

# **AI Today: Transforming the Law Department**

Artificial Intelligence is fundamentally transforming how corporate legal departments operate, deliver value, and serve as strategic advisors to their organizations. The following provides practical insights for legal professionals seeking to harness AI's potential while navigating implementation challenges.

## **AI Applications in Legal Operations**

### **1. Contract Review and Management**

**Current State:** AI tools are revolutionizing contract lifecycle management through automated extraction of key terms, risk identification, and compliance monitoring.

**Value Drivers:**

- Reduction in contract review time
- Improved consistency in risk assessment
- Real-time visibility into contractual obligations across the enterprise

**Getting Started:** Begin with a pilot program focusing on high-volume, standardized agreements (NDAs, vendor contracts) before expanding to complex commercial arrangements.

### **2. eDiscovery and Investigations**

**Evolution:** From basic predictive coding to sophisticated large language models that understand context and nuance.

**Measurable Benefits:**

- Document review costs reduced
- Improved accuracy in privilege identification
- Faster response times to regulatory requests and discovery deadlines

**Success Strategy:** Start with technology-assisted review (TAR) for a single matter, document the efficiency gains, and use those metrics to build broader adoption.

### **3. Regulatory Compliance and Risk Monitoring**

**Current Applications:**

- Monitoring of regulatory changes
- Risk assessment across jurisdictions
- Streamlined preparation of regulatory filings



### Future Outlook:

- Predictive compliance risk modeling
- Automated regulatory mapping across global operations
- AI-driven policy generation and updates

## Transforming Legal into a Strategic AI Advisor

Corporate legal departments are uniquely positioned to guide enterprise-wide AI adoption by:

1. **Establishing Governance Frameworks** that balance innovation with risk management
2. **Creating Cross-Functional Partnerships** with IT, compliance, and business units
3. **Developing AI Use Policies** that address data privacy, bias, and ethical considerations
4. **Leading by Example** through successful internal AI implementations

## Overcoming Implementation Barriers

### Primary Challenges:

- **Cultural Resistance:** Address through demonstrable wins and peer champions
- **Data Quality Issues:** Invest in data governance before scaling AI initiatives
- **Skills Gap:** Develop hybrid legal-technical competencies through targeted training
- **Budget Constraints:** Start small, measure ROI, and scale based on proven value

### Critical Success Factors:

1. **Executive Sponsorship:** Secure C-suite support for transformational initiatives
2. **Change Management:** Invest equally in people and technology
3. **Iterative Approach:** Start with pilots, learn, and scale methodically
4. **Metrics-Driven:** Establish clear KPIs for each AI implementation

## Building Future-Ready Legal Teams

### Essential New Competencies:

- **Data Literacy:** Understanding data structures, quality, and analytics
- **Process Design:** Ability to reimagine workflows with AI integration
- **Vendor Management:** Skills to evaluate and manage AI solution providers
- **Ethical AI Oversight:** Understanding bias, transparency, and fairness issues

### Emerging Roles:

- Legal Operations Analysts
- Legal Technology Project Managers
- AI Ethics and Compliance Specialists
- Legal Data Scientists



## Actionable Recommendations

1. **Start Today:** Identify one high-volume, low-risk process for your first AI pilot
2. **Build a Coalition:** Form cross-functional teams including IT, legal, and business
3. **Measure Everything:** Establish baseline metrics before implementation to demonstrate ROI
4. **Invest in Training:** Allocate 10-15% of your AI budget to change management and education
5. **Think Ecosystem:** Consider how AI tools will integrate with existing legal technology stack

## Key Questions for Your Organization

Before embarking on your AI journey, consider:

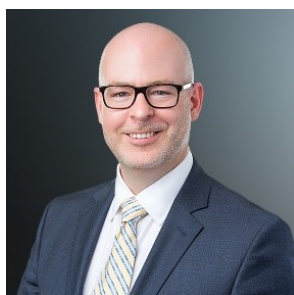
- What is our organization's risk tolerance for AI adoption?
- Which legal processes consume the most time and resources?
- Do we have the data infrastructure to support AI initiatives?
- How will we measure success beyond cost savings?
- What governance structures do we need to ensure responsible AI use?

## Conclusion

The integration of AI into corporate legal departments is not a question of "if" but "when" and "how." Organizations that thoughtfully approach AI adoption – balancing innovation with governance, technology with human expertise, and efficiency with ethics – will position their legal departments as strategic enablers of business success.

The journey requires commitment, resources, and patience, but the potential returns in efficiency, accuracy, and strategic value make it an imperative for forward-thinking legal departments.

## Get in Touch



**Robert Neary**  
Managing Director  
+1.202.481.8385 Direct  
[robert.neary@ankura.com](mailto:robert.neary@ankura.com)