligence. Likewise, regulatory uncertainty persists around AI-generated evidence and automated expert testimony in court.

5. **Data Privacy and Security**

AI systems rely on vast amounts of data, including highly sensitive personal information. This dependence heightens concerns about privacy, confidentiality, and cybersecurity. Legal data often contains privileged

¹⁴Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Opportunities and Challenges. <https://defactolawjournal.org/journal/volume-1/>

incorrect or legally unsound. As a result, there is need for clearer accountability standards and professional-responsibility rules tailored to AI-augmented legal work. The challenge is not only technical but conceptual, assigning responsibility to an AI system that lacks legal personhood complicates the logic of fault, causation, and redress.

4. **Regulatory and Legal Framework Gaps**

The pace of AI development has significantly surpassed the evolution of legal frameworks. Many or some of the existing laws ranging from tort liability, to consumer protection, evidence rules, and intellectual property statutes and the rest were drafted in an era that did not anticipate autonomous or generative systems. As a result, AI frequently falls into regulatory “blind spots” where its

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND ETHICS

BY

PROF. YUSUF ALI*

Abstract.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the legal domain by augmenting efficiency, expanding access to justice, and enabling novel forms of legal reasoning and service delivery. AI systems now assist in tasks such as predictive analytics, automated legal research, document review, and decision support, significantly reducing costs and supporting more equitable access to legal resources¹. Despite these

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¹ Sadiku, M. N. O., Ajayi, S. A., & Sadiku, J. O. (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions. Journal of

opportunities, the integration of AI into legal systems raises profound concerns. Algorithmic bias can reinforce existing social inequalities, potentially undermining fairness and due process². The opaque or "black-box" nature of many machine-learning models challenges principles of legal transparency and explainability, while questions of liability, accountability, and professional responsibility remain unresolved within existing legal frameworks. Ethical dilemmas including those related to confidentiality, human rights, and responsible automation further complicate the adoption of AI in legal practice.

Engineering Research and Reports
<https://journalierr.com/index.php/JERR/article/view/1456>

² Nweke, O. C., & Nweke, G. I. (2024). Legal and Ethical Conundrums in the AI Era. International Law Research.
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/aeb61faf8ad8aed6bc6382a07aef624600607f21>

3. **Liability, Accountability, and Responsibility**

A persistent challenge in integrating AI into legal practice concerns the allocation of liability when AI tools cause harm, produce incorrect legal analyses, or generate misleading outputs. Traditional legal frameworks assume human agents make decisions, yet AI introduces complex layers of responsibility. When errors occur, determining whether blame lies with the software developer, the legal practitioner using the tool, the institution deploying it or the data provider becomes legally ambiguous.

These gaps become even more pronounced with generative AI, where models autonomously generate legal texts, predictions, or advice that may be factually

decision-making traditionally requires clear justification, reason-giving, and accountability.

Lack of explainability undermines due process, as affected parties cannot meaningfully contest or understand the basis of an automated decision. It also hampers trust, as legal professionals may hesitate to rely on AI tools whose logic cannot be disclosed or verified. Consequently, it is important to have an Explainable AI (XAI) systems that offer interpretable reasoning or provide auditable traces of their decision pathways.

Transparency is not merely a technical requirement but a legal and ethical necessity. The need for transparency obligations in high-risk AI systems cannot be overemphasized to ensure compatibility with the rule of law and fundamental rights.

This paper will try to provide a comprehensive examination of these opportunities, challenges, and ethical complexities, ultimately, the paper argues for a balanced, human-centric, and ethically grounded regulatory architecture that maximizes AI's transformative potential, while safeguarding the integrity, fairness, and transparency essential to the rule of law.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Artificial Intelligence is increasingly becoming a transformative force across multiple sectors, including the legal profession. From automating routine tasks, to supporting complex legal analysis, AI systems especially those based on machine learning and generative models are reshaping how legal services are delivered. But with great power comes significant risk: technology that can decide, suggest, or

generate legal content also raises profound questions about fairness, human rights, and professional responsibility. This paper systematically examines these opportunities, challenges, and ethical dimensions, and proposes governance strategies to guide responsible deployment.

1.2 Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most influential technological forces of the twenty-first century, reshaping industries as diverse as healthcare, finance, transportation, and the legal profession. In law, AI technologies including expert systems, predictive analytics, natural language processing (NLP), and increasingly sophisticated generative models are transforming how legal services are produced, delivered, and consumed³. These

³ Sadiku, M. N. O., Ajayi, S. A., & Sadiku, J. O. (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions. *Journal of*

assumptions¹³. Ensuring fairness therefore requires a comprehensive governance approach that includes bias auditing, transparent model validation, inclusive data sourcing, and other valuable safeguards. Without such safeguards, AI risks creating selective objectivity, while deepening systemic injustices.

2. **Transparency, Explainability, and “Black-Box” Issues**

Another major obstacle to AI adoption in law is the opacity of many machine-learning and deep-learning systems. These “black-box” models produce outputs that are difficult, and sometimes impossible to interpret, even by developers. In legal contexts, however,

¹³https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350808360_Artificial_intelligence_human_rights_democracy_and_the_rule_of_law_a_primer

trained on large datasets can inadvertently encode and perpetuate structural inequalities embedded in historical data. This becomes especially concerning in legal contexts where algorithmic may influence outputs. It has been emphasized that, biased AI systems threaten the foundational principles of justice and discrimination by amplifying disparities rather than correcting them¹².

