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Opportunities, Challenges, and Responses Brought by Artificial Intelligence to the Legal Profession: A Perspective from China

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Abstract

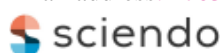
From the perspective of China, this paper explores the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence (AI) brings to the legal profession and proposes strategies for addressing them. Employing a qualitative research methodology, this paper meticulously reviews, organizes, classifies, and synthesizes existing studies to extract valuable insights. Combined with the author's reflections, it reveals that while AI empowers the legal profession, it also presents challenges such as job displacement, intensified competition, and technological dependence. To address these challenges, legal professionals should actively leverage AI technologies but remain vigilant to prevent over-reliance. Additionally, legal professionals should enhance their own competencies, and corresponding reforms should be implemented in legal education.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Technological advancements propel the iterative development of human society. From the perspective of social development history, human society has successively experienced the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and is currently undergoing the Information Revolution. The use of bronze tools opened the door to agricultural civilization, while the invention of the steam engine ushered humanity into industrial civilization. The widespread adoption of new technologies has become the driving force and new trend for the development of various industries, significantly changing the ways people produce and live. Presently, artificial intelligence, based on big data, is developing rapidly and profoundly driving the transformation and transition of economic and social systems and structures. As President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China pointed out in his letter to the Third World Intelligence Congress in 2019, "The new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation led by artificial intelligence is gaining momentum. Driven by new theories and technologies such as mobile internet, big data, supercomputing, sensor networks, and brain science, artificial intelligence is exhibiting new features such as deep learning, cross-domain integration, human-machine collaboration, collective intelligence, and autonomous control, and is having a significant and far-reaching impact on economic development, social progress, and global governance." The extensive application of artificial intelligence has also permeated the judicial field, affecting the legal profession.

This chapter primarily introduces the application and development of artificial intelligence technology in the legal profession. On this basis, it sets forth the research objectives of this paper, namely to explore the relationship between artificial intelligence and the legal profession, to clarify the impact of artificial intelligence applications on the legal profession, and to propose corresponding countermeasures. Additionally, this chapter will introduce the research methods used in this paper.

1.2 AI and the Legal Profession

In recent years, significant progress has been made in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), with AI research and applications flourishing. Countries around the world have formulated relevant policies to promote the development of AI, striving to gain a competitive edge in the new era of technological competition. As early as 2016, the United States released the "National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan," prioritizing AI as a key area of national strategy, and updated this plan in 2019 and 2023. Germany introduced the "Federal Government Artificial Intelligence Strategy" in 2018, outlining three specific goals for AI development, and further optimized its strategy with the "Artificial Intelligence Action Plan" in 2023. China proposed the "New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan" in 2017 and released the "Guiding Opinions on Deep Integration of Artificial Intelligence and the Real Economy" in 2019, setting a clear direction for AI development. The rapid development of AI technology has led to its application in various legal professional activities to different extents, benefiting judges, lawyers, and other legal professionals. Due to its significant advantages over humans in certain areas, AI has been widely applied in legal research, document generation and management, legal consultation, and contract review.

In 2014, Joshua Browder created DONOTPAY, known as the "first robot lawyer" [1]. DONOTPAY marked a pivotal moment in the revolutionary era of legal services by overturning a parking ticket, thus beginning the era of legal self-service. Shortly thereafter, IBM, at the forefront of technology, launched the world's first AI lawyer, ROSS, officially entering the legal field. In 2016, ROSS was

hired by the renowned U.S. law firm Baker & Hostetler to assist in handling bankruptcy matters [2]. In a 2017 competition in the UK, an AI named Case Cruncher Alpha competed against 100 experienced commercial lawyers. Both lawyers and AI were given real scenarios involving hundreds of cases and were asked to predict the success of claims. Case Cruncher Alpha achieved an accuracy rate of 86%, exceeding the human lawyers' accuracy by more than 20%. Similarly, in 2018, LawGeex, in collaboration with Duke University, Stanford University, and the University of Southern California, held a man-versus-machine competition where AI competed against 20 top commercial lawyers. Participants were required to review five nondisclosure agreements within four hours and identify legal issues. AI outperformed human lawyers with a 94% accuracy rate, even achieving 100% accuracy in reviewing one of the agreements. Increasingly, law firms like Linklaters and Riverview Law are developing and deploying AI systems to improve efficiency, provide low-cost legal services, and enhance their competitiveness [3]. The legal AI field is highly competitive, with traditional law firms vying for technical and legal talent and market share against startups and non-traditional legal service providers like Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg, and PwC.

Unlike foreign developments, China's AI application in the legal profession originated from judicial practice. In 2015, the Supreme People's Court first proposed the concept of "smart courts." In July of the following year, the State Council's "National Informatization Development Strategy Outline" included the construction of smart courts in the national informatization strategy. In 2018, the Supreme People's Procuratorate's "Opinions on Deepening the Construction of Smart Prosecution" clearly proposed the major strategy of building "smart prosecution." Under the guidance of "smart courts" and "smart prosecution" plans, judicial practice has actively utilized big data and AI, injecting vitality into judicial practice. At the end of 2016, the Beijing High People's Court launched the intelligent judgment system "Smart Judge," known as the "robot judge"[4]. In 2017, the Smart Maritime Court (Shanghai) practice base was officially established, aiming to create a model of a "smart court" in the AI era. In 2019, the Hangzhou Intermediate People's Court in Zhejiang Province introduced the virtual AI judicial assistant "Xiao Zhi," capable of presiding over court proceedings, completing court investigations, summarizing evidence, identifying case facts, and generating draft judgments. In the same year, the Supreme People's Court's smart court (Guangdong) laboratory was established in Guangdong, providing stronger technical support for core technology research and key technology trials of smart courts.

In the legal service field, AI has also made significant strides. For example, "FaGouGou" can perform contract review and management, case prediction, and provide legal consultation. Similarly, "FaBao New AI" offers functions such as legal consultation, simulated court trials, intelligent legal document drafting, and contract review. Other AI products like "Wu XiaoJiao," "Fa Chan," and "Fa Da Hui Yun" have emerged, bringing new dynamics and possibilities to the legal industry. In the AI era, online law firms, smart courts, and smart prosecution have greatly facilitated the legal profession. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of information technology for online hearings and providing online legal services became the norm due to the need for pandemic prevention and control. Legal professionals, particularly lawyers, have increased their investment in informatization, and the use of AI has gained unprecedented popularity.

1.3 Objective of Research

The widespread application of artificial intelligence (AI) has greatly altered the landscape of the traditional legal profession. From a positive perspective, AI technology not only significantly enhances the efficiency of legal services but also substantially improves the quality of these services. Through technologies such as intelligent search, automatic document review, intelligent contract analysis, and assisted legal research, legal professionals can markedly increase the speed of

information retrieval, handle large volumes of information more quickly, and improve decision-making accuracy and efficiency, thereby providing higher quality legal services to clients.

However, the application of AI also brings considerable disruption and challenges to the legal profession. AI significantly impacts entry-level legal positions, with lower-skilled roles being replaced by AI. Additionally, the opacity of AI technology, the potential generation of erroneous information, and issues related to data privacy protection are concerns that need to be addressed.

This research aims to thoroughly explore the specific impacts and disruptions that AI technology brings to the legal profession and to propose effective countermeasures to these disruptions. Through in-depth analysis and research, this study hopes to provide valuable references and guidance for the legal industry as it navigates the transformations of the AI era.

