



What is the future of legal practice?

When combined, technology and work carried out by human beings **complement one another**. When we talk about **artificial intelligence**, the combination of technology and human capacity can bring significant changes to our lives, our relationship with work and, most importantly, the way we practice law.

Artificial intelligence will allow processes – including the verification of data – to be automated, enabling lawyers to dedicate a greater time of their routine to high-value activities that can provide greater benefits to the clients.

And that is not all that AI can offer. With artificial intelligence, clients and attorneys can analyze cases using the same database, avoiding information gaps, and reducing costs associated with research and toil. It changes completely the logic behind the traditional way to provide legal services.

With all this technology fast-forwarding legal services, what role will attorneys play in the future? What is expected from law firms given this emerging context within technology (especially since major technology innovations has already arrived)?

1) An active legal practice proposing valuable corporate actions.

With databases now available to everyone – both attorneys and clients – the traditional responsive role played by lawyer will lose ground. Professionals will need to develop a deep understanding of the Law, available technological tools, and artificial intelligence,

knowing how to use their applications in business, as part of a new generalist/specialist profile, that aims at identifying opportunities and create value in actions taken together with their clients.

The future will belong to professionals with different know-how and expertise extending knowledge beyond the legal field as key element to provide valuable services to the clients through a multidisciplinary approach. Law firms will play an even more indispensable role in structuring a company's businesses, taking on proactive actions that shall complement other business areas.

2) The lawyer as co-pilot.

According to [Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella](#), the current generation of artificial intelligence requires users to assume the role of a co-pilot, rather than operating on autopilot. Only users that are flying together with AI will take advantage of the benefits offered by this technology. And piloting such technology will not require a great number of professionals: only a few well-prepared experts shall be accepted as part of the crew.

As a result, attorneys that currently merely present the right answers will be replaced by those that know how to ask the right questions. These will be type of professional that will be able to offer competitive solutions bringing value to the legal services.

3) The quality of professionals will be paramount.

Experience working with cases, a profound theoretical background, the use of a multidisciplinary approach, and capacity for learning, familiarity with technological tools, curiosity, and the ability to communicate clearly will be very desirable

competitive advantages in attorneys. Excellence in providing legal services will come from those professionals that manage to identify what is essential and what best serves the client.

In other words, after interpreting information made available by technology, that most of the time would have already been analyzed and discussed with clients, attorneys will have to present the best possible solution, bringing their experience and human potential into services.

4) Diversity will be essential.

Diversity in the field of ideas and relationships. Only with diversity will it be possible to navigate a world of uncertainties, paying close attention to the stakeholders impacted by legal advice.

The role of a law firm will need to be inclusive, implementing actions and measures that are aimed at incorporating divergent opinions and a wide range of approaches, taking practical actions to promote gender equality and inclusion.

5) Fostering ideas and purpose as a common ground.

Law office will need to become a collaborative environment, one that encourages co-creation and in which individuals seek out purpose and happiness.

Team integration and storytelling collaboration generates a true sense of belonging and make the client experience truly unique.

6) Sustainability as a pillar in decision making.

Laws firm need to implement sustainability within their facilities. Very large and hierarchical structures no longer seem to make sense. Artificial intelligence will provide the data needed for decisions to be made, without requiring endless hours of research and efforts to seek out information.

Human beings will continue to play an essential role in providing legal services – but will allow machines to perform bureaucratic and research-related tasks.

Attorneys will need to focus on what truly matters: validating and optimizing the most ideal legal solution, taking human relations and the happiness of those involved into account.

The future will require the implementation of a simple and personalized approach to legal practice in which technological tools are used to generate value for high-quality work performed by humans, with a focus on clients.

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