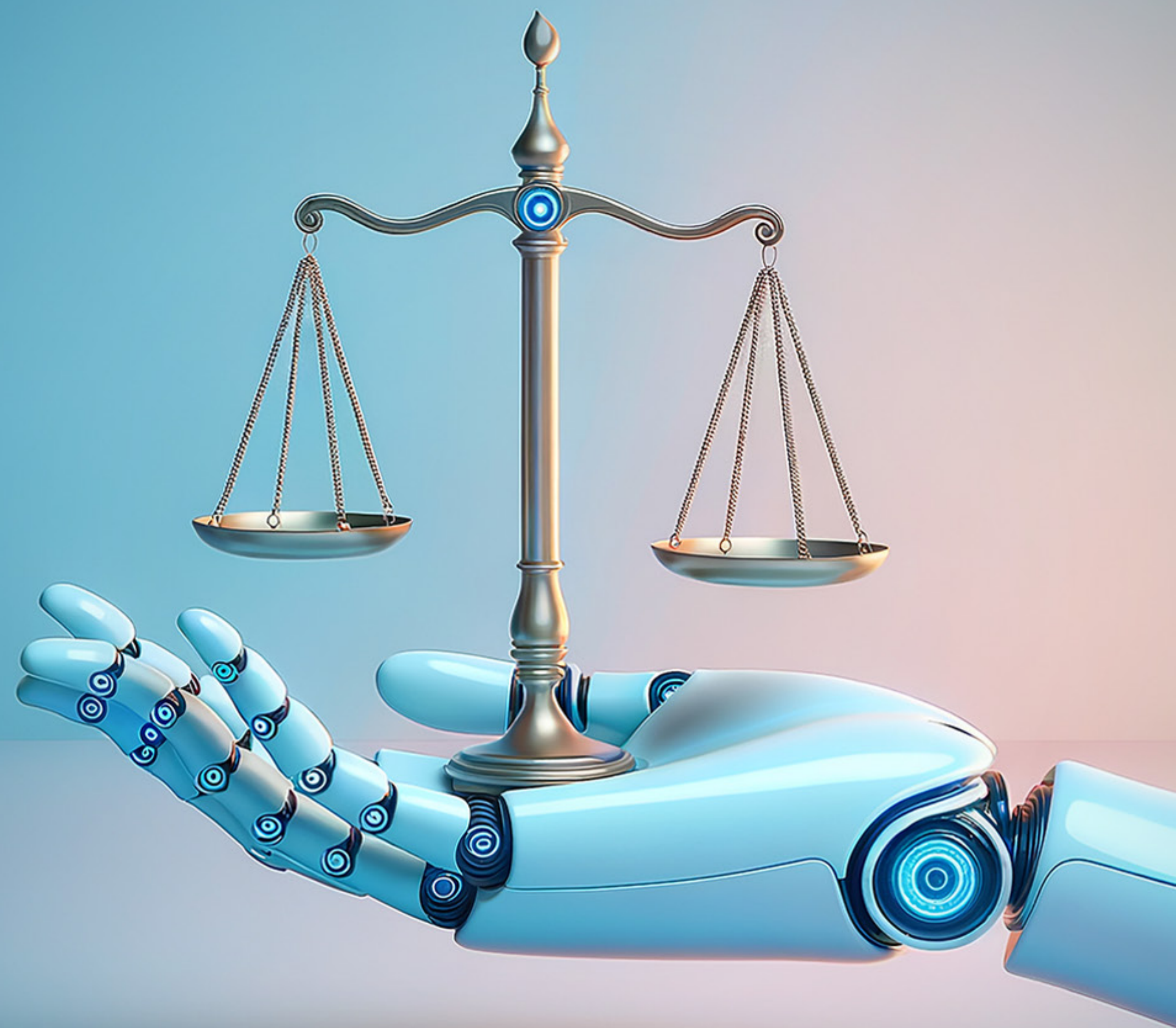


LawyersWeekly

In-house

Guide 2025

In 2025, in-house lawyers are navigating an increasingly complex landscape marked by rapid technological advancements and growing pressures to deliver more with less. In this guide, explore key challenges teams are facing and how these can be mitigated.



AI / Document management / e-Discovery and document review / Flexible resourcing / Legal workflows

IN-HOUSE GUIDE 2025

IN 2025, in-house legal teams are navigating an era of rapid transformation, with increasing workloads, evolving regulatory demands, and ongoing cost pressures resulting in more demand for efficiency than ever before.

As in-house lawyers are continually asked to do more with less and act as both risk managers and strategic business partners, legal departments must leverage both legal technology and alternative resourcing methods to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and mitigate risk.

Technology is continuing to reshape the legal profession, with in-house lawyers being no exception. From AI-powered legal tools to automated compliance tracking to e-discovery solutions that heavily reduce administrative burdens, legal teams can instead focus on high-value work such as contract strategy, regulatory risk assessment, and corporate governance. Additionally, flexible resourcing models enable legal departments to scale their teams up or down as needed, accessing specialised legal expertise without the long-term costs of permanent hires.

Lawyers Weekly's *In-house Guide 2025* is designed to help in-house lawyers and legal departments drive

efficiencies in their organisations and mitigate increasing challenges as the role of the in-house counsel increasingly evolves.

This guide provides key insights across five vital areas for in-house practitioners:

- **Artificial intelligence**
- **Document management**
- **e-Discovery and document review**
- **Flexible resourcing**
- **Legal workflows**

On behalf of Lawyers Weekly and our partners, we hope this guide acts as a useful and instructional tool in helping you stay ahead of the curve in 2025 and empower you to embrace innovation, optimise operations, and deliver high-quality legal support in an increasingly complex business environment.



