

# "Embracing Innovation: Legal Mavericks in a Shifting Legal Landscape"

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#### **Abstract** -

This article a pioneering study that examines the transformative evolution of legal practitioners into innovative 'legal mavericks'. This article briefly presents the dynamic field of legal practice, this article challenges the traditional role of lawyers by highlighting their emergence as dynamic catalysts of change. Through an incisive historical analysis, it highlights the constraints that have historically confined legal professionals within traditional boundaries. This then leads to a paradigm shift towards a new era where legal practitioners play their role as innovators. Through a series of carefully crafted case studies and strategic insights, this work outlines the intersection between legal expertise and creative thinking. It explores how these 'legal mavericks' leverage inventive problem-solving, interdisciplinary collaboration and technological advances to pioneer innovative approaches to tackling complex legal challenges. In this article explored include cultivating an innovative mindset within the legal profession, advocating the symbiosis of legal proficiency with unconventional strategies, and fostering adaptability amid a rapidly evolving legal landscape. It stands as an indispensable resource for legal professionals seeking to transcend traditional norms, empowering them to embrace innovation and transform legal practice. Inspires to redefine the boundaries of practice. It represents a paradigm shift, ushering in an era where creative ingenuity seamlessly blends with legal expertise, reshaping the future trajectory of the legal profession. Currently with the advent of Covid-19 we are seeing significant changes within the legal industry, particularly in the way lawyers are embracing technology and even AI technology despite their initial reluctance to adopt it. Is. This challenge in the times to come ensures that this change will become a necessity overnight. Broadly speaking, this is not just a massive change in a human behavior but should be seen as a holistic change on the global scene.



**Keynotes** - Cultivating ,Technology ,Artificial Intelligence,Empowerment ,Legal professions. Legal Mavericks.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

"You don't have to think big to be outfoxing. Even small changes can bring a slew of difference".

In an era of rapid progress and evolving social needs, the legal field is facing unprecedented changes. The traditional notion of legal practice, which is rooted in precedent and established principles, is facing new demands. Enterprising legal professionals now want to combine their advocacy work with innovation, empowering themselves with a creative edge. The notion of empowering legal practitioners with creativity is not a deviation from fundamental legal principles, but an evolution and it blends innovative thinking, subject collaboration and technical fluency in established legal expertise. This change represents more a response than an adaptation to global changes. This article reflects the confluence where legal efficiency meets with inventive approach, advocating the adoption of an innovative mindset within the legal fraternity. It explores how unconventional strategies, adaptability and technological integration are redefining legal practice, fostering a landscape where creativity seamlessly harmonizes with legal expertise, reshaping the future of the legal profession. In the field of startups and entrepreneurship, there exists a prevalent belief that formal education, especially in fields like law, can hinder the innovative spirit required for success. This sentiment is reinforced by stories involving figures like Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, who famously abandoned the traditional education path.

There is a common misconception that lawyers are incompatible with the startup ethos, whereas contrary to popular belief, lawyers can make a significant contribution to the success of a startup. In addition to the clear legal advice provided in navigating complex regulatory frameworks and preventing early-stage errors, lawyers provide intangible value. A lawyer integrated into the early-stage team of any startup or entrepreneur can enrich the company culture by asking important questions and offering diverse perspectives. They can quickly understand complex issues where the rest of the team may lack expertise, which can serve as a



means of mitigating potential damage. Their ability to understand the legal implications in important transactions adds a layer of prudence that can protect the future of the company. While knowledge about entrepreneurship often overshadows the role of formal education, including legal expertise, integrating lawyers into startup teams can provide a subtle benefit that fosters the innovative drive for these ventures.

