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# AI AND LAWYERS' WORKPLACE – PRACTICE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

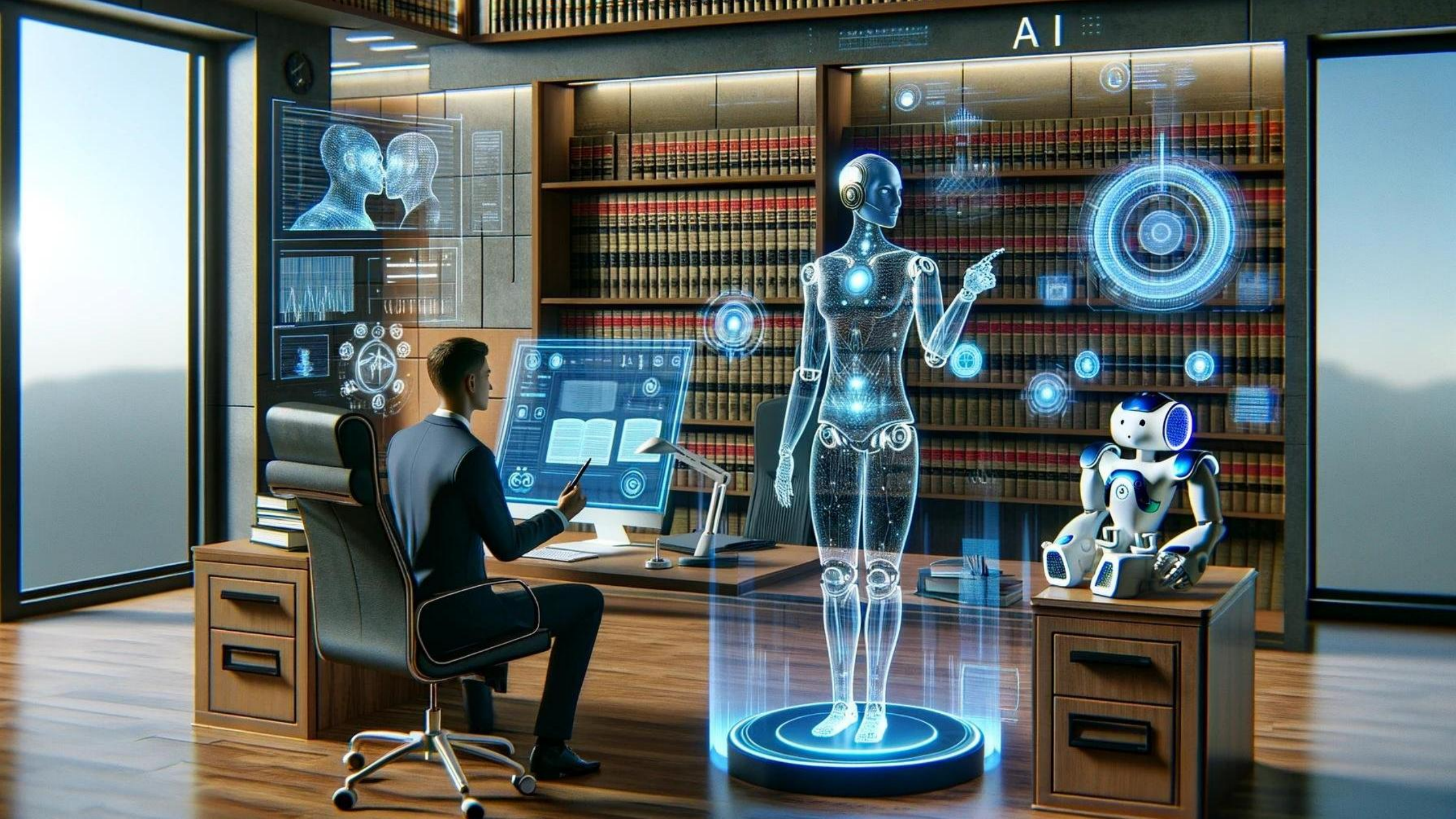
24<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference 2025

Session D9: AI in the Workplace

10 April 2025 (11:00-12:30 CET)

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# Introduction

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AI is re-shaping modern workplace (75% of knowledge workers already use AI in daily tasks).