Lauren Croft

Commercial content writer
Lawyers Weekly

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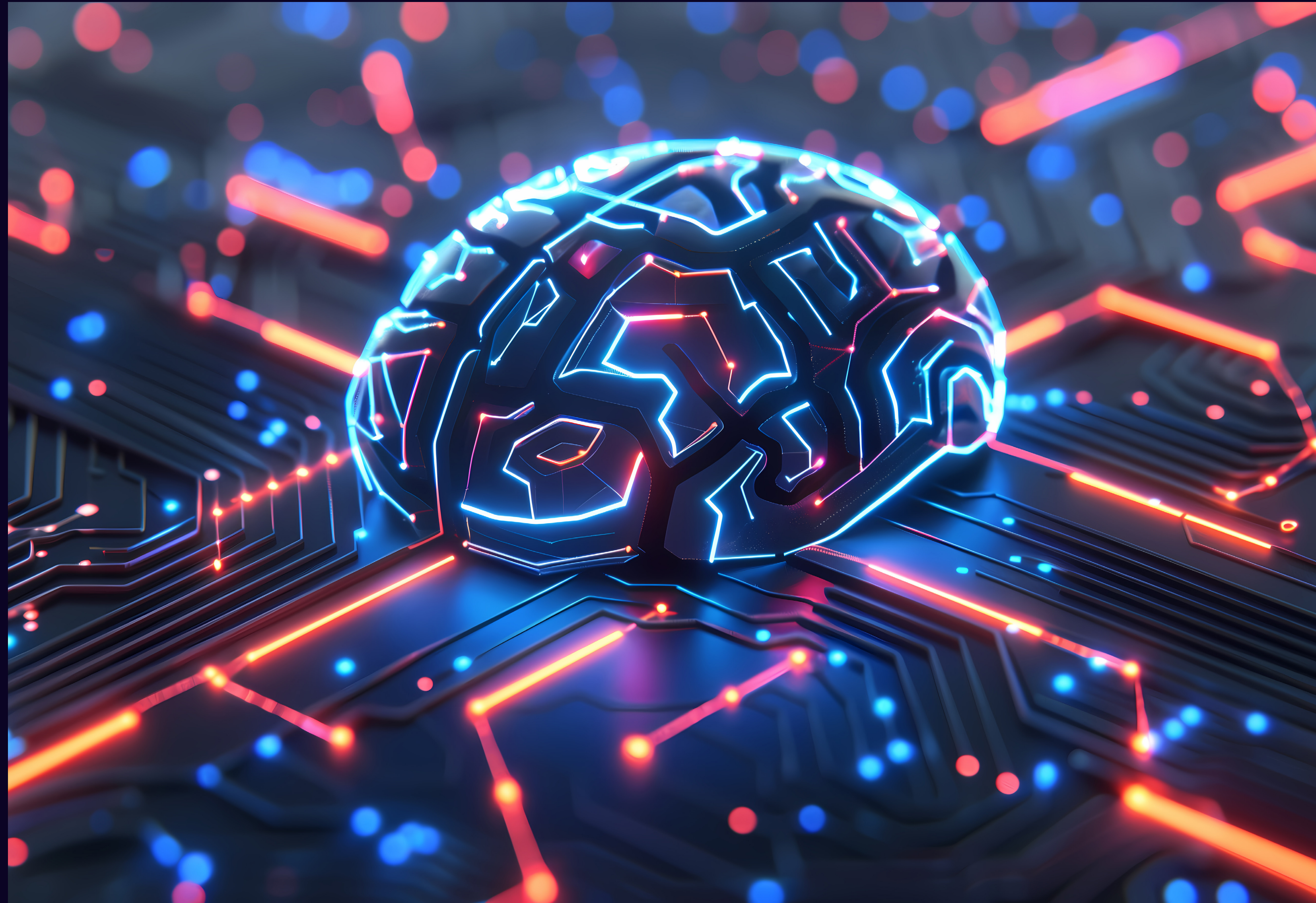
WITH THANKS
TO OUR
PARTNERS





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI-powered legal technology is transforming in-house legal teams by streamlining data analysis, automating routine tasks, and enabling faster, more informed decision making – and by leveraging AI-driven tools, lawyers can focus on high-value work and improve efficiency.





BEYOND COST savings, AI-driven tools also contribute to better legal outcomes, stronger risk management, and improved employee retention. Legal tech provider [Thomson Reuters](#) offers AI solutions designed to seamlessly integrate into corporate legal workflows, enabling teams to work smarter while maintaining compliance and security.

Thomson Reuters strategic account executive for legal Ziggy Cheng explains that by utilising AI tools, in-house teams can make their work more enjoyable – and more in line with their organisation’s strategic goals.

“AI for legal work is all about sifting through huge amounts of data to find information relevant to what you’re looking for. With legal industry-specific tools, this allows lawyers to search using natural language and even legal-specific language and concepts,” he says.

“Not only does this massively speed up the process, but it allows lawyers to focus on applying their wisdom and judgement instead of doing drudge work that no one wants to do. This has the added benefit of making the work much more enjoyable,

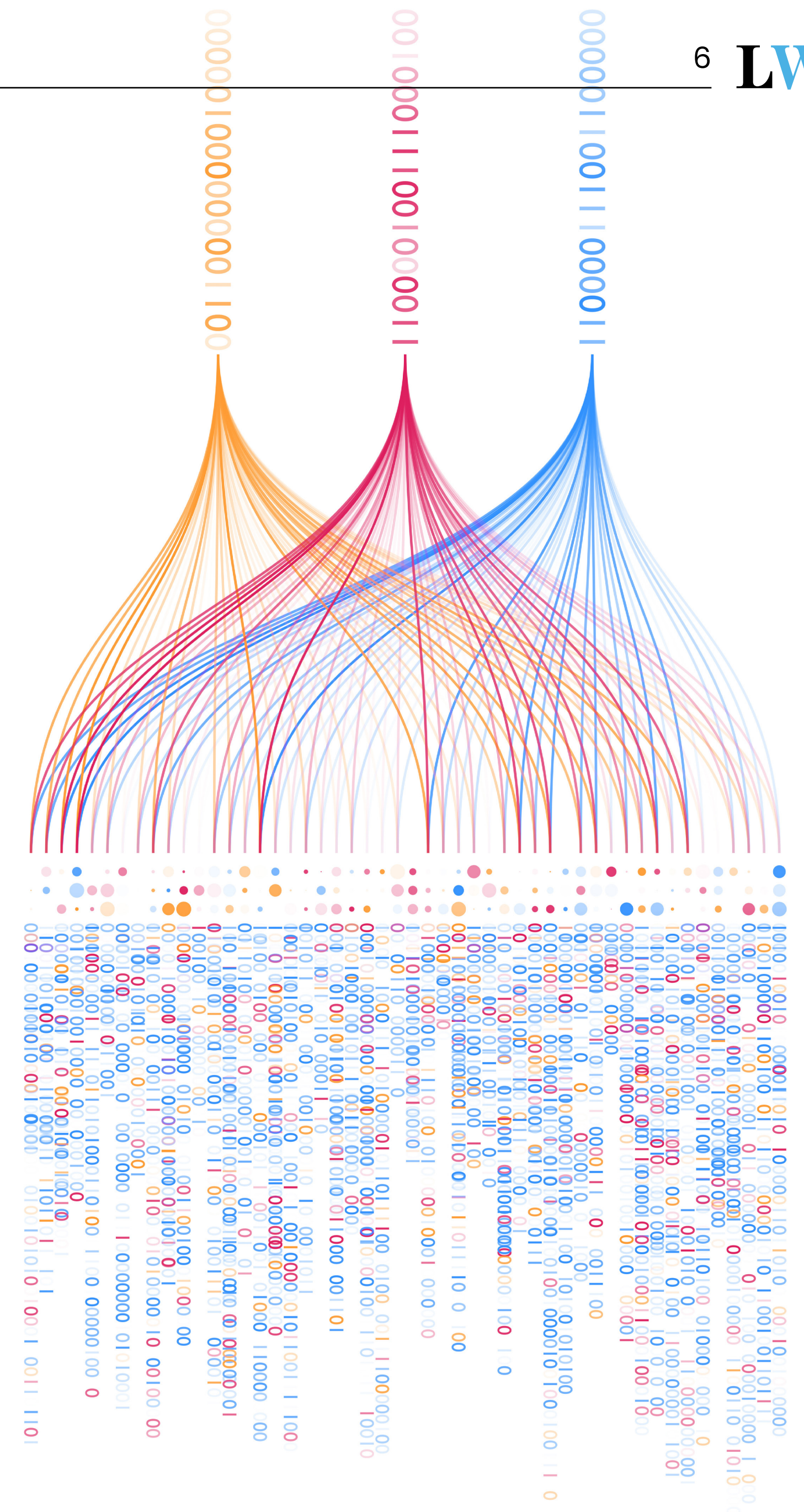
leading to better advice for clients or the wider business.”

