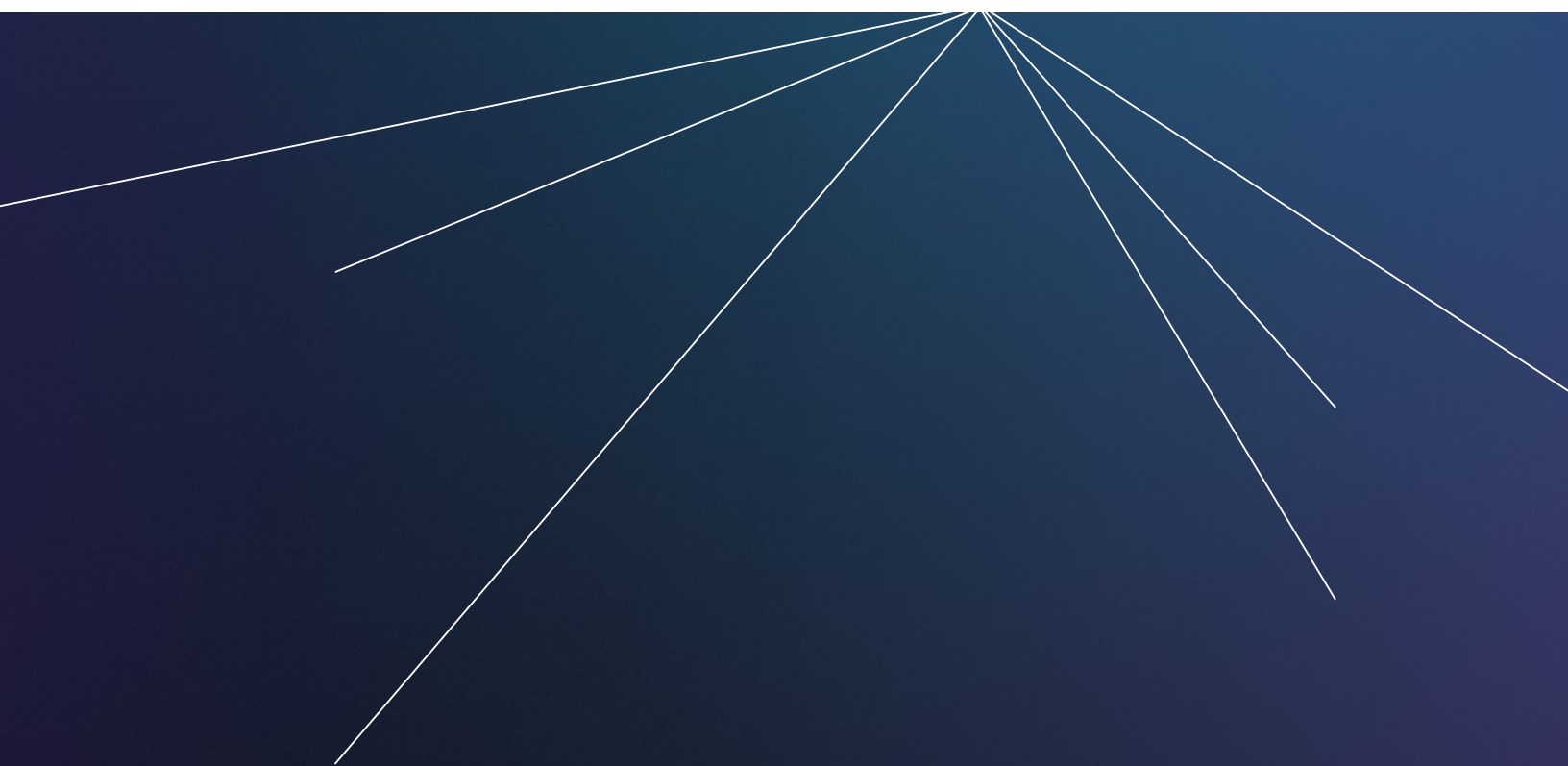


AI in Law

Insights from the 2025 Legal Technology Survey



The Future of Legal Tech

The legal profession stands at a transformative moment. **A majority of legal professionals (51.3%) identify AI as the technology that will have the biggest impact on their industry over the next 5 years - and they're already proving it.** Rather than the dystopian scenario of AI replacing lawyers, we're seeing the emergence of a more powerful hybrid: human legal expertise enhanced by artificial intelligence.

Our 2025 survey reveals how the profession is thoughtfully embracing this transformation. Nearly half (48.5%) have incorporated AI-powered legal research to augment their analytical capabilities, while 35.6% leverage AI for contract review. The pattern is clear - AI is being deployed strategically to handle routine tasks and initial analysis, freeing attorneys to focus on the complex, nuanced work that defines great lawyering.

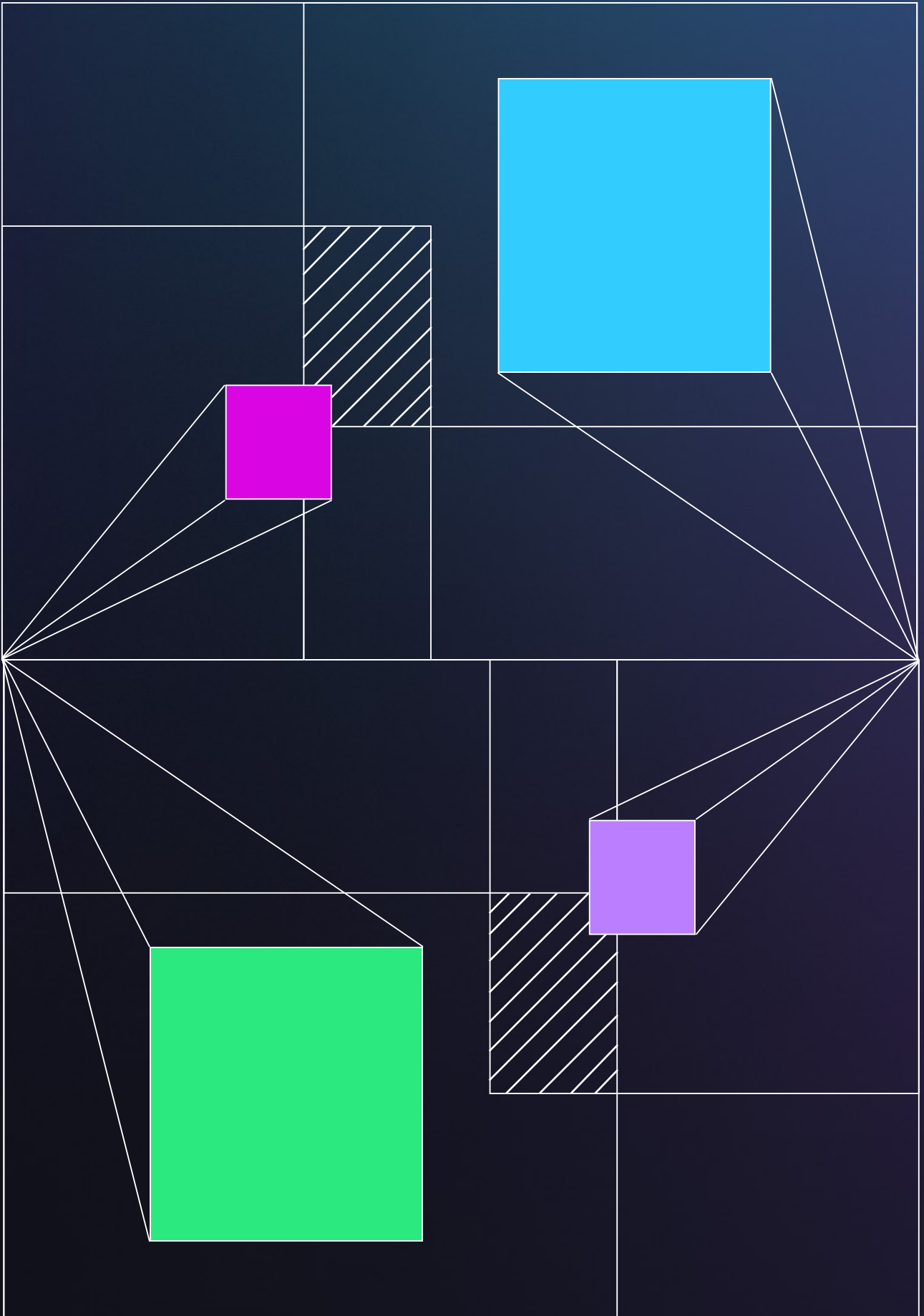
This shift to AI usage isn't just about efficiency - it's about evolution. As AI handles time-consuming tasks like document review and initial research, lawyers are spending more time on high-value activities like strategy development, complex negotiations, and client counseling. AI isn't diminishing the role of lawyers; it's elevating it by allowing them to focus on work that truly requires human judgment, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

51%

of legal professionals identify AI as the technology that will have the biggest impact on their industry

48%

have incorporated AI-powered legal research to augment their analytical capabilities



The Rise of AI in Legal

AI Is Here

Legal professionals are thoughtfully selecting and implementing technologies that enhance their practice while maintaining the irreplaceable value of their expertise. Established tools like case management software (40.2%) and AI-Powered Legal Documentation (29.5%) provide the foundation as attorneys adopt AI capabilities that amplify their skills rather than replace them.