#### **Understanding legal innovation**

Legal innovation is a multidimensional process that aims to enhance the efficiency, creativity, and client-centric approach through which legal services will be accessible to the clients at their doorstep. Currently, technology plays an important role, innovation goes far beyond AI and machine learning. It extends up to. This covers a wide spectrum, including fostering a culture of openness to new ideas, collaboration among legal professionals and prioritizing the needs of clients. This comprehensive approach enables law firms to evolve and adapt to the legal landscape of today's changing society. By adopting innovation, companies can streamline all their operations and processes, improve service quality and deliver better outcomes for customers. Furthermore, innovative practices contribute to the growth and sustainability of law firms in a rapidly changing competitive market. Legal innovation thrives on a combination of technological advancement and foresight. Foresight fosters an environment that values creativity and experimentation. In which legal practitioners can take advantage of state-of-the-art tools and platforms to optimize legal processes. Legal innovation aims to bring positive change in the changing social landscape, and empower legal professionals.

#### **Evolution of Legal Practice -**

The evolution of the legal profession has followed a trajectory shaped by historical precedent, social dynamics, and technological progress. Initially society required strict adherence to laws and precedents, which were deeply rooted in legal practice in the form of tradition and precedent. Legal professionals work primarily within well-defined legal boundaries, relying on established norms and principles to interpret and apply the law. But as society progressed and faced new challenges, the rigor of traditional legal practice faced scrutiny. Changes in social norms,



technological advancements and globalization demanded a more adaptable legal framework. This necessitated a re-evaluation of the role of legal professionals.

In present times, the legal landscape started adopting a more dynamic approach with globalization. The emergence of novel legal issues, complexities in governance, and integration of technology prompted a move from strict adherence to precedent. Legal practitioners adapted to deal with the complexities of modern legal challenges by involving interdisciplinary collaboration, innovative problemsolving, and increasing reliance on technological tools. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the growth of entrepreneurs and AI in this sector. Legal professionals, who were initially hesitant to embrace technological advancements, rapidly adopted digital tools and remote working practices. This change not only streamlined processes but also highlighted the need for adaptability and innovation within the legal sector. This evolution of legal practice reflects a paradigm shift – a move away from strict adherence to precedent towards a more adaptable, innovative and technology-integrated approach. This evolution marks a transformation in which legal professionals are not only experts in law but also dynamic problem-solvers, adopting creativity and technological fluency to navigate the constantly evolving legal landscape.

#### Traditional roles in the legal profession -

Lawyers within the legal profession have faced various challenges, leading to new norms being set day by day and old norms and practices being re-examined. These challenges arise from multifaceted sources, catalyzing a shift away from traditional roles and expectations in the legal field. These include the following -

#### 1. Technological Advancements -

The rapid development of technology has disrupted traditional legal roles. Automation, artificial intelligence and data analytics have streamlined processes, challenging the traditional tasks performed by legal professionals. The need for adaptability in integrating technology into the legal field has posed a significant barrier to some longstanding traditions.



#### 2. Growing Competition in the Industry -

While the online world has opened numerous doors for various industries, it also comes with its downsides. Because everything is available online, it has introduced another avenue for competition within law firms. Companies can seek assistance for their clients from anywhere, allowing consumers to hire legal firms from anywhere as well. This poses a new challenge that law firms have to face.

#### 3. Customer Acquisition-

So far, the biggest challenge for lawyers representing clients such as bankruptcies, personal injuries, divorces, real estate, etc., is client acquisition. Word of mouth and referrals used to generate enough clients as they did before. Potential clients are now using the internet, searching companies, using social media, and relying on extensive advertising. Lawyers who do not adapt won't be able to sustain enough business to be profitable.

- **4. Changing client expectations-** Today, clients want more than just legal advice. They demand comprehensive solutions and efficient services tailored to their specific needs. This change in client expectations challenges lawyers to move beyond mere legal expertise to become holistic problem-solvers and strategic advisors.
- 5. Globalization and Complexities- Globalization has expanded the reach and complexity of legal matters, requiring broader perspective and expertise beyond local jurisdictions. Various legal professionals now also have to deal with cross-border regulations, international disputes and diverse cultural contexts, creating new problems and challenges in the legal field. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote work. Legal professionals faced challenges maintaining productivity, collaboration, and cybersecurity while adjusting to a remote work environment. Navigating these challenges requires legal professionals to work beyond their traditional roles. Adaptability, willingness to embrace technology, interdisciplinary collaboration and a more client-centric approach have become key in overcoming these challenges and reshaping roles and expectations within the legal profession. As legal practitioners move into this evolving landscape, the ability to cross traditional boundaries and innovate becomes increasingly paramount.
- 6. **Demand for efficiency and cost-effectiveness-** The demand for cost-effective legal services is increasing. Customers are increasingly questioning traditional billing practices and want transparent and efficient legal solutions. This demand has forced legal professionals to rethink traditional billing models and innovate in service



delivery. There is a growing push for greater diversity and inclusivity in the legal profession. Challenges related to biases, ethical dilemmas, and cultural sensitivity have urged reevaluation of traditional practices and called for more diverse approaches within legal teams.