However, there are key criteria that legal departments should note when evaluating and choosing a legal technology solution, adds Thomson Reuters’ senior director of AI and legal tech for Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East, Catherine Roberts.

“Start by ensuring the technology addresses specific operational challenges and aligns with strategic goals. If your organisation is focused on growth by acquisition, the tools you choose should enable faster turnaround rather than optimising niche expertise,” she says.

Essential questions and criteria for in-house teams include:

- Does it integrate seamlessly with existing solutions?
- Can it scale for future growth plans?
- Are there robust security features to protect sensitive client data?





AI FOR LEGAL WORK IS ALL ABOUT SIFTING THROUGH HUGE AMOUNTS OF DATA TO FIND INFORMATION RELEVANT TO WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

Ziggy Cheng

Strategic account executive for legal,
Thomson Reuters



- Does it include access to trusted, legal-specific content and familiar legal research tools with local content?
- What is the vendor's reputation, and what level of support is available locally for issue resolution and ongoing needs?
- Is it easy to use for legal use cases to maximise adoption without needing time-consuming experimentation and development?
- Assess the total cost of ownership over three years against the potential return on investment.
- What is the cost of doing nothing – with the risk of falling behind competitors?

Building an integrated tech stack to drive ROI

Some of these questions and criteria also apply when building an integrated legal tech stack for your organisation – and Cheng emphasises knowing where “your data can flow to”.

“If you have multiple vendors providing your technology, this adds multiple points of risk. Staying

within one ecosystem is not always possible these days, but limiting the number of parties that handle your data is important. Partner with an organisation that has wide solutions instead of just handling one thing,” he says.

“Data is the new gold, and it must be protected every step of the way. At the same time, it's important to make sure you are not connected to bad data that has the potential to skew results in an unreliable way. If your AI tool is connected to the internet, you are massively increasing the risk of poor results. Connecting into trusted legal content databases, like Westlaw, is best practice.”

As such, in-house teams use key metrics and benchmarks to assess the effectiveness of AI-powered legal technology within their organisation.

This starts with clearly defining any issues the legal team wants to address and the value the team needs to deliver, something Roberts says will “guide your measurement strategy”.

“Use both objective metrics, like time saved on repetitive tasks and changes in external legal spend, and subjective metrics, such as team and client

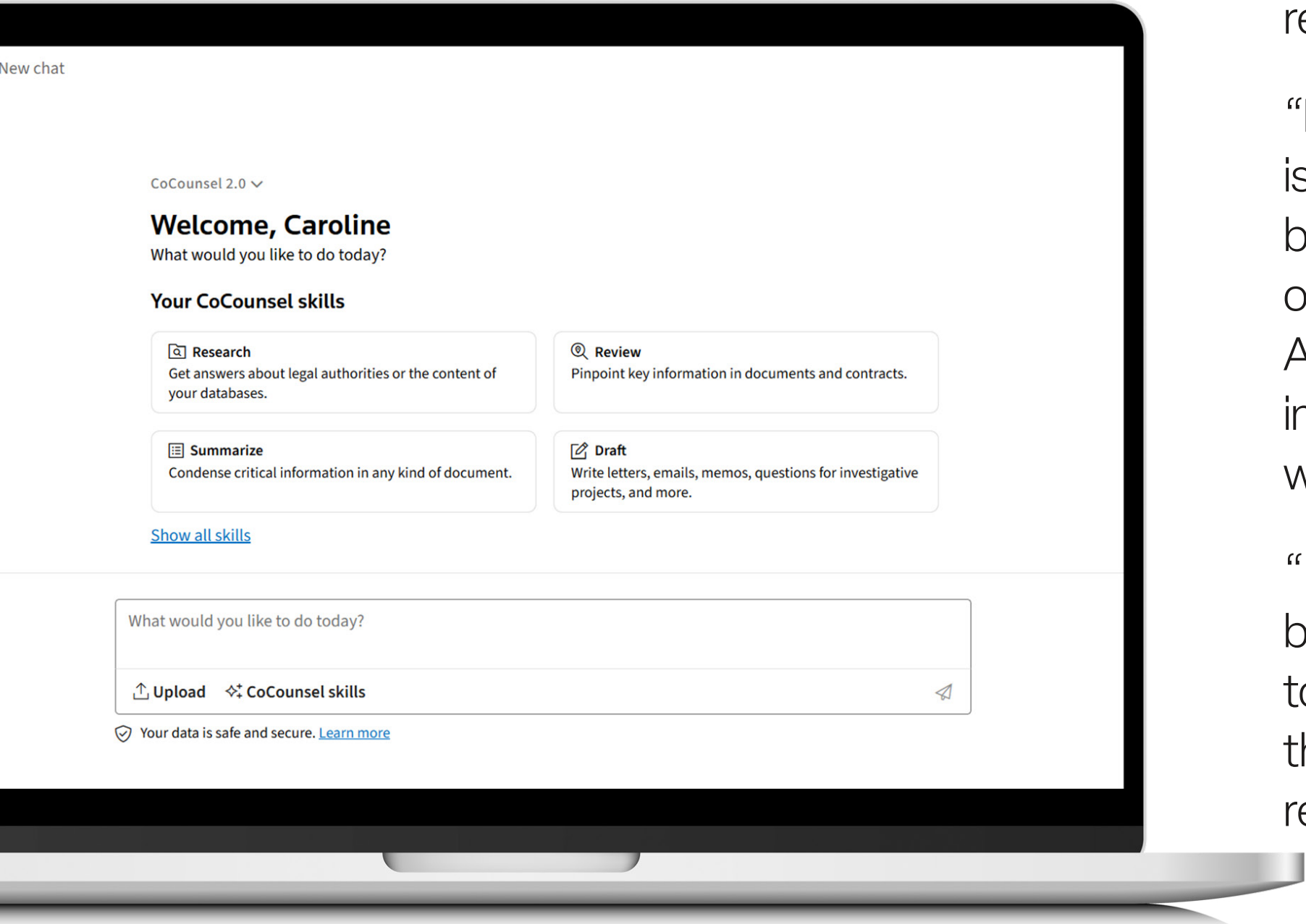


satisfaction, to get a complete picture. Objective metrics could include contract review volume, turnaround time, and time spent on strategically aligned work versus routine tasks,” she says.

“Compare with ‘before’ benchmarks to see how improved contract turnaround times impact revenue



To learn more about Thomson Reuters’ professional-grade AI legal assistant, [click here](#).



targets. While subjective metrics require more effort, they are crucial. Monitor on-track milestones for projects and compliance with service level expectations for routine matters. Gather feedback and conduct surveys to assess job and client satisfaction. Look for a drop in the need for regular out-of-hours work, as this can influence team retention.”

Moving forward through 2025 and beyond, as legal AI tools continue to evolve, legal departments must prioritise an AI-powered legal technology ecosystem that is flexible and adaptable as innovations and regulatory changes continue to emerge.

“Do not just focus on the current state, but instead what is on the product roadmap. Thomson Reuters is investing billions of dollars into integrating all our solutions together on industry-leading security infrastructure so that our AI tools can quickly and efficiently support you to work in a flexible manner instead of forcing you to follow our workflows,” Cheng says.