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Employees are 3 times more likely to use generative AI than what their leaders expect.

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92% of companies plan to increase their AI investments in next 3 years.

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# Benefits and Risks of AI



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# Benefits and Risks of AI

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## **Benefits**

Automation of routine tasks, enhanced decision-making, and improved talent management.

## **Risks**

Misinformation biases, data privacy concerns, and overreliance on AI-generated outputs.

## **Mitigation**

Companies to make clear guidelines on AI usage, conduct regular audits, and invest in AI literacy and training programs.

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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION AND  
THE CENTER FOR AI AND DIGITAL POLICY

# THE FUTURE IS NOW: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION

SEPTEMBER 2024

## IBA Artificial Intelligence Report (2024)

Two views of a secret, Francesco Azevedo



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# IBA AI Report – Key Findings

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Some law firms have adopted AI to enhance efficiency in legal research and document review; a significant number yet to develop their own AI solutions.

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Need for robust AI governance frameworks to ensure ethical deployment and compliance with legal standards.

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Law firms need to reassess traditional structures and business models (altering staffing needs and service delivery models).

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Need for targeted training programs to equip legal professionals with necessary skills to work alongside AI tools.

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Firms adopting AI tools may gain a competitive edge by offering more efficient and cost-effective services.

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Law firms face challenges like AI 'hallucination' - instances where AI generates incorrect or nonsensical information.

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# Technological Competence for Legal Professionals

- On 25 May 2024, IBA approved an update to Explanatory Note 9.2 under **Competence** principle of the IBA International Principles on Conduct for the Legal Profession.
  - Maintaining competence is a fundamental ethical principle for lawyers – involves staying updated on both legal and technological advancements.
  - With AI integration into legal practice, it is crucial for lawyers to understand these developments and implications.
  - Competence includes knowledge of legal principles and their practical application through effective client file and practice-management strategies.
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# Questions for Consideration

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What does a competence standard look like in the context of AI?

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What duties do lawyers have to investigate and understand AI in the tools they use?

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What does a threshold level of relevant knowledge/skill/preparation demand?

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Does competence also include understanding of the risks of GenAI tools?

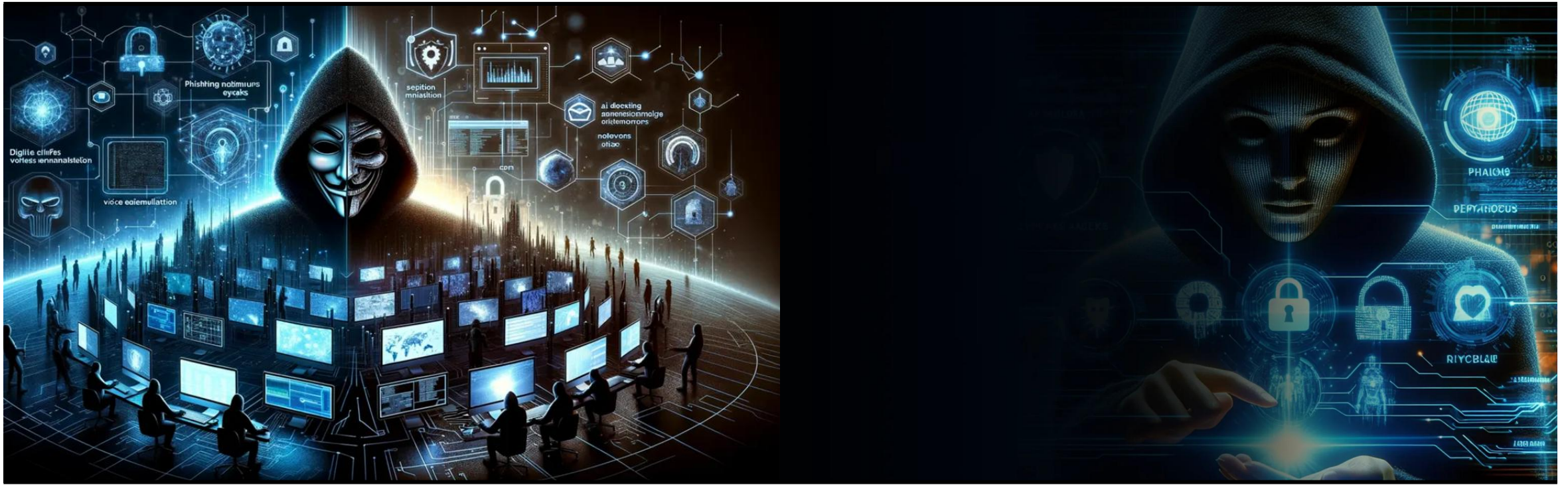
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How can lawyers prepare themselves?