Empirical research in criminal justice already illustrates how algorithmic tools can replicate racial or socioeconomic biases, notably in risk assessment systems such as those used in predictive policing or recidivism prediction. Bias may originate from twisted datasets, biased feature selection, or flawed design

¹²Nweke, O. C., &Nweke, G. I. (2024). Legal and Ethical Conundrums in the AI Era: A Multidisciplinary Analysis. International Law Research.<https://scispace.com/papers/legal-and-ethical-conundrums-in-the-ai-era-a-1cu4wilqf>

systems automate routine and labor intensive tasks such as document review, contract analysis, due diligence, and legal research, thereby reducing operational costs and enhancing both efficiency and productivity within legal practice. At the higher end of complexity, machine-learning tools are now capable of case-outcome prediction, risk assessment, and drafting legal arguments, supporting lawyers in strategic decision-making and augmenting human expertise.

1.3 However, this technological transformation brings with it a series of profound risks and ethical challenges. AI systems trained on large datasets may inadvertently reproduce or amplify societal biases, raising concerns about fairness, equality before the law, and non-

Engineering Research and Reports
<https://journaljerr.com/index.php/JERR/article/view/1456>

discrimination⁴. The opacity of many machine-learning models also conflicts with legal principles that demand transparency, interpretability, and reason-giving, especially when decisions affect fundamental rights or judicial outcomes. In addition, questions of liability, accountability, and professional ethics arise when AI-generated outputs influence legal decisions or client advice. Current regulatory frameworks including tort law, data-protection regimes, and professional-ethics codes struggle to keep pace with the speed and complexity of technological innovation, leaving critical gaps in governance.

1.4 These tensions highlight a central dilemma, while AI offers unparalleled opportunities to

⁴ Nweke, O. C., & Nweke, G. I. (2024). Legal and Ethical Conundrums in the AI Era. International Law Research. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/aeb61faf8ad8aed6bc6382a07aef624600607f21>

legal-tech entrepreneurship courses into their programs, reflecting the profession's evolving needs.

AI also opens new avenues for interdisciplinary scholarship, allowing legal theorists and computational experts to collaborate on empirical legal studies, regulatory modelling, and the development of algorithmic governance frameworks. Such innovations elevate the quality and depth of legal research, while expanding methodological possibilities.

3.0 CHALLENGES IN INTEGRATING AI INTO THE LEGAL SYSTEM:

1. Algorithmic Bias and Fairness

A central challenge in the deployment of AI within legal systems, is the problem of algorithmic bias. AI models, particularly those

trends. Generative AI models assist in drafting research summaries, synthesizing case arguments, and experimenting with legal reasoning simulations¹⁰.

In legal education, integrating AI into the curriculum helps prepare future lawyers to work in a technologically advanced environment. Law students are increasingly trained to use AI for research, drafting, and analytical tasks, developing skills in digital literacy, algorithmic accountability, and legal tech management¹¹. Some institutions incorporate AI ethics, data governance, and

improve access to justice, enhance efficiency, and support innovation within the legal field, it simultaneously challenges the foundational values of the rule of law, including transparency, fairness, and human autonomy. As such, scholars and policymakers increasingly call for interdisciplinary governance strategies that incorporate technical standards, legal regulation, ethical principles, and institutional oversight⁵.

2.0 OPPORTUNITIES OF AI IN LAW

2.1 Efficiency and Automation

One of the most widely recognized benefits of Artificial Intelligence in the legal domain is the significant improvement in operational

¹⁰Sadiku, M. N. O., Ajayi, S. A., & Sadiku, J. O. (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions. Journal of Engineering Research and Reports <https://journaljerr.com/index.php/JERR/article/view/1456>

¹¹Madaoui, N. (2024). The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Systems: Challenges and Opportunities. Problems of Legality. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380508967_The_Impact_of_Artificial_Intelligence_on_Legal_Systems_Challenges_and_Opportunities#:~:text=Through%20an%20extensive%20analysis%20of,practices%20in%20the%20legal%20profession.

⁵ UNESCO. (2021). Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. UNESCO Publishing. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence>

efficiency. AI-powered tools can automate repetitive and time-consuming legal tasks, including large-scale document review, e-discovery, contract analysis, statutes and case-law retrieval, due diligence, and compliance monitoring. These tasks traditionally consume substantial hours, yet AI systems can perform them with greater speed and increasing accuracy. It has been noted by authors that AI enables legal professionals to “exceed expectations, boost efficiency, and improve client service,” highlighting how automation directly contributes to enhanced productivity in legal workflows⁶.

Moreover, automation reduces human error in document-heavy tasks, especially in large

⁶ Sadiku, M. N. O., Ajayi, S. A., & Sadiku, J. O. (2025). Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Opportunities, Challenges, and Future Directions. Journal of Engineering Research and Reports <https://journaljerr.com/index.php/JERR/article/view/1456>

predicting bottlenecks, identifying risk clauses, and guiding negotiation strategies.