“Understanding lawyers and how you work has always been a core part of our business, and we continue to build solutions to simply allow you to keep doing things the way you always have while we stay on top of regulatory and technological changes.” ●

ABOUT THOMSON REUTERS

thomsonreuters.com.au

[Thomson Reuters](#) is a leading provider of essential tools and information for lawyers, offering a comprehensive suite of resources to enhance legal practices. In an increasingly complex environment, Thomson Reuters automates mundane tasks, delivers insights, and drives efficiencies with meaningful benefits, freeing up practitioners’ time to focus on their clients.

Thomson Reuters equips legal professionals with cutting-edge solutions spanning research, workflow management, and compliance – and its [AI solutions](#) are designed with the legal profession’s specific needs in mind.

netdocuments®

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

In 2025, document management for in-house lawyers and legal departments is more streamlined and intelligent than ever – and is rapidly changing how these teams operate.





DRIVEN BY AI-powered automation, smart search capabilities, and seamless integrations with enterprise systems, a document management system (DMS) is especially important in the current market for storing, organising, and retrieving documents as the world becomes more digital.

Advanced legal document management solutions can offer organisations version control, automated compliance tracking, and real-time collaboration, ensuring the legal teams within those organisations can efficiently manage contracts, regulatory filings, and internal policies.

[NetDocuments](#) is an intelligent DMS platform with AI and automation built in – resulting in a comprehensive experience and solution for document and email management within any organisation.

For in-house teams and legal departments, according to NetDocuments corporate legal specialist Reid Cram, a DMS can

offer “enhanced productivity, security, and collaboration”.

“Centralising document storage streamlines file retrieval and version control and ensures quick access to documents, significantly reducing time spent on administrative tasks. Security features like advanced encryption and permission settings protect sensitive information,” he says.

“Additionally, AI and automation capabilities within the DMS can automate routine legal tasks, such as contract reviews and deposition preparations, directly within the document storage platform, improving accuracy and efficiency in workflows.”

With new AI-enhanced tools, in-house lawyers can, in 2025, quickly retrieve relevant documents, analyse large datasets, and maintain secure, audit-ready records, thus reducing risk and improving operational efficiency in an increasingly complex legal landscape.

**IN-HOUSE LEGAL TEAMS
CAN EXPECT SIGNIFICANT
EFFICIENCY GAINS, WITH
AI-DRIVEN TOOLS OFFERING
INSTANT COMPLETION
OF LEGAL WORKFLOWS
AND SMART DOCUMENT
SUGGESTIONS BASED ON
ONGOING CASES.**

Reid Cram

Corporate legal specialist, NetDocuments



netdocuments®

“New technologies like AI and machine learning are transforming document management by automating complex processes, such as document indexing and legal research. These technologies enable faster document retrieval, reduce human errors in document handling, and provide sophisticated data analytics for better decision making,” Cram says.

“In-house legal teams can expect significant efficiency gains, with AI-driven tools offering instant completion of legal workflows and smart document suggestions based on ongoing cases.”

However, there are numerous security and compliance risks around implementing a DMS, including:

- Data security – securely storing documents and safeguarding electronic documents against cyber attacks.
- Access to documents – storing documents in an organised way so they can be retrieved easily.

- Regulatory compliance – companies must ensure they comply with legal and government requirements and regulations, including storing documents in specific formats.

Managing these risks, Cram emphasises, is “critical in legal document management”, particularly for in-house teams and legal departments in large organisations.

“NetDocuments addresses these challenges with encryption, access controls, and compliance tools that ensure data integrity and security,” he says.

“Additionally, AI-enhanced features help monitor data access patterns and automatically enforce compliance standards, reducing the risk of breaches and ensuring that documents meet regulatory requirements.”

Future-proofing in-house operations

To ensure seamless collaboration and compliance, as well as future-proof their operations, legal departments and in-house

lawyers should look for a number of key features within a DMS, Cram explains.

“In-house legal teams should look for a DMS that supports robust access controls, version control, and comprehensive search functionalities to enhance document retrieval and management. Seamless integration with other corporate and legal tools is crucial for maintaining continuous workflows,” he says.

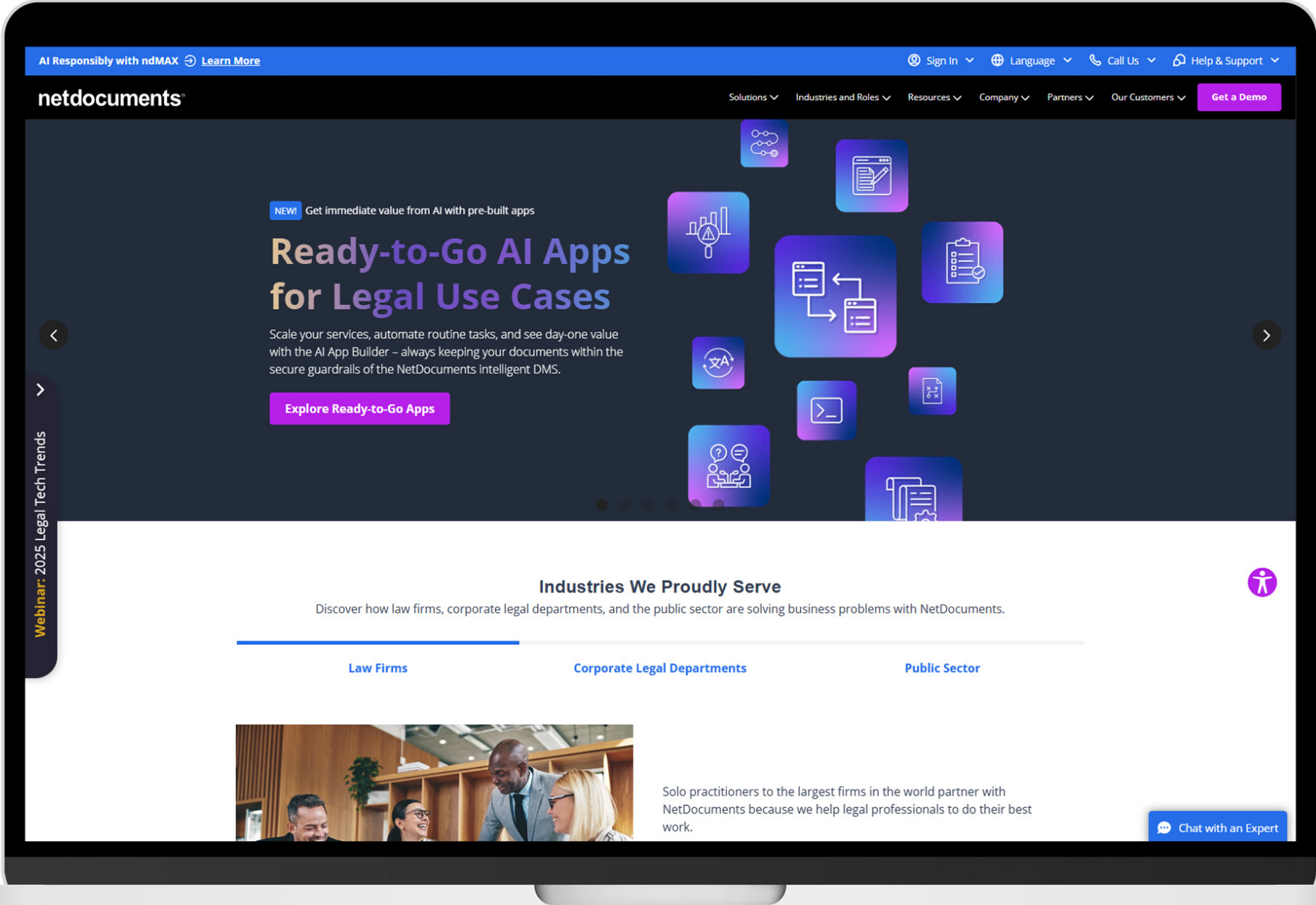
“AI features should also be considered, providing automated compliance checks and facilitating collaboration through predictive document suggestions and automated document categorisation, ensuring that teams work efficiently and compliantly.”