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How can lawyers be supported in identifying and developing technological awareness at workplace?

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# Cybersecurity and AI

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# Evolution of Cybersecurity for AI

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Organisations face an ever-growing landscape of cyber threats; cybersecurity is key in governance

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Need for strong corporate and organisational governance to manage the inherent risks of technological change

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**International Bar Association**

**Presidential Task Force and the Legal Policy & Research Unit**

# The IBA Cybersecurity Report 2023

**Global perspectives on protecting against  
cyber risks: best governance practices for  
senior executives and boards of directors**





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# The IBA Cybersecurity Report

- Provides first-of-its-kind global perspectives and [guidance](#) on best governance practices for senior executives and boards of directors in protecting their organisations from global cyber risks.
  - An in-depth analysis of emerging threats and best governance practices.
  - Emphasizes the need for proactive cybersecurity policies, comprehensive risk assessment frameworks, and cross-functional collaboration between legal, IT, and executive teams.
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# The IBA Cybersecurity Guidelines for Lawyers

## Cybersecurity Guidelines

*By the IBA's Presidential Task Force on Cybersecurity*

*October 2018*



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# The IBA Cybersecurity Guidelines for Lawyers

- Useful [guidance](#) for lawyers and firms to protect themselves from data security breaches and evolving cyber threats and provide clients the best possible assurances.
  - Covers key areas such as secure communication protocols, risk mitigation strategies for legal practitioners, and compliance with international cybersecurity regulations.
  - Legal professionals must take proactive steps to safeguard sensitive information and uphold client confidentiality.
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# Impact of Social Media on Legal Professionals

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# Impact of Social Media

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Increased use of social media by legal professionals for professional and personal purposes



Misuse of AI-based social media can potentially have significant consequences on the career of legal professionals.



Critical to have a working understanding of terminology and jargon used on social media to ensure they are equipped with the skills to navigate practice effectively in the online world.

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the legal profession

International Bar Association

# **International Principles on Social Media Conduct for the Legal Profession**

## **Appendix I: Social media terminology**

# The IBA Social Media Terminology Appendix

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# IBA Social Media Terminology Appendix

- Defines common words and phrases related to social media which lawyers may encounter in their professional and personal use of social media.
  - The [Appendix](#) has two lists:
    - ✓ First, common terminology relating to social media use, and
    - ✓ Second, common acronyms and jargon that may be encountered on social media platforms.
  - Legal professionals can enhance their competence in online interactions, uphold ethical standards, and effectively manage potential challenges arising from social media engagement.
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# Key Takeaways for Legal Professionals

- ✓ Keep updated on changes in technology relevant to their practice.
  - ✓ Participate in basic AI training programmes and be AI literate.
  - ✓ Be diligent in ensuring professional conduct rules and guidance standards are upheld when using AI technologies.
  - ✓ Be responsible for supervising AI tools and ensuring their proper use.
  - ✓ Inform their clients when they have made use of AI, disclosing the scope of such use and the type of AI used.
  - ✓ Proactively engage with AI technologies, ensuring they complement rather than compromise the principles of justice and integrity.
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# Thank You!

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