Importantly, data-driven decision support does not replace human judgment but enhances it. By offering quantitative insights based on large-scale data, AI helps lawyers make more informed, consistent, and strategic decisions. Studies show that predictive models can outperform or complement human intuition in certain legal forecasting tasks, although ethical safeguards remain vital.

2.4 Innovation in Legal Education and Research

AI is also driving innovation within legal academia and education. Legal researchers now utilize AI tools for automated literature review, data mining across case-law databases, and identification of jurisprudential

case data can analyze patterns and generate predictions about likely case outcomes, judge tendencies, sentencing trends, and settlement probabilities. Legal practitioners can use these insights to refine litigation strategies, inform negotiation positions, and advise clients more accurately on the risks and benefits of pursuing litigation⁹.

Predictive analytics also plays a crucial role in corporate governance, compliance, and risk assessment. AI-driven systems can continuously evaluate regulatory changes, monitor internal operations for potential violations, and generate alerts for risk mitigation. In commercial law, AI systems assist in contract lifecycle management by

⁹ Novelli, C., Casolari, F., Hacker, P., Floridi, L., & Spedicato, G. (2024). Generative AI in EU Law: Liability, Privacy, Intellectual Property, and Cybersecurity. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4694565#:~:text=Abstract,10.1016/j.clsr.2024.106066

corporate transactions or litigation proceedings. Natural language processing (NLP) algorithms can identify key clauses, flag anomalies, and categorize documents far more efficiently than manual review⁷. This reduction in routine workload allows lawyers to redirect their time toward higher-value activities such as strategy formulation, negotiations, client counselling, and courtroom advocacy. In large firms, automation at scale can reduce operational costs significantly, while smaller firms benefit by increasing their competitiveness through improved service delivery.

⁷ Madaoui, N. (2024). The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Systems: Challenges and Opportunities. Problems of Legality. <https://www.scirp.org/reference/referencespapers?referenceid=3920957#:~:text=ABSTRACT:%20This%20critical%20review%20looks,and%20findings%20in%20legal%20proceedings.>

2.2 Access to Justice

AI has the potential to significantly expand access to justice by lowering barriers to legal information and services. AI-driven virtual assistants, chatbots, and automated self-help platforms provide individuals, especially those in underserved or low-income communities with low-cost or free legal guidance. These tools offer resources such as document generation (e.g., wills, contracts, complaints), rights explanations, and step-by-step procedural instructions, enabling individuals to navigate legal issues without requiring full legal representation.

Such innovations help address persistent inequalities in access to legal services, often referred to as the global “justice gap,” wherein

millions face legal problems each year without receiving adequate assistance.

Additionally, AI-enabled translation services and speech recognition tools can help remove linguistic and disability-related barriers, making legal systems more inclusive⁸. By simplifying legal processes and reducing costs, AI democratizes legal information and supports broader societal participation in justice systems.

2.3 Predictive Analytics and Decision Support

Predictive analytics represents another major opportunity offered by AI in the legal field. Machine learning models trained on historical

⁸ Leslie, D., Burr, C., Aitken, M., et al. (2021). Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law: A Primer. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350808360_Artificial_intelligence_human_rights_democracy_and_the_rule_of_law_a_primer

activities, such as algorithmic bias and accountability in AI-driven tools.

4. examine how legal professionals can adapt, balancing integrity with technological progress.

1.5 As we begin today's discussion, I encourage you to not only consider how AI can enhance our legal practice but also reflect on the ethical responsibilities that come with harnessing these powerful technologies. Let us work together to ensure that the legal profession remains innovative, ethical, and responsive to the challenges posed by emerging technologies.

2.0 Understanding Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Law

2.1 Before we delve further, let's take a moment to define what Artificial Intelligence (AI) entails. At

- Continuously updating knowledge on AI-law developments
- Technological competence is now a baseline requirement for modern legal practice

2. Confidentiality, Data Protection, and Client Privacy

Lawyers must protect all client information whether communicated orally, electronically, or embedded in documents. Section 19 of RPC, 2023 provide that lawyers must protect all client information from unauthorized disclosure. The use of AI systems, especially cloud-based platforms, introduces heightened risks of data exposure, unauthorized access, and privacy breaches. AI tools require access to substantial data to operate effectively. When lawyers input sensitive client materials,

evidence, contracts, medical records, or privileged communications into AI tools, they risk violating confidentiality obligations if the platform stores or processes data in ways inconsistent with privacy regulations¹⁵.

Confidentiality concerns are intensified when:

- AI systems transmit data to third-party servers
- Data is used to retrain models without consent
- Weak security protocols expose clients to cyberattacks
- Cloud jurisdictions lack strong data-protection laws

¹⁵<https://scispace.com/papers/legal-and-ethical-conundrums-in-the-ai-era-a-1cu4wilqf>

must address. We will also consider how AI can enhance legal services, making them more efficient and accessible, while addressing concerns such as data privacy, bias, accountability, and the evolving role of human expertise in the future of law (Enas Mohamed Ali Quteishat, 2024; Shahid et al., 2023; Singh, 2024).