#### Benefits of startup in legal field for entrepreneurs -

#### 1. Self-Certification -

Startups are more vulnerable to failure in the initial stage of their lifecycle. These entities often found themselves in a dilemma of safeguarding the existence against the odds, including government compliances. But thanks to Startup India initiatives, which offer them a cushion against such turbulence by shedding off some tight regulations. Now startups are permitted for self-certification with nine labor and environmental laws. The respective authorities would not conduct any sort of investigation for a period of three years. However, in the case of verifiable violations, the concerned authority might issue an investigation order and send an official to look into the matter. In the case of environment laws, startups that come under the 'white category' of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are eligible for self-certified compliance. Only random investigation would be applicable to them.

#### **Tax Exemption -**

The startup working under the Startup India scheme does not need to entertain any tax liabilities for three years. Furthermore, incoming funds from incubators and angel investors are also exempted. The tax exemption for three years means that a startup can capitalize on the funds in their own way and use it for business growth. Furthermore, the government also provides some tax relaxation on the front investment above the fair market value. This is probably one of the prominent benefits of Startup India registration.

#### Mobile App-

One of the significant advantages of Startup India includes rendering firms is an option for registration via a single form. The registration process can also be completed through a Startup India mobile application. The application encloses a single form that permits startups to complete the registration formalities. This mobile application yields single-window clearances for the startups that let cater to formalities regarding registrations, approvals, filing compliances, etc. The application



has laid platform for startups to get registered in a few taps. Embracing the online portal is one of the best benefits of Startup India registration.

#### **Networking Options**

The Startup India scheme allows startups to interact with other startup stakeholders at a specific place and time. These meetings are conducted twice annually in the form of a fest. These fests are being held on domestic as well as on international levels. Such an advantage allows the startups to explore more alternatives for funding as well as a business idea to ensure growth.

#### **Government Tenders**

Government projects are underpinned with growth potential and monetary incentives. Unfortunately, government projects are not easy to obtain due to huge competition. The startup India scheme has given some allowance to eligible entities by providing them easy access to such tender.

#### Risks Associated with AI Implementation in Legal Practice

In a 2023 survey conducted by the Thomson Reuters Institute, which gathered information from over 440 lawyers from large and mid-sized law firms in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, it was found that lawyers are cautious about the use of AI. When asked, 62% of the lawyers surveyed (80% for partners or managing partners) expressed concerns about using chatbots and generative AI in their work. Liz commented, "There are many risks associated with the use of AI in legal practices. These include both the quality of the output and the possibility of bias. The output is based on data, and it is only as good as the data human AI solutions are trained on, which can produce incorrect results if biased or incorrect." "Because AI requires access to data to analyze and base its output on, data security and intellectual property breaches are significant risks. This is because some sensitive data and intellectual property can be inputted into AI solutions, especially in the early stages, particularly for research purposes. However, the security of personal data and/or intellectual property, including the value of the data, can be compromised as it becomes publicly available, and therefore easily accessible to competitors and other users."

"A real risk presented by over-reliance on AI solutions for legal professionals is the absence of human reasoning in AI. Legal professionals are bound by ethical duties, and irresponsible use of AI can damage both civic duties and reputation. Important



principles for legal professionals when using AI solutions are critical thinking, professional skepticism, independent judgment, and responsible use. These principles will ensure that legal professionals engage their minds whenever they use AI solutions." It is essential for professionals in the industry to consider the risks of AI technology in their client work, as failure to do so can have significant consequences. Suppose a law firm provides incorrect information to its client, and the client relies on it, the firm is liable - which can be substantial. Lawyers need to understand that by sharing AI-generated information with their clients, they are effectively endorsing it, and therefore need to take full responsibility for the quality of that advice. Therefore, legal professionals will need not only to be proficient in the use of technology but also to verify its output before using it in live client projects, and also to be more aware of other risks associated with AI, such as privacy, security, bias, and discrimination. We have seen examples where sensitive client data can be leaked, and when using AI, the risk increases if appropriate controls for data security are not in place."