What technology has had the biggest impact on your work in the last 5 years?

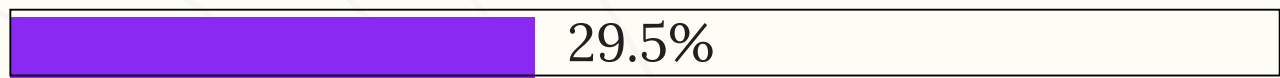
E-Discovery Tools



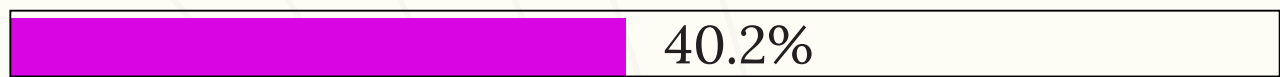
Document Automation



AI-Powered Legal Documentation



Case Management Software



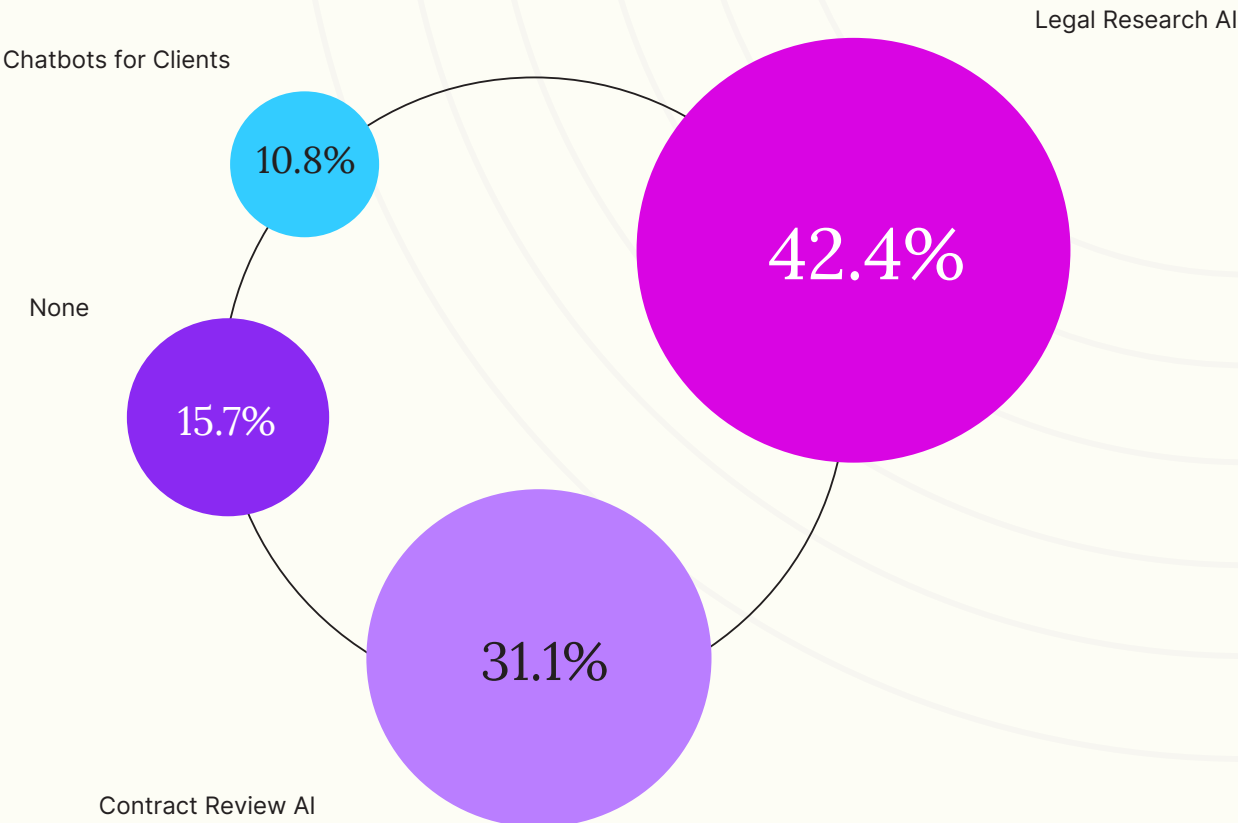
Enhancing Human Expertise, Not Replacing It

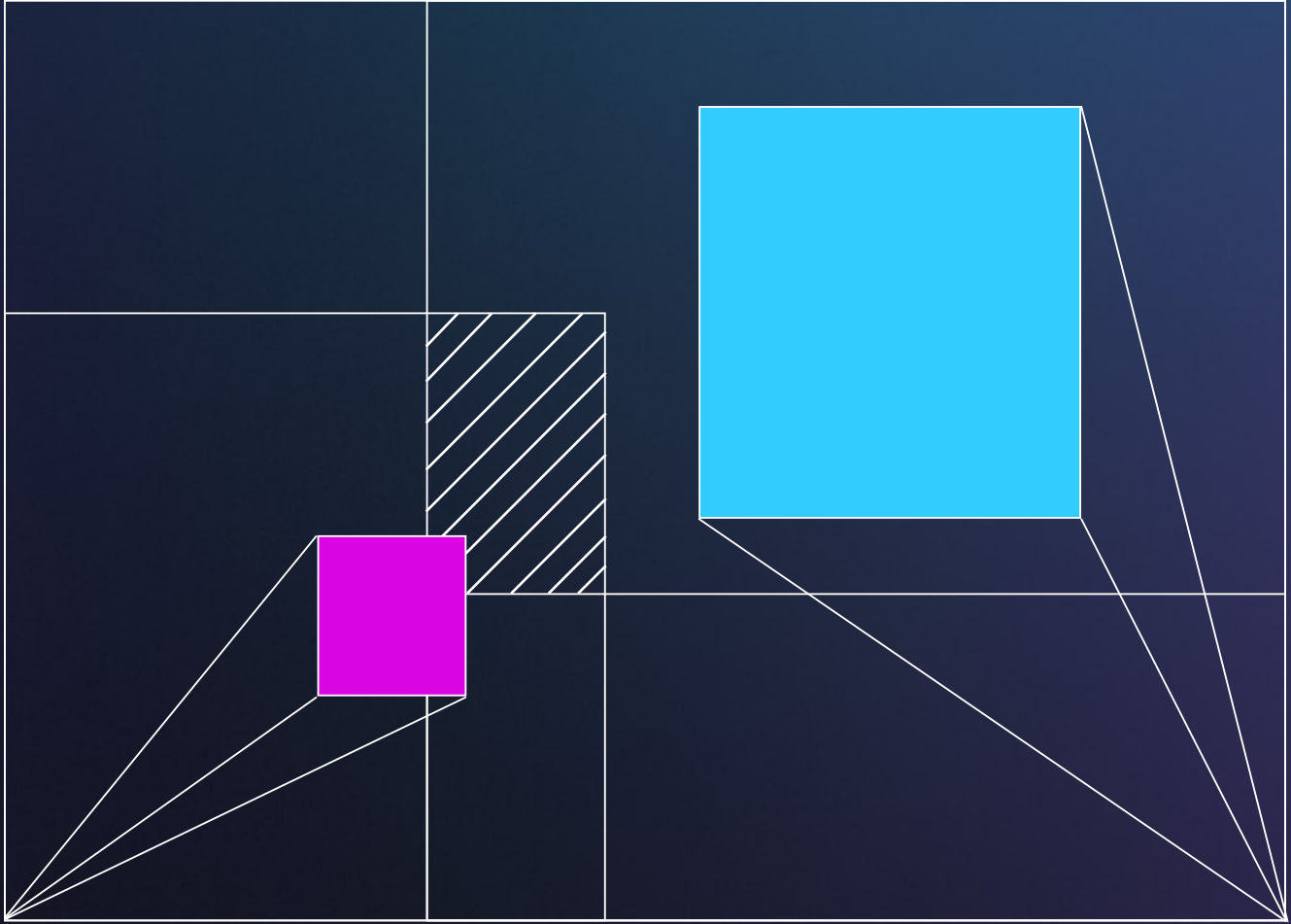
A clear pattern emerges from our survey: lawyers are embracing AI most readily in areas where it enhances their analytical capabilities and reduces time spent on routine tasks. Nearly half (42.4%) of respondents have integrated AI-powered legal research into their practice, allowing them to quickly surface relevant precedents and spend more time on sophisticated legal analysis. As one attorney noted, 'Ability to search, analyze, and compare case law quicker for legal research' is exciting to them. This kind of AI enables them to focus on crafting winning arguments.