1.4 Research Method

This paper adopts a qualitative research methodology, specifically utilizing the "literature review method" to achieve its research objectives. Since 2017, the Chinese legal academic community has shown increasing interest in the study of artificial intelligence (AI). Scholars have focused on issues such as whether AI should be granted legal personhood, who should be liable for damages in incidents involving autonomous vehicles, and how to protect intellectual property rights for AI-generated creations. Additionally, some scholars have noted the disconnect between current legal education and the AI era, suggesting the need for reforms. While a significant body of research has been generated on these topics, there has been insufficient attention to the impact of AI on the legal profession and how legal professionals should respond to AI. A search on CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure) using the keywords "AI + legal profession" yielded only 66 results, all from 2017 and later. A search with the keywords "AI + legal profession" yielded only eight results. This indicates that although researchers are beginning to pay attention to the impact of AI on the legal profession, existing studies are still insufficient and relatively few in number.

This paper focuses on the impact and disruption of AI on the legal profession and the appropriate responses. Relevant literature was comprehensively searched in the CNKI database, selecting representative and authoritative Chinese publications based on their relevance to the research objectives and the quality of the papers. Additionally, some representative English-language publications were retrieved from the Scopus database. Through meticulous reading, organization, classification, and synthesis of these documents, valuable research perspectives were extracted, forming the main research findings in this field. Combining these findings with the author's reflections, the paper reveals the impact and disruption caused by AI on the legal profession and how the legal profession should respond to the challenges brought by AI. By employing this systematic and in-depth literature review method, the paper aims to provide valuable references and insights for academic research in related fields.

2 Literature review

2.1 Definition of AI

Artificial Intelligence was first proposed by John McCarthy in 1956 at the Dartmouth Conference, marking the official birth of AI as a new discipline. Despite the development of AI technology over many years, there remains controversy regarding its definition and scope. The definition of AI can be discussed from two main perspectives. The first perspective emphasizes AI as an emerging science or technology. For example, Literature [5] suggested that AI, as an important branch of computer

science, aims to use machines to simulate human thinking processes and thus replace humans in performing corresponding tasks. Literature [6] noted that AI is a new technical science that studies and develops theories, methods, technologies, and application systems for simulating, extending, and expanding human intelligence. Literature [7] stated that AI is a new technical science that studies and develops theories, methods, technologies, and application systems for simulating, extending, and expanding human intelligence. This field includes research in robotics, language recognition, image recognition, natural language processing, and expert systems. Literature [8] described AI as a technology that simulates human intelligence, encompassing areas such as natural language processing, machine learning, computer vision, and speech recognition. It involves computer programs and algorithms that enable computers to simulate human thinking through learning and analyzing large amounts of data, thereby making autonomous decisions and judgments. The other perspective emphasizes AI's ability to mimic or surpass human cognition. For instance, Literature [8] described AI as human-like behavior, human-like thinking, rational thinking, and rational action. Literature [9] defined AI as the ability of machines to perform tasks that require human intelligence. Computers can achieve "artificial intelligence" through various technologies aimed at mimicking or surpassing human cognition: computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning, big data, and modern processing capabilities. Literature [10] noted that the leading AI textbook at the time, authored by Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig, titled "Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach," proposed eight different definitions of AI (2016), divided into four categories: thinking humanly, acting humanly, thinking rationally, and acting rationally. Literature [11] pointed out that "artificial intelligence" involves using computers to simulate human thinking processes and intelligent behaviors, such as learning, thinking, reasoning, and judgment.

The definitions of AI are varied, and the question of what constitutes AI remains elusive. Therefore, although the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) conducted extensive research on the definition of AI, it ultimately decided not to define AI itself but chose to define the more specific and operational concept of "AI system." The OECD states, "An AI system is a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment." Similarly, on May 21, 2024, the Council of the European Union officially approved the "Artificial Intelligence Act," which, in Article 3, only defines AI systems. The AI system is defined as "a machine-based system that is designed to operate with varying levels of autonomy and that may exhibit adaptiveness after deployment, and that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments." The definition of AI systems in the EU AI Act is consistent with that of the OECD.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has not yet been officially defined at the national level in China. However, some localities have standardized the meaning of AI. For instance, the "Regulations on Promoting the Development of the Artificial Intelligence Industry in Shanghai" defines AI as follows: "Artificial intelligence refers to the theory, methods, technologies, and application systems that use computers or computer-controlled machines to simulate, extend, and expand human intelligence, perceive the environment, acquire knowledge, and use knowledge to achieve optimal results." Similarly, the "Regulations on Promoting the Development of the Artificial Intelligence Industry in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone" defines AI as: "Artificial intelligence refers to the simulation, extension, or expansion of human intelligence using computers or devices controlled by them, through methods such as perceiving the environment, acquiring knowledge, and deducing deductions." The artificial intelligence market size and growth rate of China is shown Figure 1. The segment market share artificial intelligence industry of China is shown in Figure 2.

