

Artificial Intelligence as Counsel: Opportunities and Risks in Automated Legal Assistance

Himaja Malka¹, Ishita Thakur^{**} and N. Sri Chandrika^{***}

ICFAI Law School, IFHE, Hyderabad, India

Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is driving a radical paradigm shift in the legal field as the rapid transition to digitalization is becoming more advanced with automation of high-stakes analysis. The paper goes into the history of AI where it was viewed as a passive repository of data, but which is now evolving into proactive software that foresees the results of litigation, options in a contract, and other dangers in the legal arena, unveiling efficiencies such as reduction of research time by 80 percent. However, this dual-sided sword in the case of legal resolution presents challenges to the ethical judgment such as algorithm bias, black box opacities, and AI delusions in references. The study examines the ethical consequences of AI on law students, professionals, and jurors, a focus on non-Western settings such as India. Significant conclusions indicate that such frameworks as the Information Technology Act (2000) and Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2023) in India prove ineffective because of the dynamism of AI when it comes to data privacy, attorney-client privilege, and professional ethics. The paper urges that AI be seen as a decision-support tool and not as a replacement of people so that practice of risk-based regulation should be employed to align technological innovation with constitutional principles of fairness, equality, and due process. By applying the value-based argumentation, the legal systems will be able to maximize the potential of AI, without compromising the essence of justice.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Paradigm Shift, Legal Decision-Making, Algorithmic Bias, Black Box Obscurity, Litigation Results, Data Privacy, Regulatory Framework, Ethical Issues, Decision Support System

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¹ Students in BBA-LLB (Hons). Email: malkahimaja@gmail.com

^{**} Students in BBA-LLB (Hons). Email: ishitathakur1612@gmail.com

^{***} Students in BBA-LLB (Hons). Email: Srichandrika77@gmail.com