Contract review AI (35.6%) and AI-powered transcription (22.1%) show similar strategic adoption patterns - these tools are being deployed precisely where they can enhance a lawyer's ability to focus on higher-value work. Rather than replacing professional judgment, these technologies are freeing up attorneys to spend more time on the complex analytical and strategic work that truly serves their clients' interests."

The Expanding

Which AI or machine learning tools have you incorporated in your legal practice?





Role of AI in Legal

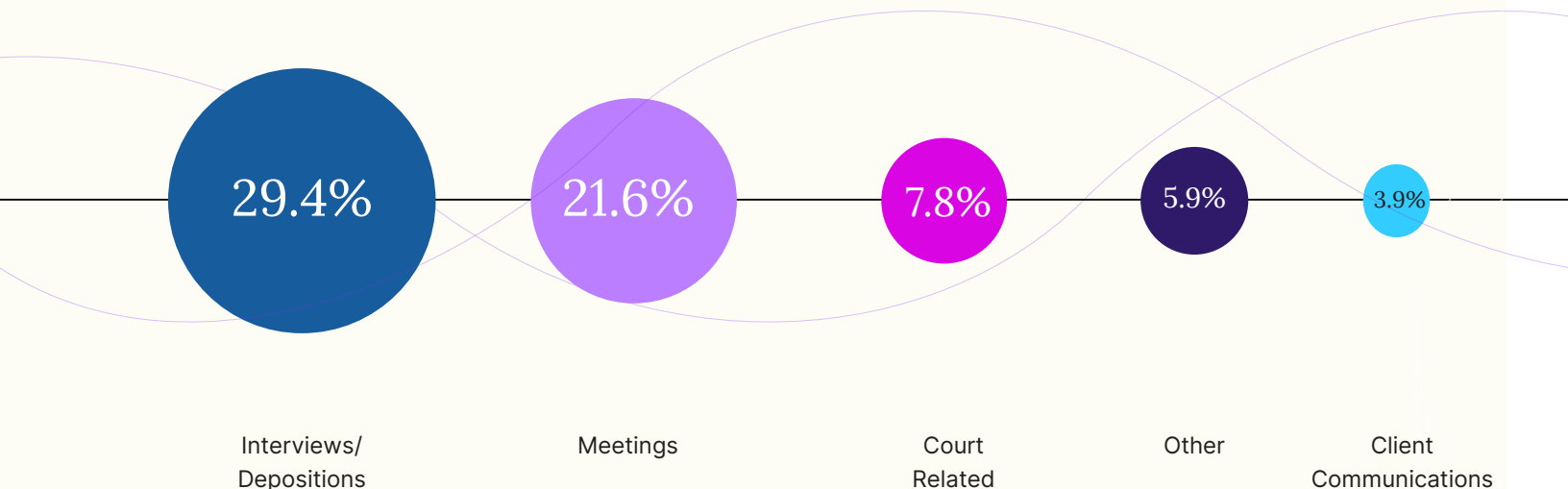
The survey reveals a legal field increasingly reliant on technology. While established tools like case management software (40.2%) remain dominant, the legal profession recognizes the disruptive potential of emerging technologies. A resounding 51.3% of respondents identified AI and machine learning as having the greatest future impact, signaling a shift in focus. This isn't just theoretical; nearly half (48.5%) of respondents are already utilizing AI-powered legal research, demonstrating a clear appetite for AI-driven solutions. Contract review AI (35.6%) and AI-powered transcription (22.1%) are also gaining traction, further solidifying AI's expanding role.

Speech Tech: A Key Puzzle Piece

Speech Tech Within the Lifecycle of a Case

Within the broader AI landscape, speech technology is carving out a significant niche. A majority of respondents (58.1%) already use voice recording or transcription tools, primarily for interviews/depositions (29.4%), internal meetings (21.6%), and court-related proceedings (7.8%). This widespread adoption highlights the efficiency gains and improved documentation capabilities that speech tech offers across the lifecycle of a case. The fact that AI-powered transcription is already being used by over a fifth of respondents shows a clear overlap and integration of speech and AI technologies.

Types of Meetings, Conversations, or Interviews Lawyers Record



**“THE EASE AND
ADAPTABILITY OF
INCORPORATING OUR WORK
PRODUCT INTO QUALITY
REPORTING TO THE CLIENT”**

is what excites one associate at a mid-sized firm most about AI.

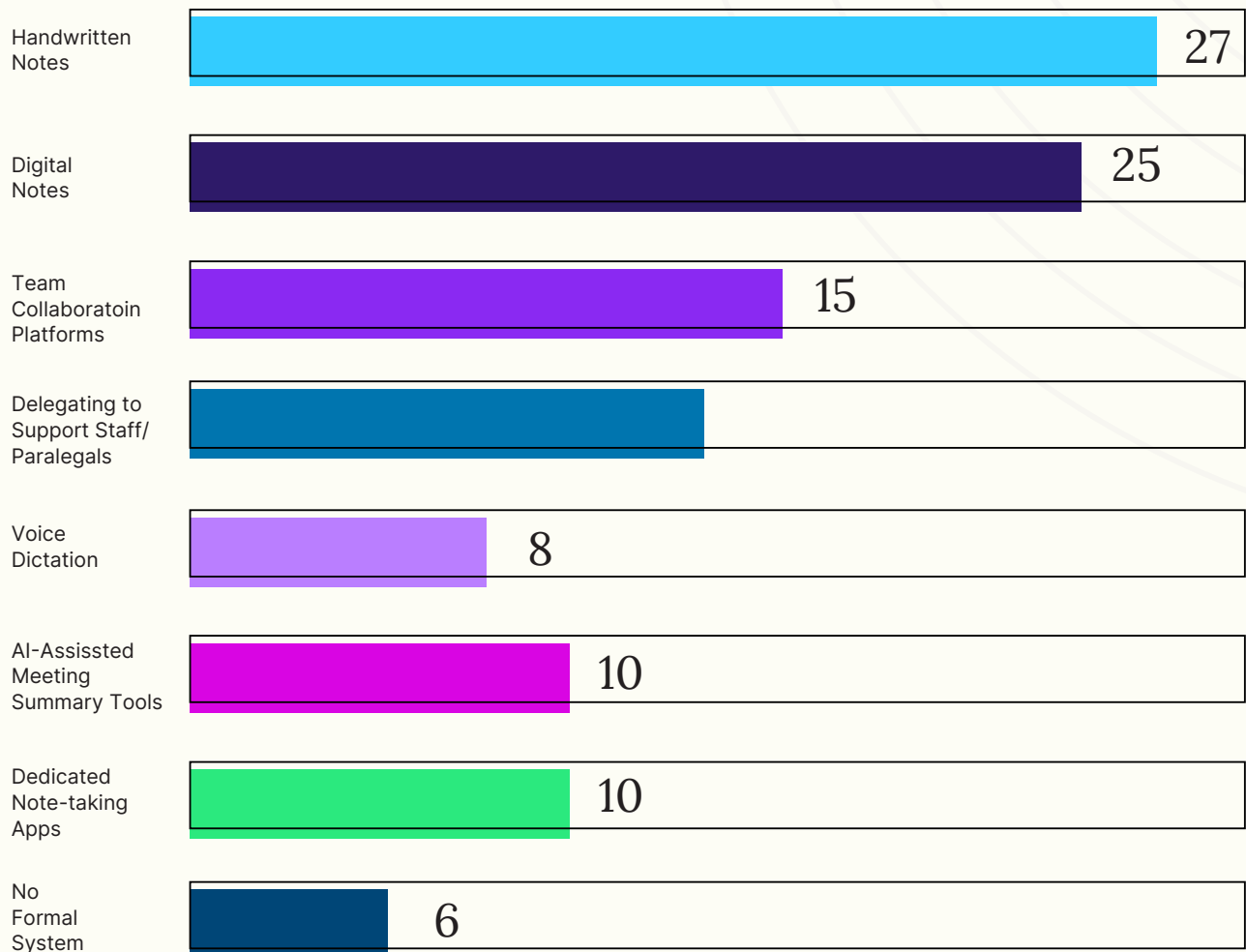
AI speech tech make it easier than ever to turn voice notes, transcripts, recordings, and more into quick but comprehensive summaries for clients.