In-house teams also need to ensure the DMS they choose can integrate properly with their organisation’s systems – something that is also important for a DMS to be scalable and adaptable to future innovations.

“Effective integration of a DMS with other legal technologies, such as contract management and e-discovery tools, is essential



To learn more about NetDocuments, [click here.](#)



for streamlined operations. In-house teams should utilise DMS platforms like NetDocuments that offer extensive API support and compatibility with various legal technology tools, enabling cohesive data flow and functionality across different systems. This integration is enhanced by AI capabilities that ensure smooth data transfer and process automation across platforms,” Cram says.

“To remain scalable and adaptable, in-house legal teams need a DMS that can integrate new technologies and scale with the department’s growth. NetDocuments supports this with regular software updates and the incorporation of AI and automation, ensuring the DMS can handle increasing data volumes and more complex legal operations. The importance of a scalable, AI-enabled DMS will continue to grow, providing the necessary tools for legal departments to manage future challenges efficiently and effectively.” ●

ABOUT NETDOCUMENTS

netdocuments.com

NetDocuments is a cloud-based content management and productivity platform, backed by over 25 years of experience. It offers a complete end-to-end platform for document and email organisation and management, including award-winning AI and automation capabilities; robust search, collaboration and search technologies; seamless integrations with other tools professionals use daily; and a collection of large language model AI-powered solutions with the security and guardrails to manage AI responsibly. NetDocuments supports over 7,000 law firms and legal teams globally.


LAW IN ORDER

E-DISCOVERY AND DOCUMENT REVIEW

With compliance, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness more important than ever in 2025, advanced e-Discovery and document review tools streamline data processing, accelerate legal reviews, and reduce administrative burdens for in-house lawyers and legal departments.





LAW IN ORDER



AS a result of increasing legal risks and ongoing resourcing challenges in-house, solutions that drive efficiency by automating time-consuming tasks and allow lawyers to focus on strategic legal work are gaining traction.

[Law In Order](#) provides end-to-end legal technology solutions, specialising in e-discovery, document review, and e-hearing services. These tailored solutions enhance overall productivity, reduce administrative burdens, and streamline legal operations within organisations.

[e-Discovery](#) and [document review solutions](#) offer in-house legal teams several key benefits beyond efficiency and cost-saving, including enhanced compliance and risk management, improved data security, scalability and flexibility, better collaboration, and faster case resolution.

These benefits derive from having advanced tools, which ensure adherence to regulatory requirements, reduce legal and financial risks, and secure cloud-based platforms, which protect sensitive legal data from breaches and unauthorised access.

Having e-discovery and document review solutions promotes seamless collaboration between legal, risk and compliance teams via centralised digital repositories, leading to faster case resolutions using automation AI-powered insights.

In today's market, these solutions have become "more critical than ever", emphasises Law In Order chief digital officer Murali Baddula.

"With the exponential growth of data, organisations face an increasingly complex challenge in managing, reviewing, and extracting valuable insights from vast volumes of information. e-Discovery and document review are essential in legal and regulatory contexts, ensuring compliance and reducing the risk of costly errors," he says.

"Meanwhile, AI and GenAI technologies empower businesses to gain data insights quickly, automating tedious processes and identifying key patterns. These solutions not only speed up the review process but also provide deeper reasoning to support more informed and effective decision making. As businesses navigate a data-driven world, leveraging these advanced solutions is no longer optional. It's a strategic necessity to stay competitive, secure, and compliant."

AI-powered e-discovery and document review tools also assist in-house legal teams in processing vast amounts of data quickly and accurately. Features like predictive coding, [technology-assisted review \(TAR\)](#), and AI-driven data insights and generative AI (GenAI) reasoning streamline workflows, reduce manual effort, and enhance compliance.

By leveraging these tools, legal departments can cut costs, mitigate risks, and focus on strategic matters, according to Law In Order corporate client relationship manager Stefan Steenveld.

"In-house legal teams are under increasing pressure to manage increasingly complex and large volumes of electronically stored information (ESI) efficiently. Expansion of data includes both document sources – such as messaging apps like WhatsApp and Signal and collaboration platforms like Teams and Slack – as well as the sheer volume of data being generated. By leveraging advanced e-discovery and document review tools, teams can create order and display documents in their preserved and searchable state. The tools can automate data processing, conduct AI-powered case strategies, investigations and reviews, and implement predictive coding to streamline workflows," he says.



LAW IN ORDER

These tools significantly reduce manual review efforts, cut costs associated with outsourcing, and minimise internal administrative burdens – TAR reduces risks by ranking documents in order of relevance, allowing in-house teams to prioritise reviewing key documents and subsequently avoiding reviewing low-ranked, irrelevant documents, resulting in increased productivity compared to teams who use slower linear review processes.

“We provide end-to-end e-discovery and document review solutions tailored to corporate in-house legal, operational, and compliance teams and other various data-driven departments. Our technology-driven approach ensures that in-house teams can quickly identify relevant documents, maintain compliance, and reduce the risk of errors,” Steenveld says.

“Our [AI-powered tools](#), combined with our expert legal support, enhance data organisation, reduce turnaround times, and ensure cost-effective management of legal reviews.”

These AI tools can not only automate repetitive tasks but also enhance data insights, identify key patterns and make complex cases quicker and easier to deal with.

Digital information in 2025 and improving e-discovery readiness

In 2025, proper document review processes and e-discovery technology mean more efficient in-house teams – and, therefore, more prepared Australian businesses. This is particularly prevalent as volumes of data – as well as the amount of data stored by organisations – continue to grow in a digital world.

Law In Order supports in-house teams with this by offering advanced document review solutions, ensuring compliance, security, and efficiency, according to Steenveld. In fact, teams that use the solutions have been shown to save up to 60 per cent in legal review costs in the first review.

“Effective document review management is essential for optimising efficiency within in-house legal teams. Structured workflows, AI-powered review platforms, and well-defined protocols help reduce bottlenecks, ensuring that legal teams can focus on high-value tasks rather than manual document processing. Automation, integrated processing with real-time reporting, and predictive coding further expedite review processes, allowing for faster and more accurate decision making,” he says.