One example of how the use of AI in legal practices can create significant risks came to light in May 2023 when a lawyer in the United States found himself in trouble in court while representing an individual in a personal injury case. It was found that he had filed in a federal court where at least six cases were cited, which did not even exist. The reason for this extraordinary oversight? The lawyer relied on an AI chatbot to compile details for filing and failed to verify the authenticity of the sources used. Unfortunately, for the lawyer, his firm, and his client, the cases cited by the chatbot were fictitious, and the AI chatbot failed to create sources to verify its response. According to experts, this technology is notorious for generating misinformation. It is sometimes referred to as algorithmic bias. This occurs because it is creating content from a vast training data set in very simple terms."Concerns about the accuracy of AIgenerated output have also been raised by Google's competing product board. Despite the technical behind-the-scenes technology developed by ChatGPT, the accuracy rate of identifying errors in AI-generated output is only 20%. OpenAI and others are now providing opportunities for commercial clients to train their own models based on their own data for more accurate output. Jenny believes that 'caution is needed because technology still relies solely on predictions. Jenny further said, "Managing the risks of inaccuracies in the use of AI technologies is related to the importance of carefully designing human and AI conversations and understanding how humans and



AI communicate with each other. One key risk management strategy is to ensure that those using technology speak to the IT team about how it works. Then they will understand that AI is essentially mimicking human intelligence by applying mathematics to large quantities of data.

#### **Important Skills for the Digital Future**

According to the Law Society's report, "Future Skills for Law," there is a possibility of significant changes in the types of skills needed by law firms and in-house legal departments in the future due to automation, evolving client demands, and new generations of workplace technology. AI technology in professional services such as industries requires some understanding and use of mathematics and statistics. For some lawyers, this may not seem like an appealing idea because historically they have not needed to use these skills in their work. Looking ahead, lawyers will need to be prepared to engage with data and data-driven technologies like AI and adapt to changes in technology. She also emphasizes the importance of thoughtful design elements in how AI tools are deployed to actually enhance human skills. We should not assume that AI is replacing humans, nor should we assume that humans are just rubber stamps for AI. Instead, I think the interesting question is how we can create effective human-computer partnerships that allow us to get the best from both players - technology and human expertise. "This means a reset of our conception of AI solutions like ChatGPT. Instead of seeing them as fact-checkers or tools to obtain public information, we should see how we can use the capabilities of these technologies to enhance human expertise to the fullest extent possible. At the same time, we can refine those unique human skills of professionals. For example, using data to truly understand a client's business, using it to gain a competitive edge, and using it to build relationships and loyalty with them.

It's important to involve the next generation of professionals starting their careers in the legal field, who have grown up with technology at the center of their daily lives and studies. Partners and senior managers of decision-making firms may have more capacity for learning, so there is a need to quickly bring new talents into the conversation to influence and drive change. There is a perception in the legal community that the involvement of expensive technical experts will be required for the use of AI. This perception may be valid due to the heavy number of legal AI solutions with various operational features in the market. However, in reality, the cost



will depend on several factors, including the complexity of deployed solutions, the level of required support, the level of necessary customization, the amount of necessary training, and the number of users, but it is not limited to these factors. It is inevitable that monetary investment will be required for AI deployment, although legal analysts agree that over time there is a likelihood of significant cost reduction with increased adoption of AI solutions. the lawyers of the future need to be not only skilled at working effectively and adaptably but also creative problem solvers with the ability to work alongside technology. Routine legal work, which is inherently more administrative, will be done by AI. Therefore, legal experts will need to be well-versed in the use of technology to assist in providing quality and timely advice, as well as being critical thinkers and independently considering technical tools."