Efficiency Opportunities in the Legal Industry

While speech tech is beginning to be adopted across the legal landscape, handwritten notes still beat out any other kind of note-taking and task management, revealing an exciting opportunity for speech tech to introduce further efficiencies into lawyer's daily practices.

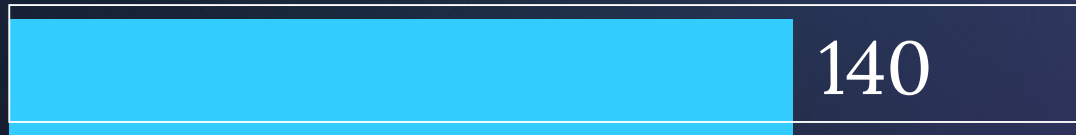
Methods for Note-Taking and Task Management in Legal Practice

Number of Mentions



The Cost of Handwritten Notes

Average words spoken per minute

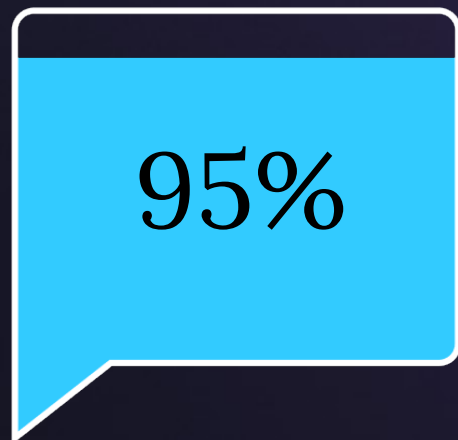


Average words taken down in handwritten notes per minute:



At best, handwritten notes only capture **20% of a conversation.**

AI recording and transcription captures **at least 95% of every conversation.**



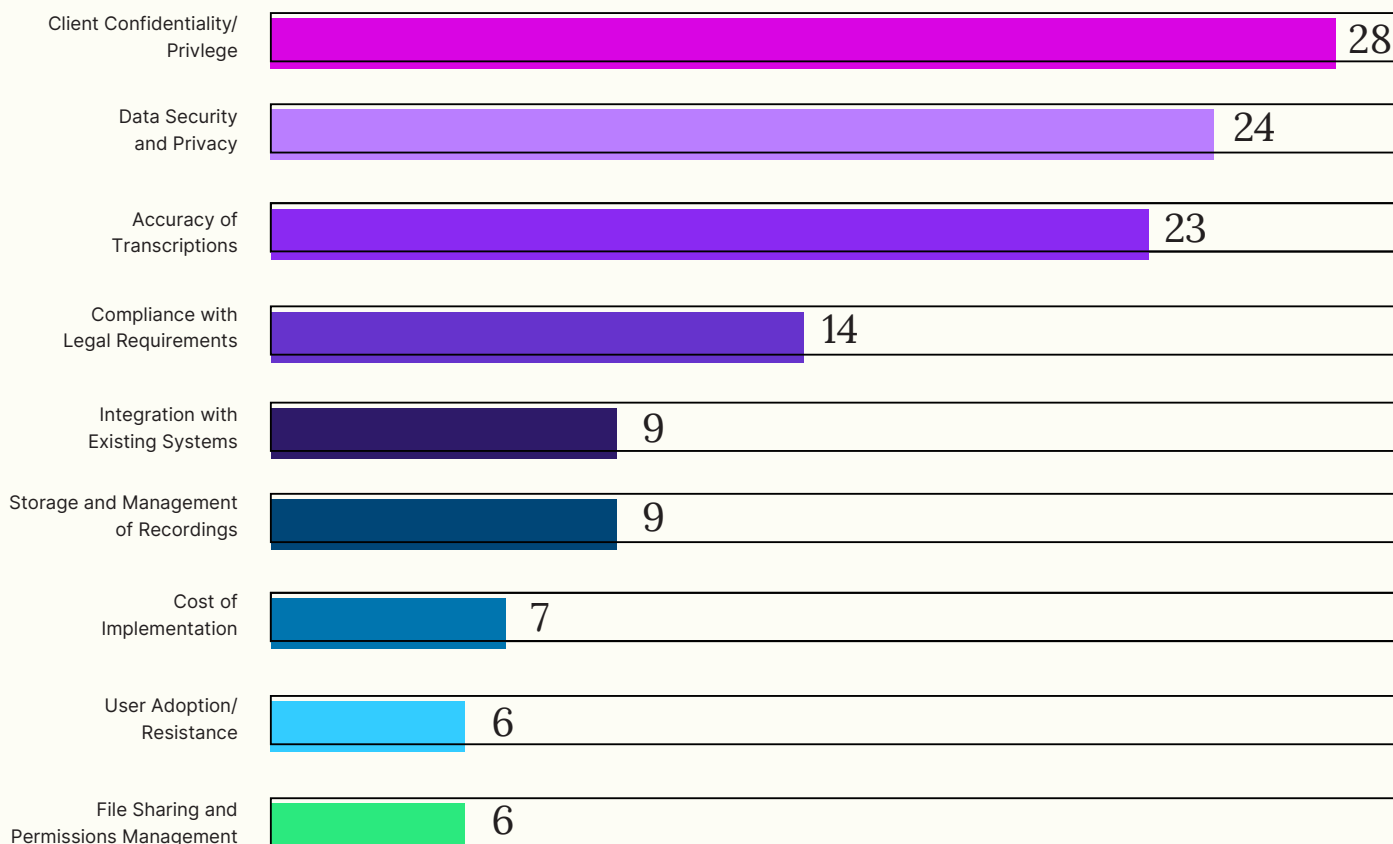
Navigating the New World of AI

Common AI Concerns

Despite the enthusiasm, the legal profession isn't without its concerns. Accuracy and reliability (45.9%) top the list of AI-related worries, closely followed by ethical and privacy issues (32.8%). Cost and implementation challenges (21.3%) also present barriers to wider adoption. Similarly, with voice recording, security and confidentiality (50.8%) are paramount concerns, alongside cost (25.4%) and transcription accuracy (23.8%). These concerns underscore the need for robust AI solutions that prioritize data security, ethical considerations, and demonstrable accuracy.

Primary Concerns with Voice Recording and Transcription Technologies Among Lawyers

Number of Mentions



The Legal Industry: Cautious and Careful

The legal industry's hesitation toward new technology reflects a deep-rooted culture of caution, where protecting client confidentiality and managing liability often take precedence over operational efficiency.



Risk Management

The decision not to record certain interactions is often rooted in risk management, prioritizing client trust and legal compliance over the convenience of recorded notes.