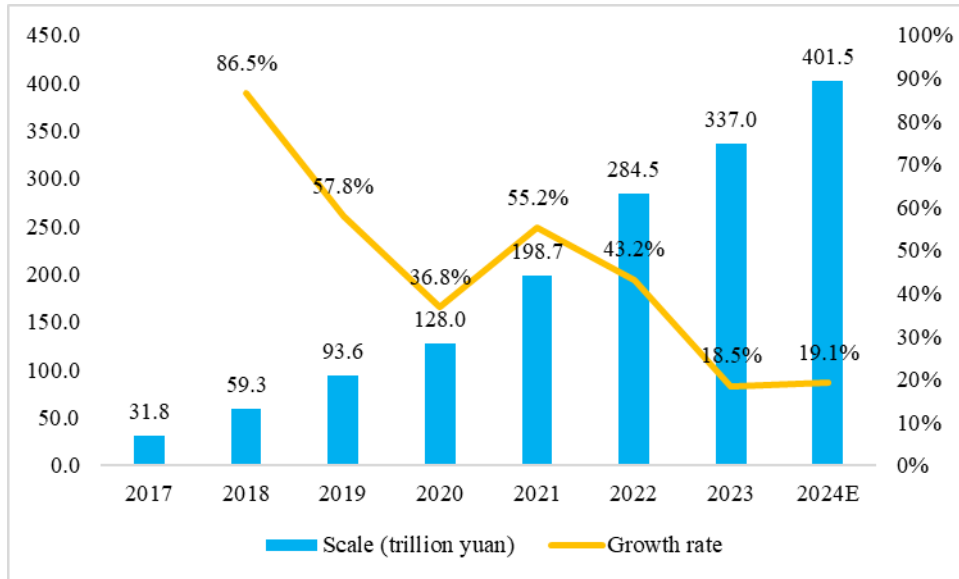


Figure 1. Artificial intelligence market size and growth rate of China

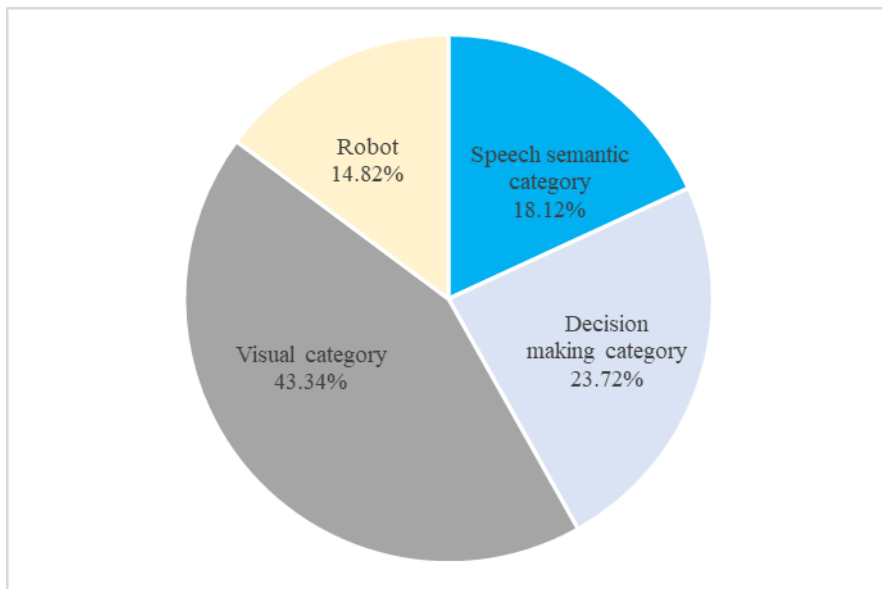


Figure 2. Segment market share artificial intelligence industry of China

This paper considers AI as a computer program or system that, through continuous learning and analysis of large amounts of data, can simulate human intelligence. It is capable of thinking and acting like humans and making autonomous decisions that require human intelligence to accomplish activities, thereby expanding human intelligence.

2.2 Definition of Legal Profession

Regarding the legal profession, there is generally consensus. The legal profession can be broadly or narrowly defined. Literature [12] points out, "What is the legal profession? It can be explained from both broad and narrow perspectives. Narrowly speaking, the legal profession refers to legal practitioners who rely on professional legal knowledge, primarily including judges, prosecutors,

lawyers, etc. Broadly speaking, any position related to law is considered part of the legal profession." Similarly, Literature [6] states, "The legal profession refers to a community composed of legal professionals who have received specialized legal training and possess proficient legal skills and legal ethics. Narrowly, the legal profession mainly refers to judges, prosecutors, supervisors, lawyers, notaries, and grassroots legal service workers. Broadly, the legal profession includes professional positions in enterprises and institutions engaged in legal affairs, such as legal commissioners, legal supervisors, and other personnel in legal departments." Literature [13] also notes, "The legal profession can be broadly or narrowly defined. Broadly, it includes judges, prosecutors, lawyers, legal scholars, notaries, corporate legal advisors, etc. Narrowly, it only refers to judges, prosecutors, and lawyers."

Although different scholars have certain differences in the classification of the broad and narrow scopes of the legal profession, it cannot be denied that the legal profession requires legal expertise, legal training, legal thinking, and the handling of legal matters based on this foundation. The author believes that narrowly defined legal professionals include judges, prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, legal arbitrators, and civil servants engaged in administrative punishment review, administrative reconsideration, administrative rulings, and legal consultancy, according to the provisions of the "Implementation Measures for the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination." Those newly appointed to the aforementioned positions need to obtain legal professional qualifications. On the other hand, broadly speaking, any position related to law falls under the broad scope of the legal profession, including corporate legal personnel and legal scholars.

This study mainly focuses on the broad scope of the legal profession, with a particular emphasis on exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on the work of judges and lawyers, as well as how the legal profession should respond to the development of artificial intelligence technology.

2.3 Relationship between AI and the Legal Profession

The advancement of technology is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it empowers humanity to manipulate and harness the vast energy of nature, liberating individuals from the constraints of the natural world and immersing them in the freedom and joy of the technological realm. However, it also leads to the alienation and estrangement of humanity from nature [14]. Faced with the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI), people inevitably harbor concerns that AI, originally intended as a tool, may replace humans as the masters, relegating humans to mere tools. Concerns have been raised that "the progress of technology enables humans to create perfect artifacts, but it also highlights the flaws and incompetence of humanity, rendering humans 'useless' in the face of omnipotent machines, thus leading to 'the world's abandonment of humanity'"

Specifically regarding the legal profession, the question arises as to whether AI can replace legal professionals and whether the legal profession will become obsolete. Affirmative views include the redundancy theory and the extinction theory of the legal profession. The redundancy theory posits that in the future, AI's capabilities will far surpass those of humans in all aspects of work, rendering human occupations redundant and subject to replacement. Conversely, the extinction theory suggests that in a future world where everything is data-driven, algorithms will supplant the law, leading to the demise of both the law and the legal profession. Conversely, negative views encompass the technological incompetence theory and the risk loss theory. The technological incompetence theory argues that people are overly optimistic about AI and that, particularly in the legal field, AI cannot outperform humans, so the legal profession will not disappear. The risk loss theory, on the other hand, posits that even if AI surpasses humans technologically, allowing AI to dominate would entail

significant uncontrollable risks, thus it is inappropriate to indulge in the development of technology and risk its occurrence.

Regarding the relationship between AI and the legal profession, domestic scholars have generally reached a consensus that humans will always be the masters of technology, and AI will remain a tool. For example, Literature [15] propose, "There is currently no evidence to suggest that AI lawyers can replace lawyers in court appearances, defense, etc., so AI can only serve as an assistant to humans, helping us better complete our work; it only exists as a tool to help us handle more complex cases." Similarly, Literature [16] argue, "The application of AI in the legal field is thriving, and AI can be seen as active in legal services and activities. This is due to the significant advantages demonstrated by AI in assessing legal risks, potential violations, contract review, drafting documents, legal research, etc. However, it is impossible and unrealistic for AI to completely replace legal professionals, as AI cannot match humans in value judgment, comparative and interdisciplinary legal analysis, creative thinking, and the ability to connect with social backgrounds." Some scholars have even explicitly stated that AI will not replace the legal profession, and that AI and the legal profession will develop together, coexisting symbiotically, as Literature [17] points out, "In the legal field, concerns about robot judges and robot lawyers often arise, especially with the breakthrough development of generative AI, causing a new round of 'machine replacing human' anxiety. However, human-machine symbiosis and human-machine interaction are the common phenomena of the present and future." Similarly, Literature [18] states, "In the future, legal practice will be jointly carried out by legal professionals and machines, with some tasks being completely handed over to legal applications. However, machines will not replace legal professionals." Literature [19] asserts, "It can be affirmed that AI will not completely replace lawyers, judges, and other legal professions, but will work alongside them in a supplementary and auxiliary manner."

With the revolutionary development of AI, especially with generative AI like ChatGPT pushing legal services into a new realm, some scholars have pointed out flaws and shortcomings in the "tool theory" of AI. For example, Literature[20] suggests, "From a functionalist perspective, the examination of the status and role of generative AI in legal services should not be confined to existing institutional systems and professional logic but should transcend traditional professional perspectives and the 'tool theory' position. It should comprehend the complex dynamics and uncertainties of the digitalization of legal services, comprehensively examine the technical mechanisms, industry feasibility, and empowerment scenarios of generative AI applied to legal services, analyze the 'tool theory' psychology that may lead to the 'de-skilling' of the legal profession, and systematically explore the profound impacts of generative AI on reshaping the basic connotations, operational paradigms, group compositions, and market supply relationships of legal services." Figure 3 shows people's attitudes towards the application of ChatGPT and generative AI in legal work. The pie chart on the left indicates that 82% of people believe it can be applied to legal work, while the pie chart on the right shows that 51% of people think it should be applied to legal work.