The discussion is set to achieve the following objectives, to:

1. explore how AI is transforming legal practices, from document automation to predictive analytics.
2. uncover how AI can make justice more accessible, particularly for underserved communities.
3. address the challenges and ethical considerations in adopting AI in legal

ethical implications of utilizing AI to make decisions that were once the exclusive domain of human judgments (Anu, 2025; Ramachandran & Rana, 2024).

1.3 Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the legal landscape by reshaping how laws are interpreted, enforced, and practiced. From predictive analytics in litigation to automated contract review, AI offers unprecedented efficiency and insight. However, its rapid adoption also raises significant legal, ethical, and regulatory challenges. Balancing innovation with accountability is now a central concern for legal systems worldwide.

1.4 This session is dedicated to exploring how AI intersects with the legal profession. We will examine the opportunities AI presents, the challenges it poses, and the ethical issues we

When incorporating AI tools especially cloud-based or third-party platforms, compliance with confidentiality requires:

- Ensuring AI platforms do not store, reuse, or train models on client data without explicit safeguards
- Verifying whether the AI tool complies with data protection laws (e.g., GDPR-like standards)
- It is essential that legal practitioners conduct due diligence in assessing AI tools' security standard
- Using encrypted channels and secure authentication protocols
- Ensuring servers are located in jurisdictions with strong privacy protections

- Implementing internal firm policies restricting what types of client information may be input into AI tools

2. Compliance with RPC Duties Toward the Court and Administration of Justice (PART IV RPC, 2023)

Lawyers owe a duty to the court to uphold the integrity of legal proceedings. Using AI in ways that undermine fairness, accuracy, or procedural integrity may violate this duty. Examples include:

- Submitting AI-generated evidence without verifying authenticity
- Using predictive tools that reinforce discriminatory outcomes
- Relying on opaque algorithms whose reasoning cannot be explained to a judge
- Citing cases generated from AI without verifying

Considerations. I wish to publicly applaud the initiative of Adebayo Adelodun & Co in leading discussion in this emerging area to further sensitize the legal ecosystem and the general public as the integration of emerging technologies is sacrosanct and inevitable except we settle for crawling when the rest of the world is moving at jet pace. You are indeed commended for this laudable initiative of yours.

- 1.2 In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is redefining industries across the globe, including healthcare, finance, and, more recently, the legal sector. AI is reshaping the way we approach legal research, case management, client service, and courtroom operations. However, with these groundbreaking advancements, we also face critical questions, particularly regarding the

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND ETHICS

BY

PROF. RASHEED GBENGA JIMOH*
(FNCS)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Good morning, esteemed Guests and valued members of Adebayo Adelodun & Co. It is both a privilege and an honor to join you today for the 7th Quarterly Roundtable Engagement. As we gather to collaborate and exchange ideas, we have the unique opportunity to delve into a topic that is both timely and transformative: *Artificial Intelligence and the Law, Opportunities, Challenges, and Ethical*

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It is important that Lawyers ensure that any AI-generated analysis can withstand judicial scrutiny.

3. Human Rights, Fairness, and Non-Discrimination

AI ethics also intersects with core legal values surrounding fairness, human dignity, and equal treatment. Some writers argue that AI systems can influence rights relating to due process, non-discrimination, and equality before the law. Legal practitioners must therefore ensure that AI-driven tools do not perpetuate or amplify systemic biases.¹⁶

This obligation aligns with the RPC 2023 principles requiring lawyers to:

- Uphold justice and fairness

¹⁶https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350808360_Artificial_intelligence_human_rights_democracy_and_the_rule_of_law_a_primer

- Avoid assisting in discriminatory practices
- Protect clients from unfair automated outcomes

For instance, using biased predictive analytics in risk assessments may undermine procedural fairness and violate legal practitioners' duties under both constitutional and professional ethics standards. Thus, ensuring ethical fairness requires:

- Assessing the datasets underpinning AI tools
- Monitoring outputs for discriminatory patterns
- Avoiding reliance on opaque models in high-impact decisions
- The lawyer's ethical responsibility includes active oversight not blind trust in automated tools.

regulation, ethical reflection, and professional vigilance, AI can become a powerful ally in strengthening legal systems, enhancing access to justice, and promoting a more equitable and efficient delivery of legal services. The challenge ahead is to ensure that technological progress does not eclipse humanity's most enduring legal values but instead reinforces and reimagines them for the digital age.

I cannot end this presentation without thanking the Firm of Adebayo Adelodun & Co., especially the principal partner Alhaji Adebayo Oba Adelodun SAN for beaming their search light in my direction to deliver this paper.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for your patience in sitting through the lecture.

substitute for human judgment but as a tool that augments legal reasoning, while reinforcing fundamental values. Responsible adoption requires a balanced, human-centric, and rights-respecting approach, one that embraces innovation, while maintaining the primacy of justice, fairness, and the rule of law. By embedding ethical principles into every stage of AI deployment, design, procurement, implementation, oversight, and review, the legal profession can harness AI's immense potential without compromising its core values.

- 6.4 The future of AI in the practice of law is neither predetermined nor inherently perilous. It will be shaped by the choices made by lawmakers, legal practitioners, technologists, educators, and the society at large. If guided by prudent

4. **Independence, Objectivity, and Avoiding Over-Reliance on AI**

Lawyers must maintain independence of judgment. AI tools, while valuable, cannot replace human legal reasoning or professional discretion. Ethical concerns arise when lawyers overly depend on AI-generated results without adequate scrutiny. Such over-reliance threatens professional independence and could undermine the integrity of legal advice.