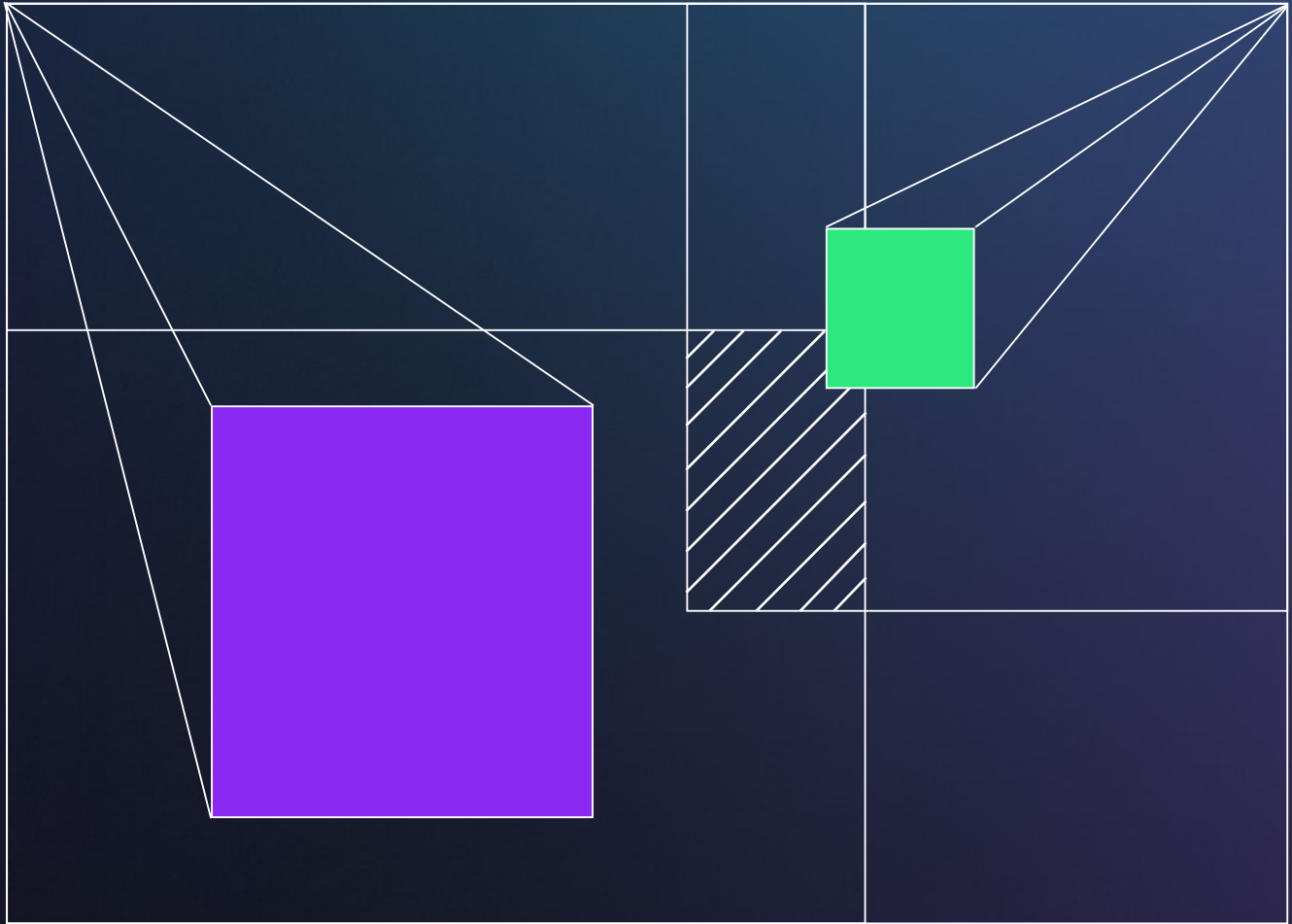
Ethical Considerations

Ethical concerns are paramount in legal practice, influencing decisions about recording based on both the nature of the information and the potential for misuse or unintended consequences.



Technological Skepticism

Despite the benefits of modern recording and transcription technologies, there's a notable skepticism about their use in sensitive contexts, highlighting a cautious approach to digital tools in the legal sector.



Maintaining Standards

Lawyers are taking the lead in establishing appropriate boundaries for AI use and actively shaping ethical guidelines for AI deployment. A COO of a small firm emphasizes, 'We cannot use platforms that sell information, or use inputs to train their models in ways that could violate client confidentiality,' showing how attorneys are protecting client interests in the digital age.

Legal professionals are particularly thoughtful about where AI should and shouldn't be used. For instance, while embracing AI for document review and research, they maintain direct human oversight of client counseling and strategic decision-making. One paralegal articulates this balance: 'Eyes need to be on pretty much all documents... AI doesn't have the skill to piece together case facts to use in a workable defense.'

Areas for AI Innovation

Enhancing Client Service

Forward-thinking lawyers are using AI to deliver more value to clients while maintaining the personal touch that defines great legal service. The survey shows that 54% of respondents cite increased efficiency as a primary benefit, allowing them to be more responsive to client needs. As one respondent noted, '[AI] is great; it should bring down costs of legal services which are unaffordable for many,' showing how lawyers are using technology to expand access to legal services.

54%

of respondents cite increased efficiency as a primary benefit, allowing them to be more responsive to client needs.

“[AI] is great; it should bring down costs of legal services which are unaffordable for many.”

- Solo practitioner

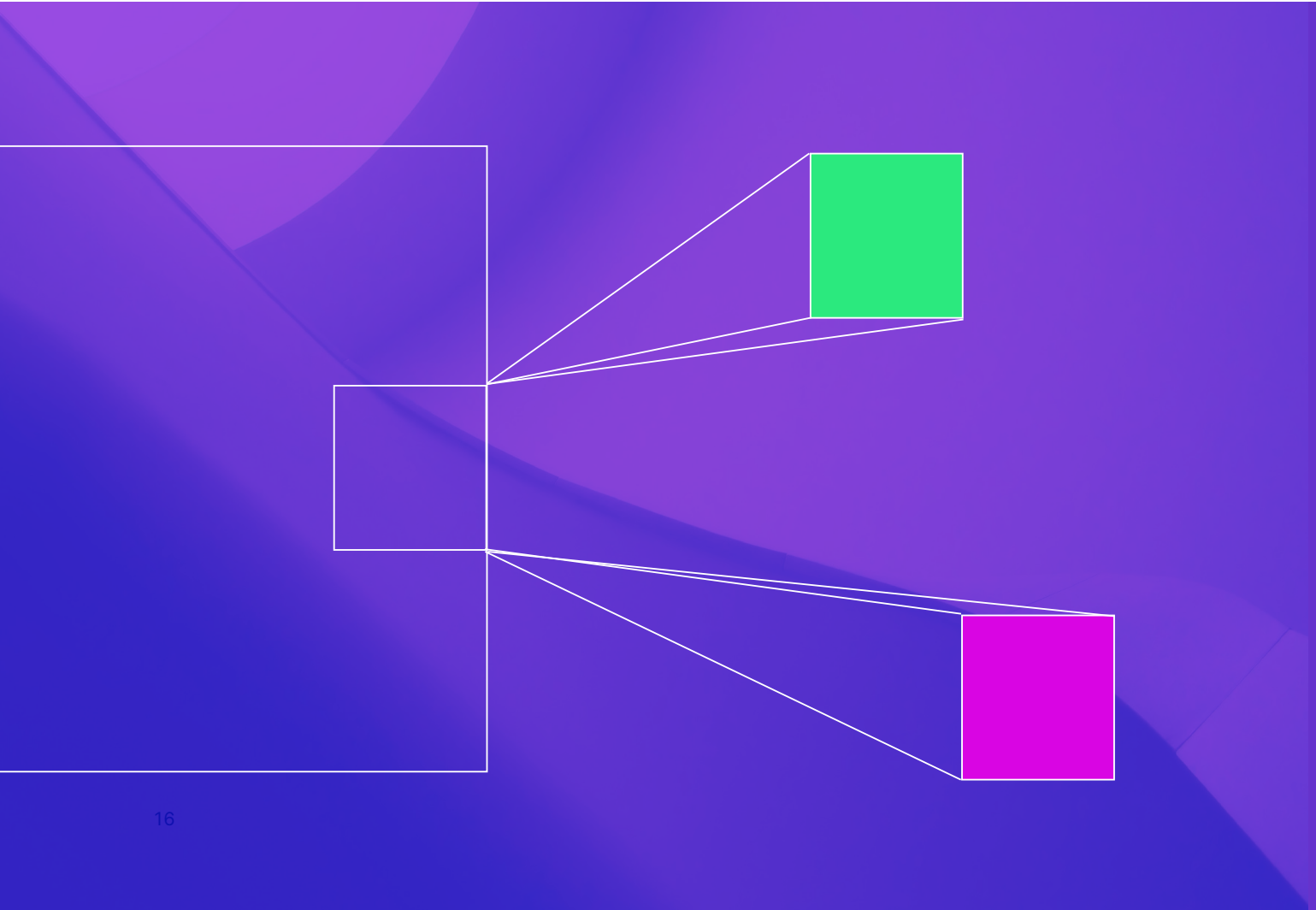
Enhancing Existing Expertise

Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, attorneys are strategically deploying AI where it best serves their clients and practice. This measured approach demonstrates how lawyers are maintaining their professional judgment while leveraging new tools.

The survey reveals that legal professionals are particularly adept at identifying where AI can enhance their existing expertise.