Attitudes towards ChatGPT and Generative AI for legal work

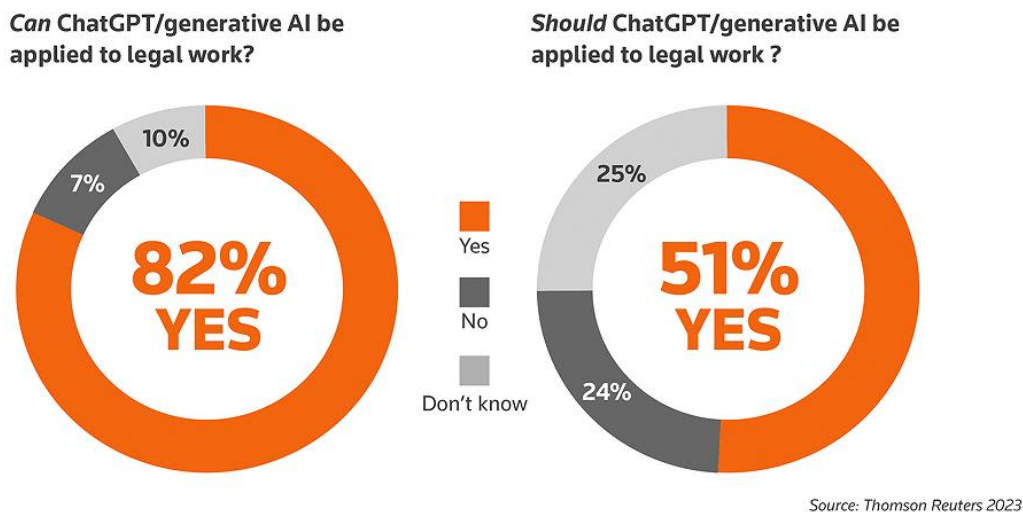


Figure 3. Public opinion on the use of ChatGPT and generative AI in legal practices

In conclusion, when addressing the relationship between AI and the legal profession, domestic scholars generally uphold the primacy of humans and maintain that AI cannot replace the legal profession. They believe that AI, as a tool for legal professionals, will coexist symbiotically with the legal profession.

2.4 Impact of Legal Profession

In the torrent of digitization, the legal industry is undergoing a profound and rapid transformation with the powerful force of artificial intelligence (AI). The proliferation of AI products and technological breakthroughs is having far-reaching effects on the legal profession.

1) Positive Impacts

Firstly, AI liberates legal professionals from time-consuming tasks, significantly improving the efficiency and organizational effectiveness of legal practitioners. As Literature [4] points out, "On one hand, the application of AI technology in judicial activities can to some extent alleviate the heavy burden on judges, thereby addressing the long-standing issue of 'too many cases, too few people' that has plagued grassroots courts for a long time, and improving judicial efficiency." Literature [21] suggest, "In handling certain legal issues, AI has incomparable advantages compared to humans, such as being able to complete large-scale repetitive work in a relatively short time, thereby improving work efficiency." Moreover, they believe that AI not only improves the efficiency of legal professionals but also enhances organizational management efficiency. They propose that AI technology can "help enhance organizational efficiency, optimize business processes, manage legal documents, and manage human resources through the use of information systems." Literature [16] point out, "With its powerful information processing capabilities, AI undoubtedly can process cases much faster than judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, greatly saving costs, improving work efficiency, and alleviating case pressure." Literature [13] notes, "On one hand, the integration and development of AI with new technologies such as big data, cloud computing, and blockchain together promote the informatization construction of the legal profession, greatly improving the efficiency and service level of the legal profession, freeing legal practitioners from heavy workloads." Additionally, many

scholars mention in their papers the value of AI in improving the efficiency of legal work. Scholars generally acknowledge the positive impact of AI technology on enhancing the efficiency of the legal profession.

Secondly, the widespread application of AI allows legal professionals to focus on more complex areas, enhancing the quality of their work and better achieving judicial fairness. As Literature [22] indicate, "Law firms and their staff use intelligent lawyer software to search for relevant legal norms, organize and analyze past judgment documents, analyze and judge defense or representation risks, and prepare defense and representation documents, freeing lawyers from tedious daily affairs and focusing their main energy on improving the accuracy and quality efficiency of legal services." Literature [11] point out, "The deep integration of digitization construction centered on intelligent systems and the mode of human-machine collaboration into trial affairs and the management of the trial process helps improve trial efficiency, reduce the workload of judges, ensure impartial and fair judgments, promote consistent judgments for similar cases, and improve the quality of judgments." Literature [16] acknowledge, "It is undeniable that the application of AI will greatly improve work efficiency in both judicial activities and legal services, and even contribute to better achieving judicial fairness." In addition, based on the six-month trial operation of the Guizhou Political and Legal Big Data Case Handling System, Literature [5] states, "The system handled a total of 377 criminal cases, with a 30% reduction in handling time compared to the previous year; the rate of returning cases for supplementary investigation due to insufficient evidence decreased by 25.7%; the rate of not approving arrests due to insufficient evidence decreased by 28.8%; the acquittal rate due to insufficient evidence was 'zero', and the quality of case handling significantly improved." Literature [23] focus on the value of using AI for case prediction, stating, "The value of case prediction not only helps parties form the optimal litigation strategy but also helps judges achieve consistent judgments for similar cases, ensuring judicial fairness and justice." Furthermore, in their work, Literature [21] point out that the application of AI can provide a higher level of legal services.

Thirdly, the widespread application of AI reduces litigation costs and legal service costs, expanding the legal market. For example, Literature [19] states, "AI legal consulting can directly assist clients in analyzing legal issues and proposing solutions for clients to choose from, and the cost of the entire consulting process is almost zero. Even if certain fees are charged, they are far lower than the standard fees in the legal industry and are completely within the client's acceptance range. This low-cost, high-efficiency legal consulting service opens up a new industry pricing model, releasing the potential demand for legal services in the market." Literature [23] point out, "AI can provide legal consultations to the public, allowing them to obtain more accurate legal services at lower prices, reducing litigation costs, and improving the accessibility of legal services." Literature [5] suggests, "The widespread application of AI in the legal service field will greatly reduce the manpower costs of legal consultations, making legal services no longer a 'luxury'." The positive impacts of artificial intelligence on the legal profession are shown in Figure 4.