To uphold ethical standards, lawyers must:

- Treat AI as a supportive tool not a decision-maker
- Independently verify AI-generated conclusions
- Maintain final responsibility for all legal judgments

- Professional independence remains a non-delegable duty.

5. Accountability and Professional Responsibility

Lawyers remain responsible for any work product generated under their supervision, even when assisted by AI. The ethical principle of accountability requires that practitioners ensure the accuracy, reliability, and appropriateness of AI-generated outputs. This duty extends to:

- AI-assisted legal research
- Drafting contracts or pleadings using AI
- Client communication tools
- Case predictions and strategic recommendations

As AI becomes more autonomous, the challenge of attributing responsibility

enhance efficiency, expand access to justice, improve decision-making, and stimulate innovation across legal education, research, and practice. The automation of routine tasks and the rise of intelligent decision-support systems signal a profound shift in how legal services are delivered, enabling lawyers to focus more on strategic, analytical, and client-centered activities.

- 6.2 Yet, these benefits are inseparable from significant risks. The legal system can harness AI's benefits while safeguarding the rule of law. The balance is delicate but essential only through responsible and ethically grounded governance from which the society, can fully realize AI's potential in the legal realm.
- 6.3 Ultimately, the integration of AI into legal practice should not be understood as a

ensure that graduates enter the profession fully prepared to evaluate and supervise AI systems responsibly, consistent with ethical duties recognized in modern professional conduct frameworks. Such institutionalization also reinforces the principle that ethical AI use is not a technical accessory but a fundamental legal skill essential to preserving fairness, accountability, and public trust in the justice system.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping the legal landscape, offering transformative opportunities, while simultaneously challenging long-standing legal doctrines, ethical norms, and professional responsibilities. As demonstrated throughout this paper, AI holds immense potential to

intensifies. However, ethical rules insist that accountability cannot be shifted to an AI system or its developers. Lawyers must maintain ultimate responsibility for their work.

6. Compliance with Regulatory Standards

The Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners (RPC) 2023 provide the primary ethical and regulatory framework guiding lawyers' behaviours, responsibilities, and professional standards. As AI tools become increasingly integrated into daily legal work such as drafting, document analysis, research, client communication, and case management, lawyers must ensure that their use of AI complies with all applicable professional rules. Compliance is not optional as improper use of AI may lead to professional misconduct,

sanctions, reputational harm, and breaches of client rights.

Legal practitioners must remain informed about domestic and even international AI regulations to ensure compliance.

7. Compliance with Duty to Avoid Bringing the Profession into Disrepute

The Rules of Professional Conduct 2023 (RPC) contain several provisions addressing a lawyer's duty to avoid bringing the profession into disrepute. These rules collectively aim to ensure lawyers maintain high standards of character, integrity, and discipline.

Improper use of AI such as relying on unreliable chatbots, misusing automation, or sharing confidential client data e.t.c can damage public trust in the legal profession.

technologies increasingly shape legal research, case analysis, dispute resolution, and client services, legal education must evolve to prepare future lawyers for the ethical and professional challenges posed by advanced digital tools. Law schools and law faculties should therefore incorporate compulsory coursework on AI ethics, algorithmic justice, data governance, and technological competence into their core curriculum, rather than treating these topics as optional or peripheral. This training should equip students with a foundational understanding of issues such as algorithmic bias, explainability, confidentiality risks, data protection obligations, and the importance of human oversight in automated systems. By embedding these competencies at the formative stage of legal training, law schools

requirements and can be defended under cross-examination.

7. Training and capacity building:

Foundational AI competence training should be made mandatory for all practitioners,. Continuing legal education programs should include modules on AI interpretation, risks, data protection, and verification. Cross-functional collaboration should be encouraged by bringing together lawyers, technologists, privacy officers and compliance personnel in the development and review of AI workflows, improving both understanding and safety

8. Professionalizing AI Ethics in Law through Legal Education: A key recommendation for the responsible integration of AI into legal practice is the professionalization of AI ethics through mandatory training within law schools. As AI

The RPC requires lawyers to uphold the dignity of the profession.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATING AI INTO LEGAL PRACTICE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ETHICS:

- 1. The creation of a well-defined governance framework that sets out the ethical and operational boundaries for AI use within legal practice:** Law Firms/Legal Practitioners should adopt AI governance charter that establishes the purpose of AI deployment, the categories of approved applications, the internal authority responsible for oversight, and escalation mechanisms for high-risk scenarios. This mirrors the growing emphasis on professional responsibility in AI use as highlighted by the American Bar Association's ongoing work on integrating

generative AI into legal practice¹⁷. To ensure continuous accountability, the Firm should establish an AI Ethics or Oversight Committee including legal, technical, security and compliance experts, aligned with best practices recommended in contemporary AI governance regulations. This governance structure should be supported by a formal risk register documenting all AI tools in use, their risk level, safeguards, and review timelines, consistent with risk-based regulatory approaches reflected in emerging frameworks such as the EU AI Act¹⁸.