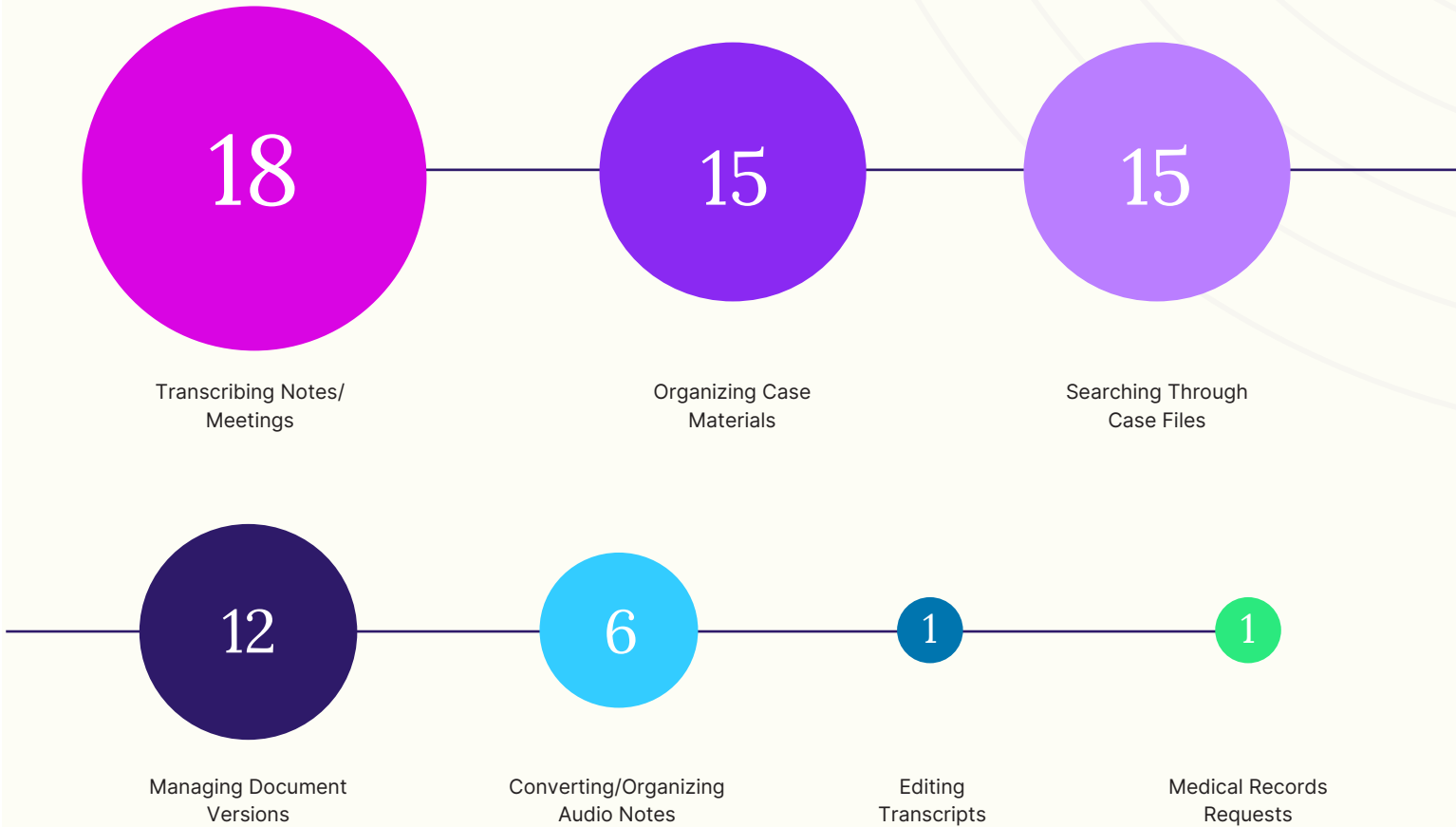
For complex litigation, attorneys are using AI to surface relevant precedents more quickly, while reserving the critical analysis and argument crafting for their own expertise. As one associate noted, 'The ability to search, analyze, and compare case law quicker for legal research' allows them to spend more time developing winning strategies and less time on manual, repetitive tasks.

In transactional work, lawyers are maintaining their role as trusted advisors while using AI to expedite routine document review. This allows them to focus on the sophisticated aspects of deal-making that require human judgment and experience.



Manual, Repetitive Tasks Lawyers Wish to Automate

Number of Mentions



Reducing Time on Non-Billable Work

Lawyers want to move away from admin work and towards important case strategy. Transcribing meetings and organizing case materials are the top jobs they'd like to automate with AI.

Collaborative Human + AI Solutions

While enthusiasm for AI adoption is clear, our survey reveals a strong consensus that the future lies not in AI replacement but in human-AI collaboration. Legal professionals envision a future where AI augments rather than replaces human expertise.

Senior associates shared desires for automation in the transcription process, hoping for technology that gets transcripts to a place where they're almost ready to be used and just need a final once-over. This sentiment reflects the desired end state: AI handling routine tasks while humans provide oversight and focus on higher-value work.

However, survey respondents consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining human oversight and judgment. As one attorney noted: "Reliability, misstatements, mistakes without human to correct them" remain key concerns. Another respondent emphasized that "content and output are properly vetted" must be a priority - highlighting the critical role of human review in any AI-enabled workflow.



ANALOGICAL REASONING, WHICH IS THE SKILL SET THAT THE BEST LAWYERS REALLY MASTER, IS THE ABILITY TO TAKE THE BODY OF CASE LAW IN A COMMON LAW SYSTEM AND IDENTIFY THE COMMON PRINCIPLES TO APPLY THEM TO A SET OF THINGS THAT WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE. WHETHER AI WILL EVER GAIN THAT SKILL IS "A REAL IF."

Daniel Ho

National Artificial
Intelligence Advisory
Committee (NAIAC)

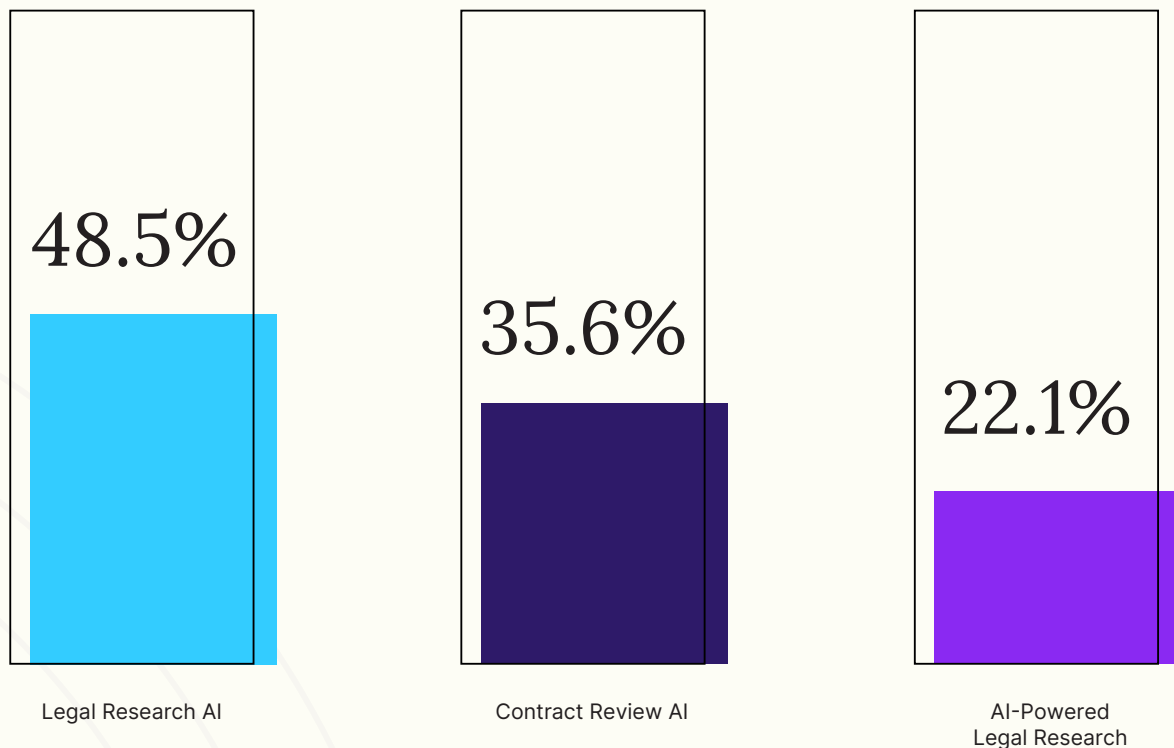
Striking the Balance with AI Tools

The partnership between human expertise and AI is particularly evident in how firms are adopting specific tools:

- **48.5%** use AI-powered legal research, with attorneys providing crucial analysis of AI-surfaced precedents
- **35.6%** employ contract review AI under attorney supervision
- **22.1%** utilize AI-powered transcription with human verification

This data shows that lawyers are strategically deploying AI to enhance, rather than replace, their professional judgment.

