

CHICAGO LAWYER

INSIDE OUT

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hat are your perceptions of AI?

Martini: Artificial intelligence, as a concept and tool, incorporates many different things. The term has been

part of our vernacular for a while. It has quickly evolved from being a vague concept referring to the notion of computers doing tasks that had been done by people, to being everywhere all the time in every facet of our lives. There is little these days not touched by AI, much like the internet 25 years ago. It is transforming the world and is incredibly powerful. It is up to us to leverage its capabilities for the betterment of our lives, and to put sufficient guardrails in place to mitigate against its malevolent use.

Susler: As a lifelong "Star Trek" fan and seeing the first "Terminator" movie the night after the contracts final during my first semester of law school, we seem to be on the precipice of the AI age, which is exciting and concerning. I am curious about how it works, what we will be able to use it for both in life and in the practice of law and how things will change over time. I am also concerned about the negative implications, especially for younger people just entering the practice of law and the job market.

How do you use or anticipate using AI in your practice?

Martini: My use of AI, much like the technology itself, is evolving. Given where I am in my more than 30-year career, my day-to-day use of AI looks different than junior lawyers. I have found AI tools helpful when trying to update my understanding of a current issue and receiving driving directions. My firm, like many others, has a set of law-related AI applications that are part of the suite of tools available to our workforce (and clients as appropriate), some of which you may not even think have AI running in the background.

Susler: I have only recently started experimenting with AI platforms. I anticipate that I will increasingly and intentionally use AI tools, particularly tools built specifically for lawyers, not simply the AI built into existing platforms like Outlook to suggest email sentence completion. I have experimented using AI to help with initial drafts of some non-standard contract clauses, which has been surprisingly helpful, and to generate old-fashioned outlines, with mixed results so far, though I have been



EMBRACING AI

On the precipice of a new technological age in law, world

By **TINA MARTINI & DAVID SUSLER**

pleasantly surprised to see similarities with outlines I wrote on my own the old-fashioned way using my own brain power. As AI tools become more robust and reliable, I envision using them to help with initial research into new or unfamiliar substantive areas of law and to help get past writer's block.

What are some pitfalls in using AI in your legal practice as you begin to incorporate it?

Martini: It is incumbent upon us to ensure that our use of AI aligns with various considerations. I need to comply with my firm's AI policy, as well as the AI policies of all my clients. There are also important attorney-client privileges and confidentiality concerns, as well as weaknesses and gaps with the technology as it stands today, such as "AI hallucinations." Lawyers also have a code of ethics to which we need to adhere, so ensuring the completeness and accuracy of the work product we generate while leveraging AI is of paramount importance. AI should always be used with good common sense as the backdrop, as with everything else, and used in moderation and with intentionality, particularly given where we are in its evolution. I recommend that we all use AI very cautiously.

Susler: One of my biggest concerns is that using AI will cause degradation and loss of our

ability to engage in critical thinking, analysis and writing. Another pitfall, given the promise of doing things faster, is that the demands to produce even more work and more quickly will steadily increase, which in turn will lead to a tremendous increase in the stress and burden of practicing law, along with an ever-diminishing ability to take a break. The idea might be that we work fewer hours because we can get things done faster, but my concern is that the opposite will in fact be true. Another pitfall, which we all have read about, is lawyers who fail to actually read what AI produces and fail to recognize that what they are writing and citing in their briefs are fictional AI hallucinations. [CL](#)

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