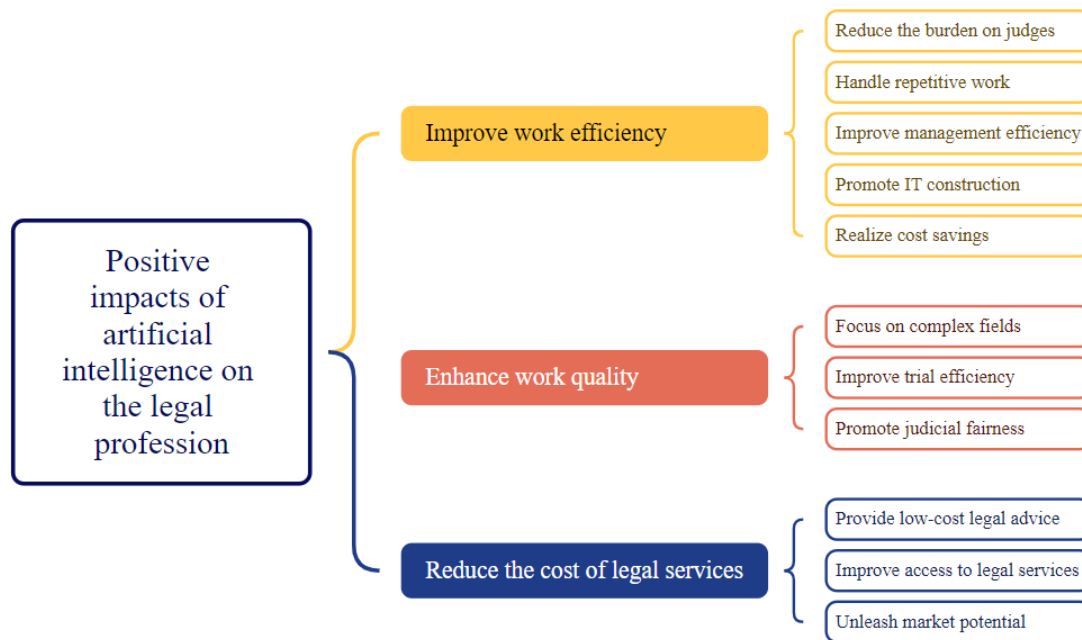


Figure 4. The positive impacts of artificial intelligence on the legal profession

2) Negative Impacts

The development of artificial intelligence also poses challenges to existing legal professions, with current research mainly focusing on the following aspects.

Firstly, AI will replace some legal professions. According to a report by the Financial Times website on December 20, 2017, AI technology has led to the loss of about 31,000 jobs in the legal industry, with 39% of legal positions being classified as "high-risk" jobs that may be eliminated in the next 20 years. Deloitte also predicted that "by 2036, more than 100,000 legal jobs will be automated." Domestic scholars also widely express concerns about AI replacing some legal professions. Literature [4] points out, "Regarding the court system, although AI currently mainly undertakes auxiliary roles and tasks in judicial trials and will not replace judges in making judgments, it is foreseeable that the number of judicial assistant positions in the court system will be greatly reduced in the foreseeable future. As for the legal profession, with the increasingly widespread application of AI technology in legal business, the number of legal assistant positions will also be greatly reduced." Literature [12] also expressed similar concerns, stating that, "AI robots will further replace human professionals in the legal profession, and the structure of legal profession 'personnel' may change, leading to a situation where legal professionals may face widespread unemployment." Literature [18] proposed, "AI will bring about a huge impact on the legal profession, and many traditional legal service institutions will be eliminated, leading to unemployment for some lawyers." Similarly, Literature [21] also suggested that a reduction in the recruitment of entry-level legal positions has caused concerns among legal professionals. Literature [9] also pointed out, "AI can largely imitate and replace the work of some legal practitioners, such as replacing clerks in courtroom records, lawyers in case retrieval, and judges in case classification." Furthermore, Literature [13] expressed concerns about the future of law graduates, stating, "It can be determined: in the near future, positions such as legal assistant, judge assistant, prosecutor assistant, and clerk in the legal industry will be greatly reduced. This exacerbates the already low employment rate in the field of law."

Secondly, it is necessary to guard against excessive reliance on artificial intelligence. If legal professionals excessively rely on AI, due to human inherent laziness, they may gradually lose their

professional capabilities and legal literacy. For example, Literature [24] pointed out, "As ChatGPT-like technologies become more precise in legal scenarios, legal professionals will unconsciously develop a 'positive bias,' naturally trusting technology in the absence of sufficient information, thus forming an inertia of technological worship and dependence. Ultimately, ChatGPT technology may invisibly manipulate the entry-level legal professional group and gradually cause them to lose the ability to autonomously handle legal issues using legal knowledge." Literature [25] also expressed similar concerns, stating, "The empowerment of AI technology will expand the subjects of the rule of law and form a pluralistic governance pattern. However, based on its powerful data processing capabilities and algorithmic recommendation capabilities, the subjects of the rule of law will become dependent on its technology, leading to a fascination with technology, blind trust in technology, and technological worship and technicism, which will inevitably undermine the autonomy and innovation spirit of the subjects of the rule of law." Literature [11] expressed it more vividly, "Long-term and extensive reliance on 'robot judges' to make judgments will lead to the continuous degradation of human legal thinking, legislative mechanisms, and legal capabilities. We originally hoped that 'robot judges' would be more impartial and efficient than human judges, impartially distinguishing right from wrong, but the possible outcome is that we have to beg 'robot judges' for a fair judgment for humans."

Thirdly, there is a need to be vigilant against the technological risks brought about by artificial intelligence. For example, Literature [19] pointed out, "While emphasizing scientific accuracy, the legality and transparency of algorithms should also be of concern. The discriminatory nature of algorithms is an undeniable fact. Once the consultation opinions provided by AI are adopted for legal practice, they will be closely related to the interests of the parties, so attention should be paid to the possible 'black box operations' and their potential harm in algorithms." Literature [9] also noted the technological risks associated with artificial intelligence, stating that, "Judicial judgment pursues not only the determination of right and wrong but also legal interpretation, and clearly informs the reasons for correctness and incorrectness to the parties. The opaque algorithm operation makes it difficult for case handlers to provide detailed judgment reasons, thereby affecting the defense rights, right to information, and other litigation rights of the parties, and causing a backlash against the use of AI-assisted judicial systems by the parties." Literature [26] pointed out, "Algorithms are essentially a type of computer programming technology with obvious biases. The subjective cognition of developers plays a decisive role in algorithm development, model establishment, and evaluation criteria. If these core algorithms related to judicial decision-making assistance systems are used by system developers for specific purposes, it is easy to control judicial decisions through algorithm embedding, forming an algorithmic dictatorship." Literature [23] also focused on the technological risks brought.

The negative impacts of artificial intelligence on the legal profession are shown in Figure 5.

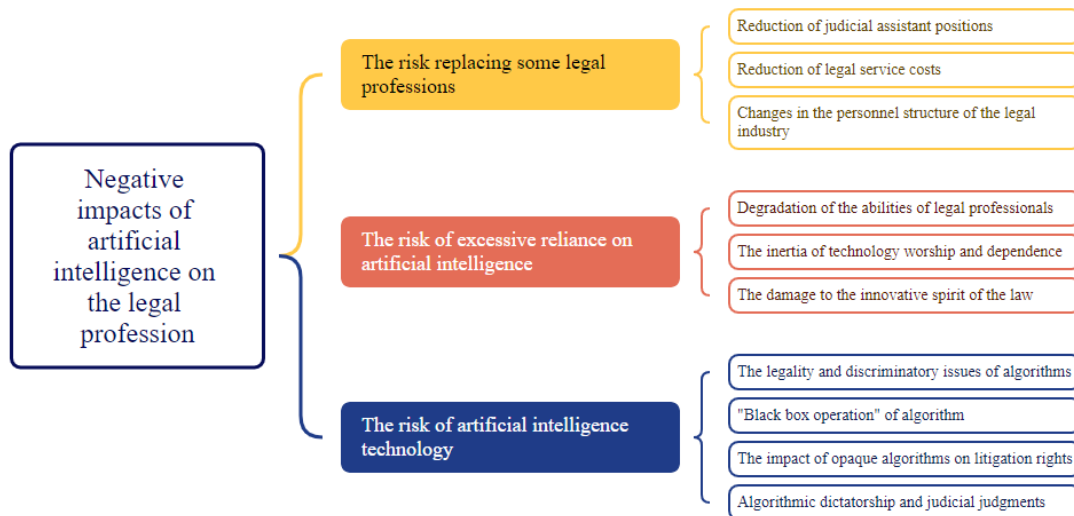


Figure 5. The negative impacts of artificial intelligence on the legal profession

3 Discussion and Findings

The widespread application of artificial intelligence has brought positive impacts to the legal profession, empowering its development. However, it has also introduced unprecedented challenges to the legal profession.