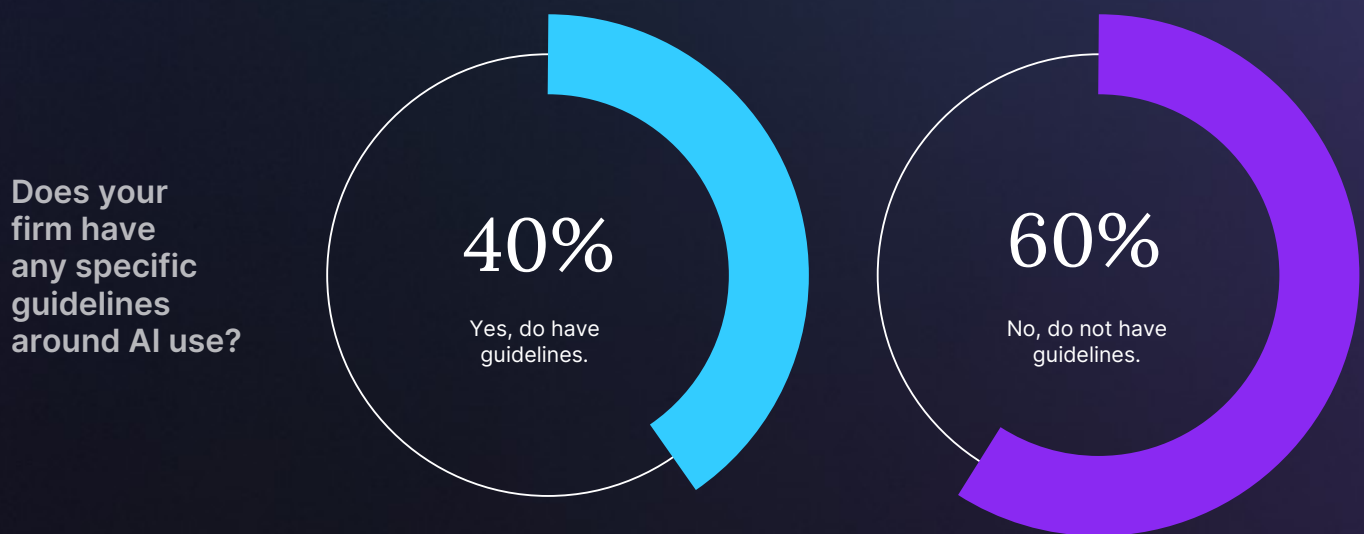
Tools Used by Respondents in Daily Practice



Guidelines for AI Usage

An Uneven Playing Field

Nearly 60% of firms lack specific guidelines, relying instead on informal best practices (34.6%) or having no guidance at all. This lack of formalized policies poses a risk, particularly regarding data privacy and ethical considerations surrounding AI implementation.



Creating Best Practices

While the majority don't have AI usage guidelines, some leading firms are developing clear guidelines for AI use that protect client interests and professional standards. Some practitioners are using guidelines that explicitly ask for client permission, while a COO emphasizes their firm's requirement that they 'cannot use platforms that sell information, or use inputs to train their models in ways that could violate client confidentiality.' These guidelines demonstrate how the legal profession is actively shaping AI implementation to uphold their professional obligations and ethical standards.

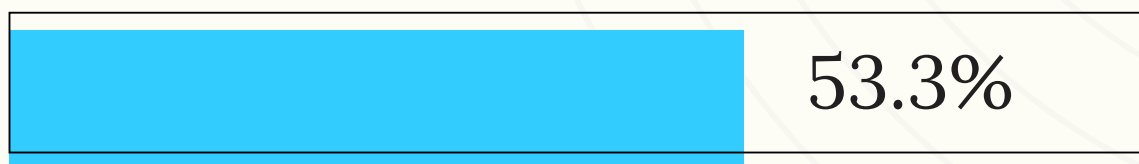
Measuring ROI

How Do Firms Measure Impact?

Measuring the return on investment (ROI) in legal tech is crucial. While time saved (53.3%) and cost savings (31.1%) are the primary metrics used, client satisfaction (15.6%) is also considered. These are the ways in which AI must help with the bottom line in order to be useful.

How does your firm typically measure the ROI or effectiveness your firm adopts?

Time Saved



Cost Savings



Client Satisfaction

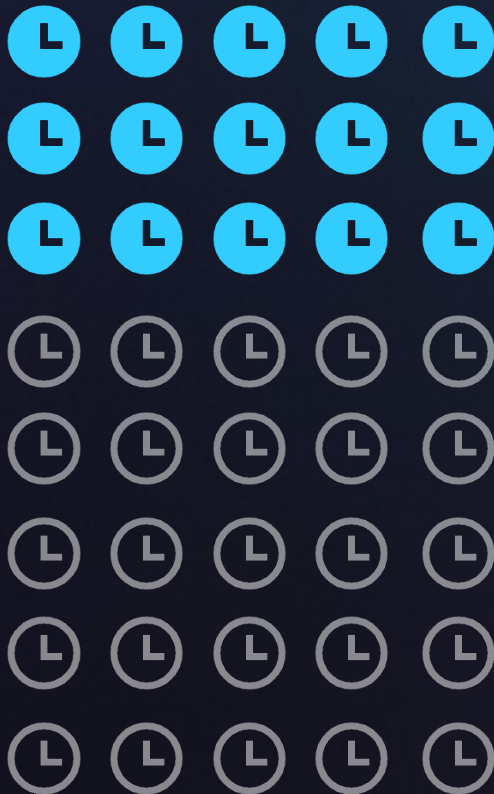


What's the possible ROI of AI?

It's expected that in only five years, AI will save:

12 hours

per week*



624 hours

per year*



This translates to:

\$300,000

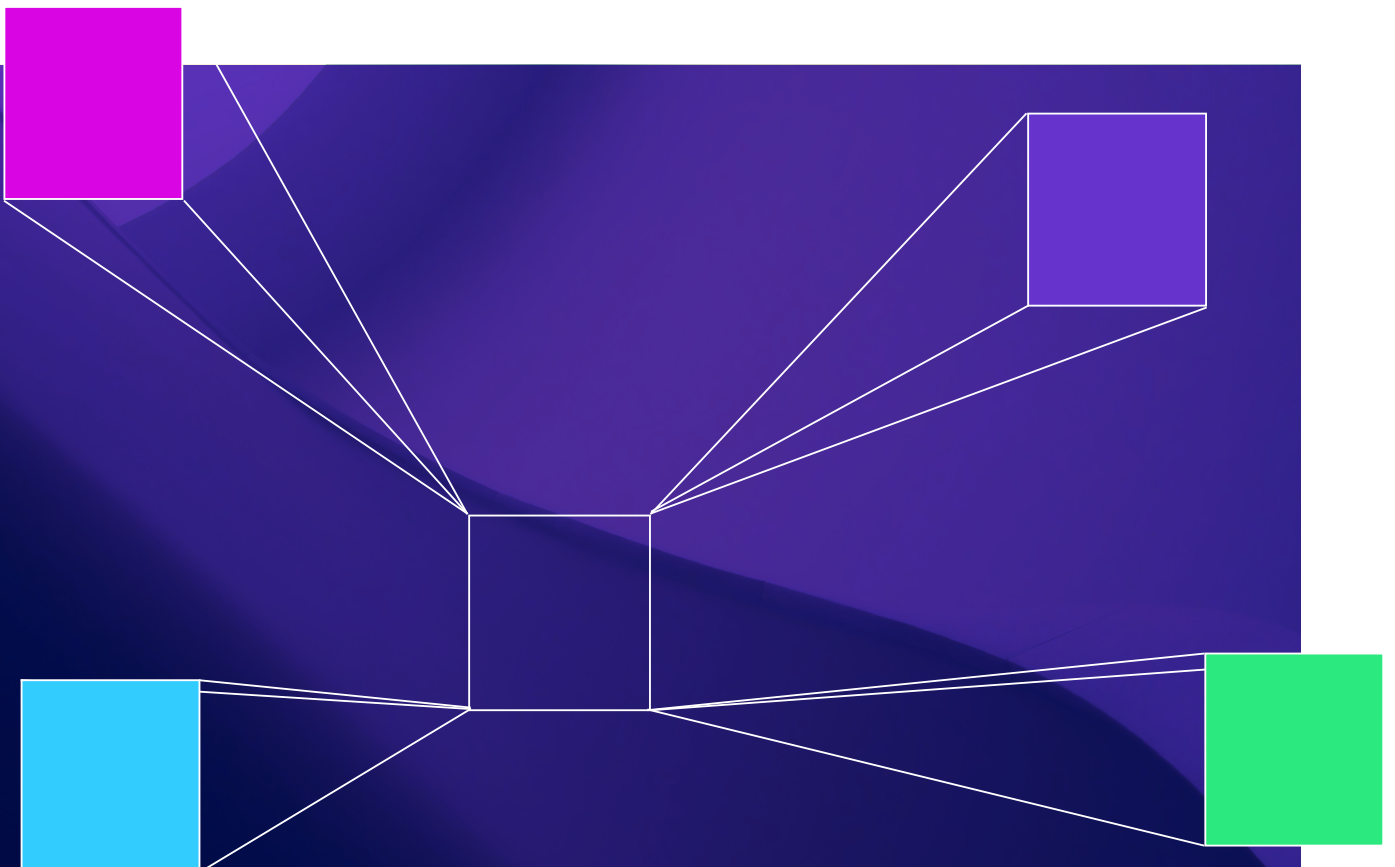
in new billable time
per lawyer each year*