2. **Rigorous vendor due diligence prior to adopting any AI system:** Legal practitioners should evaluate vendors on security posture,

¹⁷<https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2024/07/aba-issues-first-ethics-guidance-ai-tools/>

¹⁸<https://www.euaiact.com/#:~:text=The%20EU%20AI%20Act,applying%20on%202%20August%202026.>

mitigation strategies implemented. Following deployment, continuous monitoring of outputs is necessary to detect data drift and emergent bias, consistent with recommendations from AI governance researchers.

6. **Regulatory compliance:** Law Firms and all Legal Practitioners must align AI usage with professional ethics duties, particularly competence, confidentiality and integrity reflected in Rules of Professional Conduct 2023. Firms must also track evolving AI-specific laws, including the EU AI Act, to ensure compliance with risk classification, documentation, and transparency obligations. When AI is used in litigation, lawyers should be prepared to disclose its role when required and explain its methodology, ensuring that evidence derived from AI meets admissibility

against authoritative legal databases. Reuters identifies retrieval-augmented approaches as a key method for reducing hallucinations in legal contexts.

5. The adoption of comprehensive bias-mitigation measures: Lawyers must examine the representativeness and source of data used by AI tools, as UNESCO emphasizes the risk of systemic discrimination arising from biased datasets¹⁹. Prior to deployment, AI systems should be tested for disparate outcomes across demographic groups, including analyses of false-positive and false-negative rates in contexts involving predictive or classificatory functions. Firms must document these fairness evaluations and any

¹⁹<https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics#:~:text=The%20level%20of%20T&E%20should,benefits%20are%20accessible%20to%20all.>

compliance certifications, encryption standards, data residency, and vulnerability management practices, which Reuters identifies as critical considerations for enterprise AI adoption. Vendor contracts must include explicit terms, governing data usage, protection of client confidentiality, retention limits, and prohibitions on using client information to train external models unless expressly agreed. Liability provisions should be clear, particularly in relation to AI-generated errors, data breaches, or intellectual property violations. Scholars examining liability issues in the EU AI Act stress the importance of contractual clarity for mitigating legal exposure. Additionally, Firms should negotiate audit rights and obligations requiring vendors to provide documentations, explaining model

limitations, training data sources, and update cycles.

3. The implementation of strong confidentiality, data-protection, and privilege-preservation safeguards:

Lawyers should adopt data-minimization practices, sharing only the information necessary for the intended AI task, which Reuters notes as essential for reducing exposure in enterprise implementations. Where possible, Firms should use enterprise-grade or private AI systems instead of public chatbots, particularly when handling privileged communications, an approach aligned with ethical opinions emphasizing restrictions on disclosing client information to third-party systems. Encryption must be applied to all AI-related data flows, and Firms should establish clear policies for key management. Privilege

protocols should be established to ensure that all privileged material processed by AI is appropriately labeled and kept within controlled environments, thereby reducing the risk of waiver or unauthorized disclosure.

4. The necessity of explicit human oversight and structured verification workflows:

Lawyers must remain the final decision-makers, verifying every substantive AI output before relying on it in client work, generative AI requires careful verification. Workflows should distinguish between low-risk applications such as formatting or citation checking and high-risk applications that influence legal reasoning, strategy, or court submissions, the latter requiring multi-tier review systems. Verification protocols should include source-checking, retrieval-augmented generation techniques, and cross-validation

by noting that although AI offers immense opportunities, it can never replace lawyers; at best, it may replace certain legal tasks. **Prof. Abdulrasheed Gbenga Jimoh** reiterated the need for ethical adoption, warning that rejecting AI entirely would slow human capital development. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by the **Head of Chambers of Adebayo Adelodun & Co.**, marking the end of an intellectually stimulating engagement that underscored the need for continuous dialogue at the intersection of law, technology, and ethics.

its core, *AI refers to the capability of machines to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence* (Banafa, 2024; Srivastava & Singh, 2019). This includes problem-solving, decision-making, and learning from experience, all without direct human intervention (Russell et al., 2001).

To break this down further:

Machine Learning (ML): A subset of AI, where systems learn from data. These systems identify patterns, make predictions, and continually improve as they process more data, rather than simply following pre-programmed rules (KAUR, 2023).

Deep Learning: An advanced form of machine learning where systems use complex neural networks to process data in layers, similar to the human brain. This allows machines to perform

tasks such as speech recognition, image interpretation, and natural language understanding, tasks that were once beyond the reach of AI (Goswami, 2020; Shiloh-Perl & Giryas, 2023).

AI has evolved significantly since its inception. Early systems were limited to following simple instructions, but with advancements in supervised learning (where AI learns from labeled data) and unsupervised learning (where AI detects patterns without human input), AI has become more adaptable and proficient. Moreover, reinforcement learning enables AI to learn by trial and error, refining its actions based on feedback (Arunagiri G & Sumana S, 2023).

So, how does this apply to the legal field? AI is already making significant strides in law by improving efficiency and reducing the burden of

5. **Responsible Adoption:** Participants were encouraged to leverage AI for efficiency and cost-saving benefits while ensuring that technology strengthens rather than undermines the rule of law.
6. **Capacity Building:** Continued professional education and technological literacy should be promoted so that lawyers can adapt to AI-driven transformations rather than be displaced by them.