3.1 Empowering the Development of Legal Professions through Artificial Intelligence

1) Enhancing Efficiency and Quality of Legal Work through AI Empowerment

The application of artificial intelligence technology can significantly enhance the efficiency of legal work. AI's speed and efficiency in operation surpass traditional manual methods. For instance, in legal research, which is indispensable to legal work, traditional manual retrieval is laborious. However, AI-enabled legal retrieval significantly outperforms manual methods, offering faster speed and higher accuracy. Similarly, in tasks such as text review and generation, AI can swiftly handle large volumes of repetitive work while maintaining consistent results, making it particularly suitable for text review. Furthermore, utilizing AI technology can automate the generation of legal documents; parties need only input relevant information, and legal documents are automatically generated, greatly reducing text processing time. The application of AI technology liberates legal professionals from arduous tasks, greatly enhancing the efficiency of legal work.

Moreover, the application of AI technology significantly elevates the quality of legal work. Firstly, AI can reduce and correct human errors, compensating for losses incurred by legal professionals due to lack of experience or negligence. Additionally, AI frees legal professionals from laborious mechanical work, enabling them to invest more energy in researching and handling complex issues, focusing on legal reasoning and value judgments, and inspiring creativity. Furthermore, AI can make relatively accurate predictions of case outcomes, formulate corresponding litigation strategies, simulate courtroom rehearsals using AI, verify the feasibility of strategies, iterate, and continuously optimize litigation strategies. Thus, it is evident that the application of AI technology can better realize the core values of the legal profession, providing parties with higher-quality legal services.

In conclusion, AI technology not only significantly enhances the efficiency of legal work but also markedly improves the quality of legal work, truly achieving the core value objectives of legal work and providing parties with superior legal services.

2) Empowering Legal Profession Management through Artificial Intelligence

At the Individual Level, legal professionals can better manage cases using artificial intelligence. AI can classify cases based on complexity and urgency, plan work time, and allocate case resources reasonably. Additionally, AI can track cases in real-time, automatically reminding legal professionals of case stages and important dates, ensuring timely progress, and preventing delays due to human negligence. Furthermore, AI can record casework details, monitor case processes, and alert legal professionals to case risks. Overall, utilizing AI can enhance legal professionals' ability to manage cases efficiently.

At the Organizational Level, AI contributes to enhancing organizational management capability and improving management systems. Firstly, AI helps reduce management costs and accelerate decision-making processes. Taking the legal industry as an example, law firm size serves as a significant indicator of its strength, influencing clients' preferences. Law firms tend to expand their lawyer numbers to meet development needs and integrate resources efficiently. However, maintaining large teams incurs high decision-making and management costs. The widespread application of AI technology significantly improves legal work efficiency, albeit not altering law firms' team-based organizational structure or the need for collaborative efforts among different teams in handling large-scale businesses. However, AI applications are likely to reduce team sizes (notably in assistant roles), leading to flatter organizational structures. As George Baker and Rachel Parking observed, "The pyramid organizational structure characteristic of large law firms for over a century is being dismantled into a diamond shape." (Wang Jinxi, 2021) For large law firms, de-layering is the primary task brought by digitization in the legal field. Smaller team sizes and flatter structures significantly reduce management costs and enhance organizational management efficiency[27]. Additionally, AI improves organizational management methods, achieving more refined and comprehensive management. Still considering the legal industry, traditional lawyer evaluations focus on performance and revenue generation. However, leveraging AI technology can create a more comprehensive and fair evaluation mechanism, enhancing incentives for lawyers, increasing their sense of belonging and satisfaction with the firm, fostering positive interactions, and stimulating firm management efficiency while reducing management costs.

In conclusion, leveraging AI technology can effectively empower legal professionals in management, enhancing management efficiency, and reducing management costs.

3) Empowering the Legal Industry through Artificial Intelligence to Promote Industry Development

Firstly, the widespread application of AI technology facilitates judicial fairness. AI, through learning from a vast number of cases, extracting, validating evidence, and predicting case judgments, provides references for judges' decisions, avoiding human irrational cognitive biases and errors, ensuring more accurate legal application, and ensuring consistency in judgments of similar cases. Additionally, AI-assisted adjudication can establish a standardized trial process, unify business processes at various litigation stages, and even standardize evidence identification criteria, facilitating judicial uniformity, reducing the probability of miscarriages of justice, and enhancing judicial credibility.

Secondly, AI reduces litigation costs and promotes the development of the legal industry. High litigation costs mainly manifest in high legal service costs and high litigation time costs. According

to the Supreme People's Court report, in 2022, Chinese courts accepted 337.04 million cases and concluded 308.1 million cases, while according to a report released by the Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China, Chinese lawyers handled a total of 8.244 million litigation cases in 2022. A simple calculation reveals that the proportion of cases represented by lawyers is less than 30%. One significant reason for such a low lawyer representation rate lies in the high legal fees. Expensive legal service fees greatly reduce the accessibility of legal services and leave significant gaps in the existing legal service market, with numerous legal service demands yet to be met. The widespread application of AI technology, especially legal consultation products developed by various tech companies, broadens people's access to legal knowledge, making them more aware of the necessity and value of legal services. Moreover, the extensive application of AI technology greatly improves the efficiency of lawyer work, reduces the duration of lawyer casework, alleviates lawyer work pressure, and reduces legal service costs, making legal services no longer a luxury. Additionally, time costs hinder the development of the Chinese legal industry significantly. With China's rapid economic development, legal disputes have surged. "Many cases, few people" has become a major problem plaguing Chinese judicial authorities. To ensure case quality, case processing times have been prolonged, greatly affecting public trust in and demand for justice. The widespread application of AI technology in assisting adjudication significantly improves trial efficiency, accelerates the litigation process, and reduces litigation time costs. Thus, the widespread application of AI technology simultaneously reduces legal service costs and litigation time costs, which stimulates demand in the legal market and promotes legal market prosperity.

In conclusion, the widespread application of artificial intelligence not only safeguards judicial fairness, and standardizes trial processes but also significantly reduces litigation costs, promoting better development of the legal profession.