“In 2025, as the volume of digital information continues to grow, the ability to quickly and efficiently review documents is critical for corporate legal departments. Regulatory changes, cyber security risks, and data privacy laws require a robust and streamlined approach to document management. Our expertise in managing complex litigation, investigations, and regulatory matters enables legal teams to work smarter, not harder, ultimately driving cost savings and increased productivity.”

For example, in a recent internal investigation for a state government department, Law In Order assisted with the review of 88 gigabytes worth of email data, totalling 747,000 documents. To review these documents within a limited time frame, the team at Law In Order was able to delete all duplicate documents and develop accurate keyword searches to be applied to the remainder of the documents before producing a list of documents relevant to the investigation.

This resulted in potentially relevant documents being reduced to 6,500 in 48 hours – and the review of the documents was completed in less than 14 days, saving the department significant time and money.



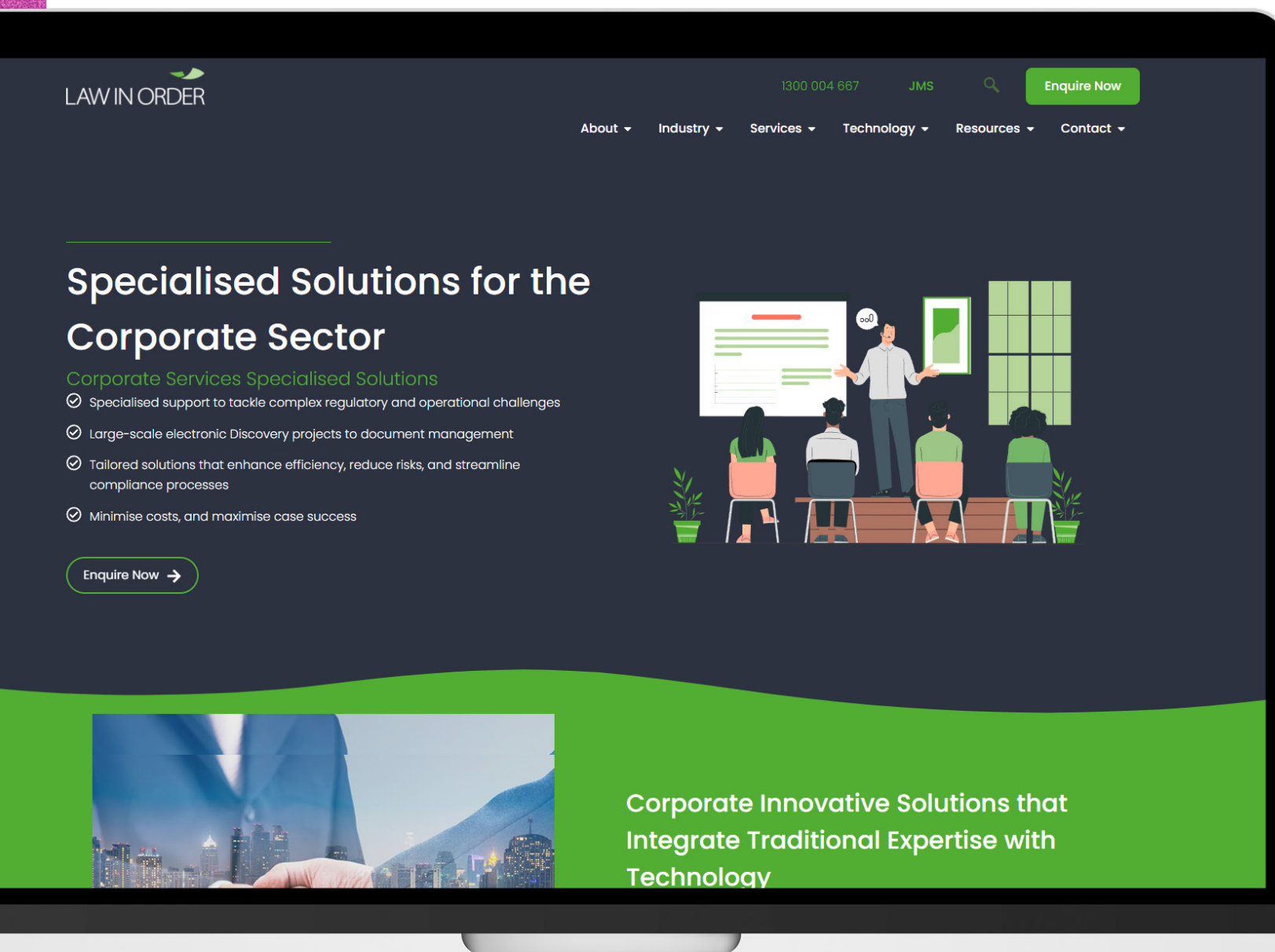
LAW IN ORDER

Moving through 2025, it's increasingly important for in-house lawyers and legal teams to enhance their e-Discovery readiness by following key best practices:

- Implementing robust data governance policies – establish clear protocols for data retention, classification, and security to ensure efficient information retrieval when needed.



To learn more about Law In Order, [click here](#).



- Utilising advanced e-Discovery tools – leverage AI-driven solutions, predictive coding, and technology-assisted review (TAR) to accelerate document review and reduce costs.
- Standardising legal processes – develop and automate legal hold procedures to ensure compliance and reduce the risk of spoliation.
- Using tools such as SmartBundle with e-brief preparation features that provide cost-effective self-serving subscription options and other relevant technology solutions.
- Training and collaboration – educate legal teams and in-house lawyers on e-discovery best practices and collaborate with IT to align workflows and security measures.
- Engaging a specialist partner – working with a specialist provider ensures access to expert guidance, latest technology platforms, and efficient data management solutions.

“By adopting these best practices, in-house teams can enhance efficiency, mitigate risks, and ensure a defensible and streamlined e-discovery process,” Steenveld says. ●

ABOUT LAW IN ORDER

[lawinorder.com](#)

Established in 1999, [Law In Order](#) helps corporate legal teams, law firms, and government agencies manage legal workloads efficiently with innovative and cost-effective solutions. With Law In Order, legal teams can streamline workflows, improve accuracy, and reduce litigation risks while mitigating key challenges such as data overload, compliance complexities, and the high costs of manual document review.

By transforming how legal teams manage data, review documents, and present evidence, Law In Order helps clients achieve better outcomes with greater speed and security and reduces resourcing constraints while providing significant cost savings.

Ashurst Reach

FLEXIBLE RESOURCING

In 2025, in-house legal teams are under increasing pressure to deliver high-quality legal support while managing fluctuating workloads, budget constraints, and evolving regulatory demands, with flexible resourcing emerging as a strategic solution.



Ashurst Reach



AS IN-HOUSE lawyers are constantly asked to do more with less, flexible resourcing can help legal departments scale their teams up or down as needed, access specialised expertise, and optimise efficiency – without the long-term costs of permanent hires.

[Ashurst Reach](#) is a flexible legal resource offering, which is part of global law firm [Ashurst's NewLaw](#) and [Risk Consultancy](#) division. They connect legal consultants with in-house teams and legal departments to assist during peak times or with specialised projects.

The offering deploys Reach legal consultants who are skilled and knowledgeable in-house lawyers, adept at entering new environments and determining how they can quickly add value.