#### Law plays a role with Technology

Commenting on the fact that international regulation has struggled to keep pace with the rapid advancement of AI technology, Jenny said, "The ethical considerations surrounding the use of sensitive data by AI should also be taken into account. The law has not yet fully caught up with this, but we know that ethical frameworks and global standards are being developed, and they will need to be incorporated into a firm's risk management systems, governance policies, and employee training programs.

We are seeing lawmakers in many countries where AI is being developed and AI-generated risks are beginning to be addressed. This is being achieved either by extending the applicability of existing laws (such as data privacy laws) to address these risks or by developing new laws to address these risks. For example, the United States is currently seeking public comments on responsible measures for AI.

"In addition, some international organizations are developing frameworks and guidelines to deal with risks, such as the proposed regulatory framework for AI being developed by the European Union, which will follow a risk-based approach. It is interesting to note that according to the 2023 AI Index from Stanford University, in 2022, 37 AI-related bills were passed globally, with the United States leading in passing nine laws. This is an indication that in the future, AI will be more integrated into our laws at a rapid pace". How AI will evolve in the legal sector in the future It is difficult to predict where the technology will go from here as we have seen rapid growth in the last 12 months alone, but the genie is definitely out of the bottle. We can hope that Over time, the technology will become even more sophisticated,



especially for specific industries. Now is the time for professional services firms to consider how they can use it effectively and what it can do for client relationships. That would mean replacing lawyers or consultants, but they would need to adapt to the way they deliver their services. We can expect lawyers to adopt technology in ways that benefit them and their clients, but they have to be very transparent about how they are using it to protect client trust, Which is often hard won." As legal technology advances and law firms focus more on client-centric services, AI is likely to become even more integrated into law firms. For example, when complex legal analysis and policy development is used, potentially more personalized legal services are provided to clients.

#### Future perspective of legal innovation

In 2024, technologies like Clio Manage, available to lawyers, are designed to serve as coaches, collaborators and advisors to legal professionals, enabling insights into case overviews, document summaries and business performance insights. Lawyers and law firms can collaborate more with technologists to create tools that enhance the legal experience for clients and address specific issues facing particular law firms. As clients become more accustomed and familiar with the use of technology, they will increasingly expect their law firms to adopt AI and other technologies. By adopting a customer-centric approach and balancing ethical and business responsibilities, your company can embrace innovation and reap all the benefits AI has to offer.

#### Conclusion

Globalization has profoundly impacted legal systems worldwide, fostering greater harmony among various legal traditions. While it may not necessarily lead to a universal legal standard, there is hope that this trend will continue. As technology advances, legal frameworks often struggle to keep pace, leading to a disconnect between law and technology. However, as national sovereignty diminishes, global cooperation may lead to the emergence of global legal rules and principles. The dominance of artificial intelligence (AI) in the legal sector is expected to increase further over the next 5-10 years. Legal professionals who fail to adopt AI risk becoming obsolete in their societies. By leveraging AI to enhance expertise and streamline legal processes on a global scale, the quality of legal work can be improved. AI can revolutionize legal practices by strengthening lawyer-client



relationships and bringing innovation to legal procedures. However, to understand and mitigate associated risks, lawyers need to comprehend the implications of AI fully.

Former CJI Deepak Mishra said"The future of any new era of technology lies in the rules that govern it. Artificial Intelligence (AI) promises high developmental capabilities in many areas... AI requires a robust legal framework, which is currently evolving rapidly. We still do not know all the professionals and adversaries... India has the right talent and technical resources. With a strong legal framework, the country can achieve many milestones with a strong grip on AI... But currently, India lacks any specific rules to regulate AI..."

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud (Supreme Court Judge) said that "The idea of artificial intelligence is not to replace the human brain but to assist judges in the re-evaluation of procedures, which they follow, so that the work they do can be reassessed and the consequences ensured to be more accurately and appropriately predicted, ultimately providing broad access to justice for the common people."

In summary, AI's increasing role in law has the potential to bring significant advancements to legal practices globally. However, it is essential for legal professionals to understand and address the risks associated with these advancements effectively

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