CONCLUSION

The Roundtable concluded with expressions of gratitude to the speakers and participants. **Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN** rounded off his presentation

2. **Ethics Training and Standards:**

Professional bodies should develop structured training and guidelines on AI ethics, accountability, and data protection within legal practice.

3. **Bias-Mitigation Strategies:** Developers and users should prioritize fairness and transparency by addressing algorithmic bias and the “black box” problem.

4. **Regulatory Collaboration:** Institutions, regulators, and technology developers should collaborate to create frameworks that balance innovation with accountability.

repetitive, time-consuming tasks. Let’s examine some key applications (Ghasemi & Shahvaroughi Farahani, 2024; Najafli, 2025):

Contract Analysis: AI tools can now analyze contracts in seconds, identifying risks, inconsistencies, or legal issues that once required hours of manual review. These tools can even suggest revisions based on past precedents, improving both accuracy and compliance.

Legal Research: AI is revolutionizing legal research by providing more precise and faster results. By understanding the context of legal queries, AI can return highly relevant case law and statutes, greatly enhancing legal research productivity.

Document Automation: AI can automate the creation of standard legal documents such as contracts, wills, and NDAs. By inputting basic information, AI systems can generate customized documents in a fraction of the time it would take a lawyer.

E-Discovery: AI speeds up e-discovery by automatically sifting through vast amounts of digital data to identify relevant evidence, freeing lawyers to focus on analysis rather than manual document review.

Case Examples:

ROSS Intelligence: An AI-powered tool that assists legal professionals to quickly identifying relevant case law, transforming the research process, and allowing lawyers to focus on strategy (Maireg Biresaw & Umesh Saste, 2022; Qutieshat et al., 2024).

especially younger lawyers or those in non-urban regions—at a disadvantage.

Overall, the session reflected a healthy balance of curiosity, skepticism, and cautious optimism about AI in the legal profession.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several recommendations emerged from the presentations and discussions:

1. **Due Diligence and Verification:** Legal practitioners must undertake proper due diligence and validate AI-generated information instead of accepting it uncritically.

- **Personal Experiences and Perceptions:**

Some participants shared personal apprehensions about AI displacing jobs within the legal services value chain. In this context,

Mrs. Nimat Abdulraheem commented that she previously had a “phobia for AI,” but from the discussion she learned the importance of independently validating AI-generated information and maintaining human judgment.

- **Practical Adoption Challenges:**

Participants also highlighted the digital divide, gaps in training, and the need for continuous legal education to avoid leaving practitioners—

Kira Systems: This tool automates contract review, quickly highlighting key clauses and risks, saving law firms countless hours and enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of contract analysis (Dadas et al., 2024).

Clearly, AI is already reshaping how legal professionals work. It’s not just a theoretical concept; it enhances efficiency, improves accuracy, and makes legal services more accessible. However, with these advances come critical challenges and ethical considerations that we must address, which brings us to the next section of our discussion: exploring the opportunities, challenges, and ethical implications of AI in the legal world.

3.0 Opportunities of using AI in Law

1.1 As we continue to embrace the digital age, AI is rapidly transforming many industries, with the

legal sector among its key beneficiaries. AI presents multiple opportunities for the legal profession, enhancing efficiency, improving accessibility, and facilitating better decision-making (Enas Mohamed Ali Quteishat, 2024).

(a) Increased Efficiency and Cost Reduction

AI's ability to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs is one of its most significant contributions to the legal industry. Let's explore how AI is driving these changes:

Automating Routine Legal Tasks: Legal practices involve many repetitive tasks, such as document review, legal research, and contract analysis. AI tools can take over these tasks, processing vast amounts of data to identify relevant information and suggest changes,

whether AI-generated outputs could attract liability if relied upon without verification. Questions were also raised on the evidential value of AI-assisted research in court proceedings.

- **Ethics and Accountability Concerns:** A recurring theme among contributors was the ethical dilemma surrounding reliance on opaque algorithms, particularly where predictive analytics may reproduce bias or distort judicial outcomes. The issue of who bears responsibility—developer, lawyer, or platform—was discussed in detail.

5. Encourage dialogue among legal practitioners, academics, and policymakers on how AI can be harnessed without undermining professional values and the rule of law.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Following the formal presentations by the two resource persons, an interactive session was held allowing participants to ask questions and make contributions. Several issues and perspectives emerged:

- **Clarification Requests:** Participants queried the limits of AI in legal advisory work and

thereby freeing lawyers to focus on more strategic and creative work.

Time and Cost Savings: The time savings afforded by AI automation lead directly to reduced costs for clients. By automating routine tasks, law firms can lower the costs associated with billable hours, making legal services more affordable for clients, especially those in smaller firms or underserved communities.

(b) Improved Access to Justice

AI is also enhancing access to justice, particularly for individuals who might otherwise be excluded from legal services due to cost. Here's how AI is helping:

AI-Powered Legal Advice: Virtual assistants and chatbots powered by AI can provide basic

legal guidance, answer simple questions, and offer templates for standard legal documents. While not a replacement for full legal consultation, these tools help individuals who cannot afford a lawyer access fundamental legal information.