Ashurst Reach partner and practice head Linda Grace explains that as budgets and quality remain ongoing priorities for in-house teams, the use of flexible resourcing solutions and alternative legal service offerings have grown and become increasingly sophisticated.

“While in-house teams continue to use flexible resourcing to meet short-term or unexpected resourcing needs, for example, to backfill leave or bridge a gap

when undertaking permanent recruitment following a resignation, we have seen two noticeable shifts. First, we have seen increased demand for specialist lawyers for projects in response to regulatory changes or large-scale projects,” she says.

“The second shift, seen in medium to large legal teams, is the long-term, strategic use of both permanent and flexible resources, enabling teams to more efficiently resource to meet workflows. This has allowed the team to scale up during peak periods to meet the needs of the business while also managing headcount, increasing retention of staff and ensuring the skills of the team continue to meet the evolving needs of the business.”

Alternative legal service providers (ALSPs) had an [estimated market size of US\\$28.5 billion in 2023](#) – and more than 50 per cent of corporate law departments recently said they rely on ALSPs for services, including flexible resourcing and litigation support.

For busy in-house teams concerned about the challenges of engaging flexible legal solutions, implementing a solution like Ashurst Reach, which works closely with clients on their specific wants and needs, can mean a smoother process and bigger value-add.

According to Grace, there are two key challenges in-house teams and legal departments often face when engaging flexible legal professionals.

“The first is speed: interim resourcing moves significantly faster than permanent recruitment. Often, organisations that are ready to move quickly are able to secure the best candidate for a role. This can be mitigated by having approvals in place and time designated for interviews and selection of a preferred candidate,” she says.

“The second challenge is thinking laterally about transferable skills. I often hear from clients who want to apply the same definitive criteria to an interim flex role as a permanent role. While this is usually achievable, it can limit viable options. This is why Ashurst Reach works collaboratively with clients to identify transferable skill sets that would enable a candidate to add value. In my experience, thinking critically about ‘must-have’ requirements leads to optimum solutions and even learnings for the shape a role may take in the future.”

As such, integrating legal consultants into a specific corporate environment seamlessly is important in terms of having a solution that will be effective – as well as reliable in the long term.

Ashurst Reach

For in-house legal teams specifically, having a solution that is “tried and tested”, in addition to driving efficiency, reducing cost and resolving constraints on permanent headcount, is essential.

“Our knowledge of a client’s organisational strengths and challenges enables us to match like-minded legal professionals who will integrate seamlessly and quickly add value. Reach legal consultants are truly an extension of our firm,” Grace says.

“Reach legal consultants have access to Ashurst’s knowledge team and research tools, wellbeing resources, and continuous professional development program. This ensures that all Reach legal consultants have the tools and systems they need to meet both our clients’ requirements and their own personal development goals.”

Are alternative legal service providers the way forward for in-house teams?

Deploying an ALSP like Ashurst Reach can, in 2025, help in-house teams alleviate pressure and manage their workloads more effectively – and Grace says the firm has “long seen” the value these services can provide to clients.

“Ashurst Advance & Consulting, home to our NewLaw and risk offerings, has spent the last decade evolving to deliver comprehensive and affordable solutions-oriented support. We see how the combination of advanced technology, process re-engineering and expertise leads to making the impossible achievable. We blend established ALS practices with advice from our legal and risk consulting teams to design bespoke, cost-effective solutions,” she says.

“This cross-specialisation operationalises legal advice to solve unique organisational challenges. It also highlights where we see in-house legal careers and flexible resourcing headed. There is an increasing expectation for in-house legal to give more than black-letter legal advice – and this trend is most acute in small to medium legal teams without budget for new permanent hires.”

More legal teams are also now increasingly using flexible resourcing solutions to work on special projects – and Ashurst Reach can provide in-house teams with support across a variety of specialisations.

“Australian privacy reforms and Fair Work changes have fuelled compliance reviews requiring privacy and employment specialists. Similarly, in the UK, the introduction of the *Digital Operational Resilience Act* (DORA)



**FLEXIBLE RESOURCING CAN
HELP LEGAL DEPARTMENTS
TO INCREASE PROFITABILITY
BY SCALING UP WHEN
RESOURCES ARE NEEDED AND
DOWN WHEN THEY ARE NOT.**

Linda Grace
Partner and practice head, Ashurst



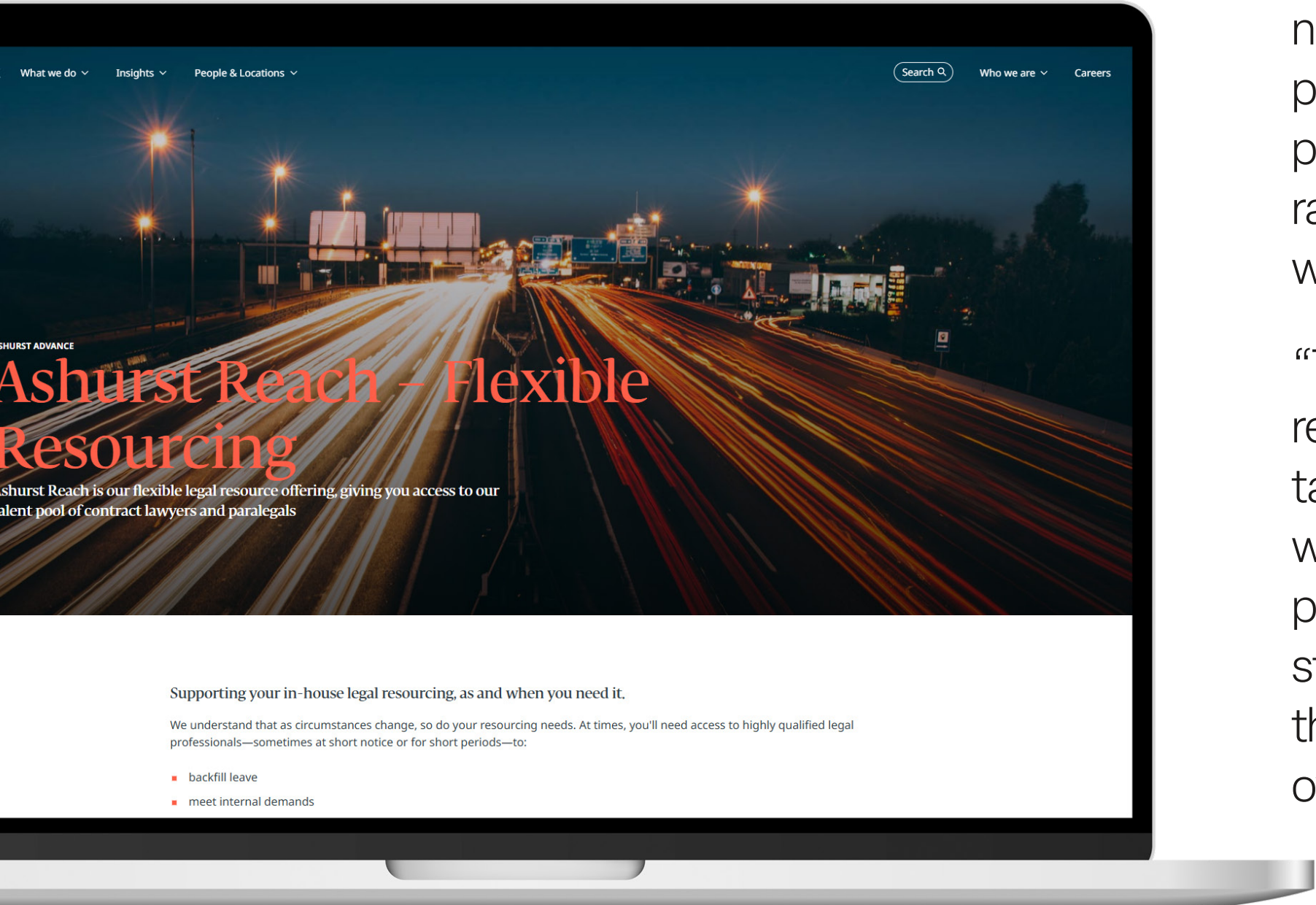
Ashurst Reach

has intensified digital resilience projects for in-house teams within financial services. Increased investment activities have also seen the number of technology projects spike,” Grace says.

