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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND LAW: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE

- *Hiba Iliyas*

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has witnessed immense development, transforming many sectors of human endeavor, such as medicine, finance, education and the administration of government, etc. The legal sector, particularly a tradition-based profession based on precedents, fixed procedures and human judgement, has been subject to a rapid and unprecedented technological revolution. AI is now widely employed for legal search, case management, document review, dispute resolution and judicial management, etc., and carries many legal and technical advantages such as improving efficiency and accessibility to justice, while posing many ethical, system and regulatory challenges. The merger of AI and the law, as a general and fundamental shift in modern justice, is forging ahead.

GROWING ROLE OF AI IN THE LEGAL SECTOR

Artificial intelligence is defined as “computational systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, deductive decision-making and pattern recognition” [1]. Today, in the legal realm, AI-driven tools help attorneys manage extensive document sets, perform legal research, project liability, and draft transaction documents. Machine learning (ML) and natural language processing (NLP) allow lawyers to more efficiently review, categorize and analyze unstructured information than with conventional manual techniques.

AI tools are increasingly used in legal practice to reduce workload and human error. For example, algorithmic contract review systems can automatically scan for high-risk indemnification clauses in seconds; semantic legal research systems can locate applicable precedents in a matter of seconds, across various jurisdictions [2].

REVIVER ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Perhaps the most profound positive contribution of AI is its potential for democratizing the access to justice for the "justice gap," which affects hundreds of millions worldwide who cannot afford legal services due to a range of circumstances. Legal AI chatbots, automated document generators and virtual assistants could provide answers to common legal questions, guide pro se litigants in preparing court documents, and inform them of their constitutional rights.

The idea of "legal technology for all" has become more of a movement for initiatives to share the benefits of technology with everyone. With the aid of artificial intelligence algorithms, AI-powered Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) systems allow parties to settle small-claims disputes faster and at a lower cost than appearing in court. These changes can have a powerful, transformative impact on the ability of justice systems to be truly inclusive, relying instead on less physical infrastructure and fewer costly counsel needs.

AI IN JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING

AI has taken the bold step from the law school to the courtroom, leaving some to delight and others to tremble with tragic anxiety. In more controversial cases, however, several jurisdictions use algorithmic risk assessment scores to help determine probation, bail, and parole.

But the floor to automated systems in decision making poses a threat to the fundamental principles of jurisprudence. Judgments are complex, involve a social, moral and contextual assessment of mitigations which data-driven systems cannot make. The over-dependence on predictive algorithms may undermine the essence of judicial independence and humanize spirit, inherent to equity.

ETHICAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGES

AI has seen profound drawbacks in terms of ethical dilemmas. Algorithmic bias consistently continues to be a flashpoint. The historical information on which AI models are evaluated is often not representative of societal prejudice, over-policing or institutional inequities. These systemic biases may be passed through to training data, and the algorithm will end up formalizing and maintaining discriminatory results as a spurious product of mathematical neutrality [3]. The vulnerability of these groups is most clearly reflected in criminal justice algorithms that assign disproportionate risk scores to marginalized groups.

Additionally, the "black box" issue of the law of procedural due process is compromised. The majority of proprietary AI models work through very complex neural networks whose logic and decision-making processes are largely hidden and may lack disclosure or be protected by intellectual property laws. Such opacity runs counter to a fundamental principle of the law that the decision of a court or administration must include some form of "justification," "explanation" or "open criteria," which are subject to appellate review.

Data privacy is also muddled, and so is professional privilege. AI architectures heavily depend on big data, so the gathering and handling of personal and delicate data should follow intensive data security legislation. The stakes in the collection and usage of sensitive personal information also cannot be underestimated; clients' personal information collected through AI tools is susceptible to data protection laws and Attorney-Client Privilege issues when submitted into models.

REGULATORY RESPONSES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

However, international organisations are working quickly to establish AI governance to reduce these risks. The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act provides a broad risk-based framework that severely restricts and tightly regulates high-risk uses of AI, including those in law enforcement and judicial decision-making [4]. For emerging legal jurisdictions such as India, regulations concerning AI are beginning to align with larger digital framework development. In essence, policy makers are seeking a framework that encourages technical development while protecting fundamental rights, the rule of law and all constitutional provisions.

THE FUTURE ROLE OF LAWYERS IN THE AI AGE

AI will not automate lawyers out of existence entirely as many have posited. The human attributes necessary for true representation and advocacy-including court appearances, complex negotiations, moral judgments and genuine client care- will continue to be handled by human lawyers. Lawyers of the future will need a profound understanding of how to best incorporate AI into their work, and data governance and algorithm ethics will need to be core aspects of their practice.

CONCLUSION

AI is transforming the law in ways that no one could have predicted a generation ago. Its ability to improve work productivity and stimulate greater access to justice has incredible impacts. Its

impact on transparency, equity and privacy, on the other hand, requires strict control. The future of justice will not be built upon the skill of the techno lawyer, nor defined by the "law of the street," upended by technology. AI has the potential to serve as a tool for creating an equitable justice system while upholding longstanding constitutional values.

ENDNOTES/ REFERENCES

1. See John McCarthy, *What Is Artificial Intelligence?* 2-6 (Stanford University Computer Science Technical Note, 2007).
2. See Richard Susskind, *Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future* 39–55 (2d ed. 2017).
3. See Sandra G. Mayson, *Bias In, Bias Out*, 128 Yale L.J. 2218, 2221-2227 (2019).
4. Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 Laying Down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act), 2024 O.J. (L 1689) 1, 14-22.