3.2 Challenges Brought by Artificial Intelligence to the Legal Profession

1) Replacement of Certain Legal Professions by Artificial Intelligence, Influencing the Development Path of the Legal Profession

According to a study report titled "THE FUTURE OF EMPLOYMENT: HOW SUSCEPTIBLE ARE JOBS TO COMPUTERISATION?" published by the University of Oxford in 2013, there will be 700 professions replaced by machines in the future, and legal assistants and paralegals are among the high-risk occupations to be replaced. Artificial intelligence can excel in performing fundamental, repetitive tasks. With the widespread application of AI technology in the legal profession, assistant-type legal professions will inevitably be replaced. However, AI cannot completely replace legal professions, as indicated by the research report, "Although AI may complement lawyers' work in the medium term, due to bottlenecks in creativity and social functions, lawyers belong to the low-risk category of being replaced." The essence of the legal profession lies in legal application, and the specific working method of legal professionals is legal reasoning. The quality of legal reasoning determines the quality of the legal profession and whether the goals of the rule of law can be achieved. The process of legal reasoning involves "subsuming" cases under the legal norms, and this "subsuming" process inevitably involves the value judgment of legal professionals. Legal professionals' understanding of the intentions and purposes of the applicable legal norms cannot be divorced from specific case facts, striving to reconcile norms with case facts. It is evident that neither the selection of major premise legal norms nor the sorting of minor premise case facts can be divorced from value judgments (even the legislative process itself reflects the value judgments and choices of legislators). Although artificial intelligence can simulate human thinking, it only performs simple logical reasoning based on the settings of algorithms. "No matter how powerful artificial intelligence is, it only manifests in the aspect of rational reasoning of rules and cannot use value judgments beyond

rules like humans." [28] When faced with complex and emerging cases, artificial intelligence cannot employ human intuition, experience, or methods of value balancing-analysis, nor can it provide convincing reasons and bases for the legal results it outputs. Therefore, artificial intelligence can only replace certain simple, assistant-type legal professions but cannot fundamentally replace the legal profession.

The legal profession has high entry barriers, strong professionalism, and attaches great importance to the accumulation of experience. The more experienced and senior legal professionals are, the greater the rewards they receive. Therefore, the traditional development path of the legal profession usually starts from assistant positions. After accumulating extensive experience and mastering the necessary skills, individuals can advance to higher positions, and law firms have strict hierarchical systems internally. With AI replacing assistant-type legal work, the "door" to the legal profession seems to be closing. The traditional career development path of the legal profession, starting from assistant positions and gradually advancing through the accumulation of experience, is facing disruptive changes. Junior employees lose opportunities to participate in legal work and accumulate experience, making career development more uncertain. Additionally, with the disappearance of junior positions, the legal industry imposes higher requirements on job seekers. Coupled with the reduction in job positions, this will make the already low employment prospects for law graduates more challenging, further impacting the enrollment of law majors, and making the future of the entire industry uncertain.

In conclusion, although artificial intelligence cannot replace the legal profession entirely, its replacement of simple, assistant-type legal professions is an undeniable fact. This significant change will alter the traditional development path of the legal profession and have a certain impact on the enrollment of law majors.

2) Intensified Competition in the Legal Services Industry

The widespread application of artificial intelligence (AI) technology is bound to intensify competition among the legal services industry, represented by lawyers. Taking lawyers as an example, firstly, AI greatly enhances the efficiency and quality of lawyers' work. The effective utilization of AI will become the key to whether lawyers can gain a competitive advantage. This requires lawyers to not only have solid theoretical legal knowledge and rich practical experience but also to adapt to technological advancements. Only those lawyers who can continuously learn and proficiently use AI technology can gain a competitive edge. Secondly, AI technology can efficiently handle basic legal services, allowing lawyers to devote more energy to the analysis and handling of complex issues. Meanwhile, clients will also demand higher prices and quality for legal services, which inevitably requires lawyers to strive to reduce costs and provide higher value-added services to remain competitive in the market. Thirdly, AI enables small law firms and independent lawyers to provide high-quality services at lower costs, enhancing their competitiveness and breaking the monopoly of large law firms, thereby intensifying market competition. Fourthly, AI technology will help establish a more reasonable lawyer evaluation system, making the legal industry more transparent. In the context of the "Matthew Effect," where the strong get stronger and the weak get weaker, lawyers will inevitably intensify competition and strive to create their core competitive advantages to establish themselves in the market and avoid being eliminated.

Furthermore, the legal services industry, represented by lawyers, is bound to be impacted by legal technology companies. According to Literature [29], "The traditional legal services market has always been considered the 'patent' or monopoly field of legal professionals such as lawyers. Lawyers have always believed that only lawyers can guarantee the provision of high-quality legal services to the public because they have obtained unique skills and professional knowledge through long-term learning. Only by passing the lawyer qualification examination and internship assessment can one

gain access to the legal services industry. Moreover, only lawyers need to abide by lawyer professional ethics and practice discipline." However, many technology companies have expanded their business to the development of AI legal products, and an increasing number of AI legal products have emerged to provide customers with a new legal service experience, including intelligent legal consultation, contract text review, and legal document generation. These AI legal products commodify legal services, providing self-service legal services through standardized processes. These AI legal products, with lower costs and more convenient operation methods, have attracted many customers, causing significant impacts on the traditional legal services market. Lawyers have to admit the reality, that lawyers can no longer monopolize the legal services industry. Legal technology products will coexist with lawyers in the legal services market for a long time and will compete with lawyers, dividing the market share of lawyers.

In conclusion, the widespread application of artificial intelligence has intensified competition within the legal services industry, represented by lawyers. Simultaneously, the significant impact of AI legal products launched by major technology companies has also affected the traditional legal services industry. The monopolistic position of lawyers in the legal services industry has been broken. In the future, lawyers will have to compete fiercely with legal technology companies to jointly divide the legal services market.

3) Potential Technological Dependency

The empowerment of legal professions by artificial intelligence (AI) leads to significant enhancements in work efficiency and quality. However, legal professionals may also develop a dependency on technology. Particularly with the emergence of generative AI technologies like ChatGPT, as ChatGPT's results in the legal domain become more precise, legal professionals may develop blind trust in technology, leading to a form of technological worship and dependency. Moreover, they may lack the necessary caution regarding the potential biases of the technology.

The author once conducted an experiment by asking ChatGPT, "What is the content of Article 1370 of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China?" ChatGPT replied: "Article 1370 of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China stipulates as follows: Article 1370 If a person infringes upon trade secrets, causing the rights holder to be unable to enjoy the legitimate rights and interests of trade secrets, or knowing that the trade secrets are provided by others and, without legitimate reasons, violates the agreement or violates the principle of good faith, acquires or uses others' trade secrets, causing significant damage, they shall bear civil liability. If the infringement of trade secrets causes damage to the rights holder, the rights holder has the right to request compensation for losses in accordance with the law and request the infringer to bear corresponding civil liability such as stopping the infringement, eliminating obstacles, eliminating dangers, and restoring the original state. The scope and standards of civil liability for the infringement of trade secrets shall be governed by the relevant provisions of this Law on tort liability." However, as we all know, the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China consists of only 1260 articles, and there is no such thing as Article 1370. ChatGPT confidently provided me with a "fabricated" legal provision.

Relying on artificial intelligence may lead us to use false information under the temptation of AI. This situation has already occurred in legal practice. On June 22, 2023, a federal judge in New York issued a ruling, fining the law firm of Levidow, Levidow & Oberman \$5,000 for referencing a court brief written by ChatGPT containing false case citations. These two lawyers cited fabricated cases such as "Varghese v. China Southern Airlines," "Martinez v. Delta Air Lines," and "Miller v. United Airlines." However, upon careful verification, these cases were found to be fictional.

Perhaps the issue of AI providing false information can be addressed or even eliminated through technological improvements. However, as mentioned earlier, some criminal risk assessment algorithms used by certain courts in the United States, such as COMPAS, systematically discriminate against Black people. Due to the lack of transparency in AI algorithms, the problem of "algorithmic black boxes" may arise, resulting in unfair, biased, and discriminatory outcomes. If we completely rely on data and technology without discerning and judging their results, it not only fails to empower the rule of law with technology but also allows technology to manipulate the rule of law, making the rule of law an accomplice to social injustice, completely deviating from the fundamental goals and values of the rule of law.