Affordable Legal Services: By automating routine tasks and streamlining workflows, AI makes legal services more affordable. AI allows firms to offer low-cost legal services, democratizing access to justice, especially for individuals from underserved communities.

(c) Data-Driven Insights for Legal Strategy

AI is also transforming decision-making within the legal field by providing data-driven insights:

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the 7th Roundtable were to:

1. Examine the evolving impact of Artificial Intelligence on the legal profession and justice system.
2. Identify practical opportunities created by AI in legal research, case management, education, and service delivery.
3. Discuss the emerging risks, ethical dilemmas, and accountability gaps associated with AI deployment in legal contexts.
4. Offer guidance on regulatory and professional standards required for responsible and ethical use of AI tools.

noting that previous editions had examined diverse subjects such as insurance, marriage, and mining law.

In contextualizing the 7th edition's theme, *"Artificial Intelligence and the Law: Opportunities, Challenges and Ethics,"* the Convener observed that AI is rapidly transforming the way law is taught, practiced, and administered. While encouraging participants to take advantage of these emerging tools, he also stressed the importance of developing the capacity to operate with or without AI dependency. He introduced **Prof. Yusuf Ali, SAN** as the first speaker, referencing his scholarly contributions on AI and legal technology.

Predicting Case Outcomes: AI can analyze historical data to predict how a case might unfold, helping lawyers assess whether to settle or proceed with litigation. This predictive ability helps legal professionals make more informed decisions, improving strategic planning.

Enhanced Decision-Making: With AI's capacity to sift through vast amounts of data, lawyers can gain valuable insights from case precedents, judicial tendencies, and trends in case law, enabling them to make more informed, confident decisions.

4.0 Challenges in Integrating AI and Law

4.1 Distinguished audience, no pain, no gain, nothing comes without a price, the benefits of AI integration in the legal ecosystem are also accompanied with some glaring challenges. This

further informs us that AI cannot replace human lawyers because we are to **leverage** on technologies rather than **depending** on it. Most of the challenges are discussed as follows:

1. **Lack of Transparency (Black Box Problem):** Many AI systems operate opaquely, making it difficult to understand or explain how a particular legal conclusion or recommendation was reached and thus problematic in a field that relies on reasoned justification. Thus, human intelligences for effective reasoning still sacrosanct.
2. **Bias and Discrimination:** AI systems trained on biased historical data may reinforce or amplify existing inequalities, particularly in areas like criminal justice, hiring, or credit assessment. The issue of garbage-in-garbage-out.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 7TH ROUNDTABLE THEMED: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND ETHICS

INTRODUCTION

The 7th Roundtable opened with a welcoming address delivered by the Convener, **Adebayo O. Adelodun, SAN**, who acknowledged the presence of esteemed guests including **Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, Prof. Abdulrasheed Gbenga Jimoh**, and other distinguished participants from the legal and academic communities. He emphasized that the Roundtable was established as a platform for stimulating discussion on contemporary legal issues,

Transforming legal practice: The role of AI in modern law. *Journal of Strategic Policy and Global Affairs*, 4(01), 36–42.

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3. **Reliability and Accuracy:** Errors in AI-generated legal analysis can have serious consequences, including wrongful convictions, flawed contracts, or regulatory non-compliance.
4. **Regulatory Gaps:** Legal frameworks often lag behind technological developments, creating uncertainty about liability, accountability, and oversight when AI systems fail or cause harm. Thus, the need for a legal framework to protect legal Professionals on errors emanated from the use of technology is required.

5.0 Ethical Considerations

- 5.1 Please let me sound a note of caution in using AI as a Lawyer in a bid to retain legal honesty and integrity. Thus, the following ethical considerations are very important as we

navigate the emerging technology-driven legal ecosystem:

Accountability and Responsibility:

Determining who is legally responsible for AI-driven decisions, developers, users, or institutions remains a complex ethical and legal issue. Always state at the end of the judgement, source of data and AI tool employed.

Privacy and Data Protection: AI systems rely heavily on large datasets, often containing sensitive personal information. Ensuring compliance with data protection laws and safeguarding individual privacy is essential. Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of legal databased must be always ensured.

Fairness and Justice: Ethical AI in law must promote fairness, avoid discrimination, and

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Qutieshat, E. M. A., Quteishat, A. M. A., & Qtaishat,

respect fundamental human rights, particularly due process and equality before the law.

Human Oversight: Many argue that AI should assist rather than replace human judgment, especially in high-stakes legal decisions such as sentencing or asylum determinations.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 AI presents powerful opportunities to enhance efficiency, access, and accuracy within the legal system. However, these benefits come with serious challenges related to bias, transparency, accountability, and ethics. To harness AI responsibly, lawmakers, legal professionals, technologists, and ethicists must collaborate to develop robust regulatory frameworks and ethical standards. Ultimately, the goal should be to ensure that AI strengthens rather than

undermines the rule of law. In summary, AI is revolutionizing the legal field by improving efficiency, reducing costs, increasing access to justice, and enhancing data-driven decision-making. While these opportunities are promising, we must also confront the challenges and ethical concerns posed by AI.

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