*Thomson Reuters' 2024 Future of Professionals Report

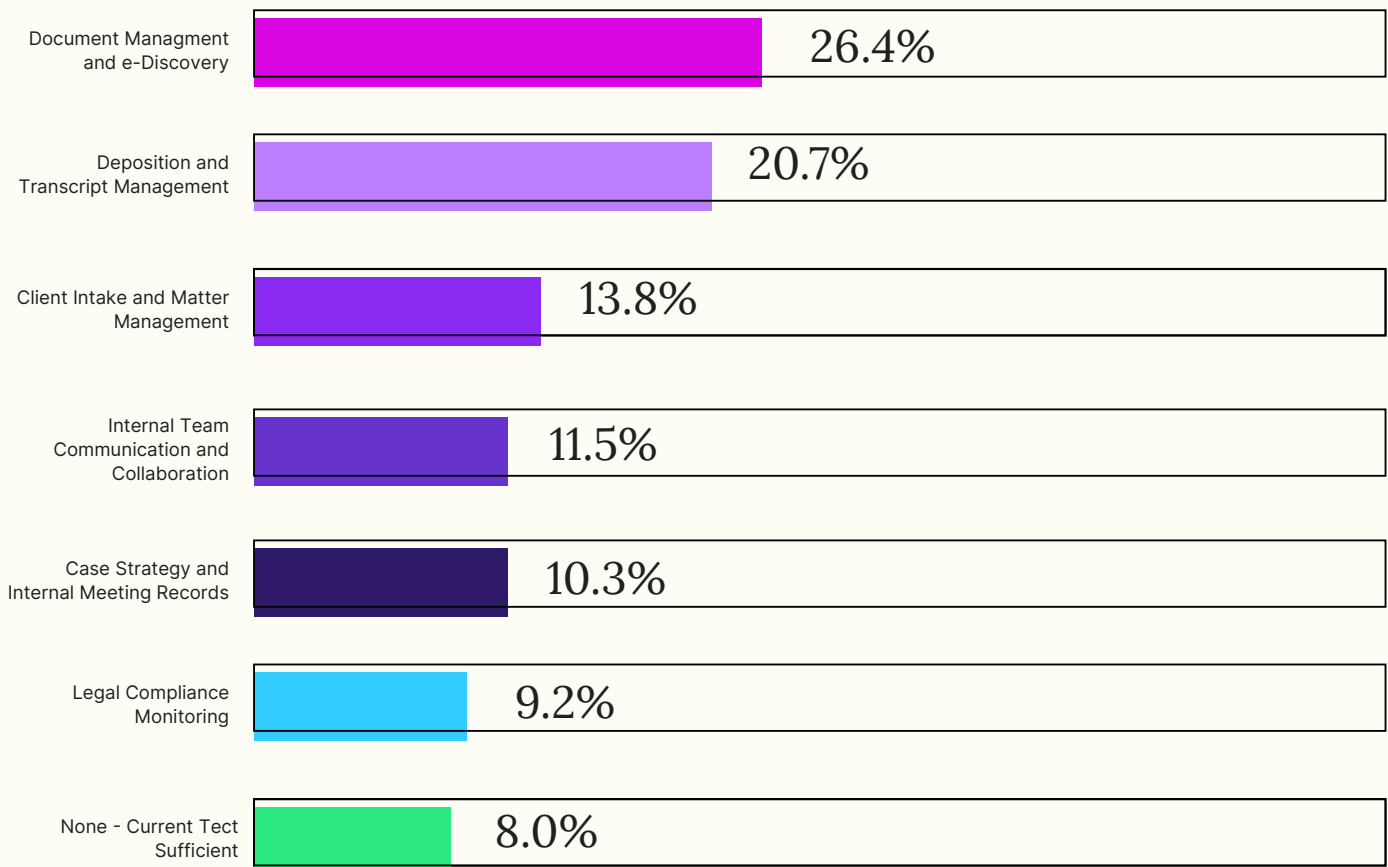
Looking Ahead

AI Is Here to Stay

This report clearly demonstrates that the legal profession is in the midst of a significant transformation, driven by the power of AI and speech technology is playing a crucial role in this evolution. While challenges related to accuracy, ethics, and implementation remain, the potential benefits are undeniable. As the technology continues to mature and best practices emerge, AI, and particularly speech-based AI solutions, will become integral to the practice of law, shaping its future for decades to come. The firms that proactively address the challenges and embrace these advancements will be best positioned to thrive in the evolving legal landscape.



Which area would benefit most from new or improved technology at your firm?



It's fascinating to see where law firms currently stand in their tech journey. Document Management and e-Discovery along with Deposition and Transcript Management make up nearly half of firms' current technological focus - a clear sign that we're still in the early stages of legal tech evolution. The relatively smaller percentages in areas like client intake (13.8%), internal communication (11.5%), and case strategy (10.3%) suggest exciting opportunities ahead. As AI and speech technology continue to advance, we can expect to see a shift toward more balanced, integrated solutions that enhance every aspect of legal practice, not just document handling. The surprisingly low percentage in legal compliance monitoring (9.2%) hints at a particularly promising area for growth, especially as regulatory landscapes become increasingly complex.

Act Today to Future-Proof for Tomorrow

The legal industry stands at the threshold of a technological revolution that will fundamentally reshape how legal services are delivered. While challenges around security, ethics, and implementation persist, the benefits of embracing AI and speech technology far outweigh the risks of falling behind. The successful law firms of tomorrow will be those that act today - investing in comprehensive solutions that enhance efficiency, ensure accuracy, and maintain the highest standards of legal practice. The future of law is not just about adopting new tools; it's about reimagining the very nature of legal service delivery for the digital age.

About This Research

In early 2025, Rev conducted a comprehensive survey of 60 legal professionals across the United States to understand the current state of AI adoption in the legal industry and gauge attitudes toward this transformative technology. The survey captured responses from a diverse cross-section of the legal profession, including attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and administrative staff from firms of varying sizes and practice areas. The research focused on several key areas:

- Current and planned AI technology adoption
- Specific use cases for AI and speech technology in legal practice
- Perceived benefits and concerns about AI implementation
- ROI measurement and evaluation methods
- Technology usage guidelines and governance
- Voice recording and transcription practices

By gathering both quantitative data and qualitative insights through open-ended responses, the survey provides a nuanced view of how legal professionals are navigating the integration of AI into their daily work. The results reveal both enthusiasm for AI's potential and thoughtful consideration of its limitations and risks.

This report analyzes these findings to provide actionable insights for legal professionals considering or currently implementing AI solutions in their practice. The data also offers valuable context for understanding how the legal industry is evolving in response to technological advancement while maintaining its core professional values and responsibilities.