Moreover, even if legal professionals rationally acknowledge the potential biases of technology, out of human inertia, they may still make decisions based on artificial intelligence. Over time, the self-will and autonomy of legal professionals may gradually diminish, eventually leading to a loss of their ability to autonomously apply legal knowledge to address issues.

3.3 Responding to Challenges in Legal Professions

1) Embracing Artificial Intelligence and Utilizing Its Potential

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technology into the legal profession represents an irreversible trend in contemporary societal transformations. Legal professionals should align with the current trend, adopt a rational perspective toward the challenges posed by AI technology to the legal profession, and embrace rather than reject AI technology. At the same time, legal professionals should recognize the positive significance of AI empowerment in legal work. They should acknowledge that those who effectively utilize AI technology will gain more significant competitive advantages. Therefore, legal professionals should proactively learn, master, and apply AI technology to ensure a collaborative division of labor and mutual integration between AI and legal professionals, leveraging strengths and avoiding weaknesses. Given the substantial gap between legal knowledge and AI technology, it is unrealistic to expect legal professionals to become experts in the field of AI. Rather, legal professionals need only effectively utilize AI technology to ensure that AI serves legal work.

2) Avoiding Technological Dependency and Preventing "Invisible Manipulation"

The development of AI technology is still imperfect, and it inherently suffers from issues such as providing false information and algorithmic black boxes. These problems may result in significant biases in the application of AI in the legal domain, affecting legal fairness and judicial authority. Legal professionals should maintain a high level of vigilance against these issues and maintain a rational skepticism toward AI technology. They should rigorously scrutinize and monitor AI-generated information to ensure its accuracy and reliability. Furthermore, legal professionals must always uphold the primacy of human decision-making. AI should only serve as an auxiliary tool, offering decision-making recommendations and providing additional information and references. However, legal professionals should retain their independent judgment capabilities, ultimately making legal decisions themselves. By avoiding technological dependency on AI and preventing "invisible manipulation" by AI, legal professionals can uphold their autonomy and integrity in decision-making processes.

3) Enhancing Professional Competence to Address Challenges

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the legal profession has intensified competition among legal professionals and raised higher demands on their capabilities. To meet this challenge, legal professionals need to continuously improve their own qualifications and enhance their core

competitiveness to avoid obsolescence in the digital era. Specifically, legal professionals should focus on enhancing three aspects of their qualifications: legal theoretical knowledge, judgment capability, and humanistic literacy.

Firstly, legal professionals should strive to enhance their legal theoretical knowledge and expertise. As Literature [15] pointed out, "The core foundation of artificial intelligence lies in summarizing existing experiences. While AI can provide innovative solutions to some problems, these problems are fundamentally logical or strategic, essentially mathematical problems. AI does not 'invent' answers but merely 'discovers' them." However, societal dynamics continually evolve, and new legal issues emerge incessantly. Facing these new challenges requires legal professionals to apply legal principles creatively, drawing from historical experiences, to provide persuasive solutions. Therefore, even in the AI era, legal professionals must strengthen their legal theoretical knowledge and expertise to address issues beyond the capabilities of AI.

Secondly, legal professionals should strive to enhance their judgment capability. Legal application relies on value judgment, which is the essence of legal reasoning. Legal professionals need to integrate value judgment into the process of legal reasoning to achieve fairness and justice. In handling cases, legal professionals should demonstrate attitudes and emotions, balancing statutory provisions with human sentiments and the relationship between law and ethics. Therefore, judgment capability constitutes the core competency of legal professionals. Although AI can mimic human thinking, it ultimately performs simple mathematical reasoning and cannot handle complex value judgments in specific contexts. Therefore, legal professionals should strive to strengthen their core competency and improve judgment capability, upholding the primacy of human judgment.

Lastly, legal professionals should strive to enhance their humanistic literacy. As Literature [12] pointed out, achieving just, fair, and reasonable judicial decisions in judicial practice relies not only on the accurate application of legal provisions but also on humanistic factors. Improving judgment capability crucially involves enhancing legal professionals' understanding and insight into social life. Legal professionals need to remain composed yet compassionate, witnessing the darkness of humanity without abandoning their warmth. They need to empathize with others' suffering, demonstrating compassion, which is an embodiment of humanistic literacy. Legal professionals need to possess warmth and humanistic sentiments.

4) Adapting to the Development of the Times: Reforming Legal Education

In order to adapt to the development of the times and respond to the challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI) to the legal profession, legal education should undergo targeted reforms. Legal education in the new era should focus on cultivating students' ability to master AI technology, while also strengthening their judgment capability and humanistic literacy.

Firstly, legal education in the new era should emphasize cultivating students' ability to master AI technology. This necessitates a shift in legal education towards a bidirectional knowledge structure of law and AI, implying the need for reforms in both teaching content and methods. Regarding teaching content, it is essential to introduce foundational courses on AI, covering basic theories of AI, data processing techniques, and algorithm fundamentals. Additionally, specific application methods of AI technology should be taught, and practical courses should be offered to enable students to personally experience and operate AI systems, thereby mastering concrete applications. In terms of teaching methods, traditional teacher-centered "lecture-style" teaching should be replaced with student-centered approaches. The teaching process can actively utilize AI technology to achieve personalized teaching, increase the proportion of practical courses, and effectively enhance students' ability to master AI technology. In summary, legal education in the new era should enable students

to understand the impact of AI technology on law and empower them to master AI technology to better meet future professional demands.

Secondly, legal education in the new era should focus on the comprehensive development of individuals. In addition to imparting basic legal theories, knowledge, and professional skills, legal education should also engage in interdisciplinary education in the humanities, strengthening students' humanistic literacy. This literacy not only includes an understanding of literature, philosophy, history, and other humanities disciplines but also entails deep reflection and experience in social, cultural, and ethical aspects. Increasing the content of social practice, effectively conducting social practice, ensuring students' direct participation, and gaining an in-depth understanding of the operation mechanisms and issues of society will enhance their understanding and concern for society, and improve students' ability to make value judgments. Furthermore, cultivating students' creative thinking and encouraging them to seek new solutions to problems will promote innovation in legal services. In conclusion, legal education in the new era should not only focus on imparting knowledge and skills but also on cultivating comprehensive qualities, thereby better serving the goal of the rule of law construction and making positive contributions to the development of the legal profession.

4 Conclusion

The widespread application of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought profound impacts to the legal profession. On the one hand, the application of AI technology in the legal industry empowers legal professionals. AI not only enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of legal work but also reduces organizational management costs, thus promoting greater development in the legal sector. However, conversely, AI technology also poses significant challenges to legal professionals. Some entry-level legal positions are being replaced by AI, leading to the collapse of traditional career paths in the legal profession. Additionally, legal professionals face fiercer competition, and unreasonable application of AI may lead to technological dependence, causing legal professionals to lose their essential career skills and become subservient to AI.

Legal professionals must acknowledge the transformative impact of AI development on the legal industry and actively respond to the changes of the times. Legal professionals need to embrace AI and integrate it into their work. However, at the same time, legal professionals should remain vigilant against technology, preventing the formation of technological dependence that could undermine their status as decision-makers.

Furthermore, legal professionals should actively enhance their comprehensive qualities, strengthen their grasp of legal fundamentals and knowledge, improve their ability to make value judgments and enhance their humanistic literacy. This inevitably requires corresponding reforms in legal education.

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