“Where a client doesn’t have a skill set readily available, Ashurst Reach has connected clients with specialist



To learn more about Ashurst Reach, [click here](#).



lawyers to support these projects. Tapping into flexible resourcing in this way provides in-house teams with day-to-day control over a project, while also reducing headcount where a specialism isn’t required long term.”

Where that specialist knowledge is available in the permanent team, Ashurst Reach also provides BAU backfill support to enable in-house lawyers to focus on key projects for their organisation while meeting budget targets and saving time, energy and costs on recruitment.

“Flexible resourcing can help legal departments to increase profitability by scaling up when resources are needed and down when they are not. We ensure our pricing models meet client needs. Our clients usually prefer all-inclusive pricing, most often on a daily or hourly rate, meaning clients are only charged for time actually worked by consultants,” Grace says.

“There are also no ‘hidden’ charges like leave entitlements, recruitment fees, superannuation, employment-related taxes, workers’ compensation and other costs associated with permanent headcount. Reach legal consultants are pre-vetted to the same standard as Ashurst’s permanent staff, meaning our clients save time and internal capacity that would have otherwise been spent undertaking their own recruitment processes.” ●

ABOUT ASHURST

[ashurst.com](#)

Ashurst Reach is Ashurst’s flexible legal resource offering, helping in-house legal teams tap into top-tier expertise to manage peak workloads, projects and transitions on an interim basis. Ashurst Reach is part of Ashurst Advance & Consulting, the firm’s innovative NewLaw and risk consulting practice, providing speed, scale and quality, without compromise.

Ashurst Reach currently operates in Australia and the UK.



LEGAL WORKFLOWS

As legal technology further develops in 2025, having workflows designed specifically for in-house teams to ensure consistency, efficiency, and accuracy in handling legal matters will become vital.





IN THE last few years, the legal industry has seen legal generative AI technology evolving to automate legal tasks that were not historically well addressed by technology.

Legal technology provider [LexisNexis](#) offers a range of tools and solutions that help in-house lawyers improve workflows and mitigate various key challenges in 2025 – and head of core product Seeta Bodke says that with the right technology and workflow tools, in-house lawyers can stay more focused on their highest impact work, thus creating next-level efficiency.

“A workflow solution can offer legal departments and in-house teams several additional benefits, including improved collaboration through centralised communication platforms, enhanced visibility into project status and workload distribution, and better resource management by identifying bottlenecks and optimising matter allocation,” she says.

“It can also facilitate knowledge management by organising and storing legal documents and precedents in a searchable database, enabling quicker access to information. Furthermore, workflow solutions can support scalability by easily adapting to changes in team size or workload, and they can enhance client service

by providing more timely and accurate updates on legal matters, contributing to a more agile, efficient, and effective legal department.”

Being more agile is important for in-house teams who are now expected to triage and troubleshoot for a multitude of issues as well as be a valuable business adviser. As the role of the in-house lawyer continues to evolve, adopting new technology is becoming increasingly important in managing a large, often unpredictable, workload with limited resources, budget and headcount.

“The importance of a suitable team structure and a range of technology solutions, tools, and processes in place that optimise the legal department’s performance can’t be overstated. While there’s no one-size-fits-all approach – each legal team must make decisions that align with their business needs,” Bodke says.

“Contract review and drafting of legal documents is a time-consuming process that requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. Regulatory compliance, such as ensuring policies and documents comply with ever-evolving local and international laws and regulations, and monitoring or approving transactions with an eye on the changing legal landscape, is also an important responsibility that often falls to the legal department.”

Integrating these tools, however, requires additional training and adjustment to established processes.

According to Bodke, legal departments can make this exercise easier by addressing their current workflows, identifying any pain points or inefficiencies, and prioritising improvements.

“By defining their goals and selecting tools that align with their specific needs, as well as involving key stakeholders early in the process, in-house legal teams will have the best chance of obtaining management and user buy-in,” she says.

“Following the integration of any new tool into workflows, onboarding and ongoing training will be essential to maintain high rates of usage. Ensuring robust data security measures are implemented and that any tools comply with relevant legal standards and internal policies will also be essential in helping to address and alleviate potential risks.”

Streamlining and customisation

Legal workflow solutions can assist with compliance, accuracy, and risk mitigation by automating routine compliance checks – and by utilising customisable legal



content, software, and tools, legal departments can become more efficient than ever.

Software frees up time for strategic tasks, improves decision making, and reduces the likelihood of costly compliance errors, adds Bodke.

“Workflow solutions enhance accuracy by reducing human error through automated data entry and validation processes. The software can also provide real-time updates and alerts on regulatory changes, helping legal teams stay informed and compliant,” she says.

“Risk mitigation is achieved by maintaining a comprehensive audit trail and enabling better oversight of legal processes, which helps in identifying and addressing potential issues proactively.”

However, when adopting this technology, in-house teams should prioritise a tool that is flexible and customisable. Being able to effectively address specific operational requirements and strategic goals of the legal team and the wider organisation can be a significant factor in implementation.

“By adapting the technology to fit their unique workflows, legal teams can enhance efficiency, improve user satisfaction, and ensure that the tools support their

specific legal and business objectives. A key consideration is the availability of support and training to embed the solution into existing systems and processes,” Bodke says.

“The quality, accuracy and comprehensiveness of the legal information that supports a legal technology solution is critically important to enable the team to use it to review a wide variety of risky scenarios. LexisNexis Practical Guidance provides up-to-date information available on the Lexis+ AI platform. It enables more efficient workflow management, allowing legal teams to focus on strategic tasks.”

In-house legal teams can now leverage AI technology to streamline their workflow processes and reduce admin by using it to automate routine tasks, provide legal answers, draft documents and correspondence, compare and analyse legal documents such as contracts, and ensure compliance with legal and regulatory standards.

“Lexis+AI can free up time to focus more on strategic tasks rather than administrative ones. Legal drafting is a valuable use case for AI use, where the solution helps lawyers generate an initial draft of a clause, correspondence, or a memo by simply providing information around the matter at hand,” Bodke says.



USING TECHNOLOGY CAN ENHANCE RESPONSIVENESS AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL TEAM AS WELL AS THEIR BUSINESS PARTNERS AND EXTERNAL PROVIDERS.

Seeta Bodke

Head of core product, LexisNexis

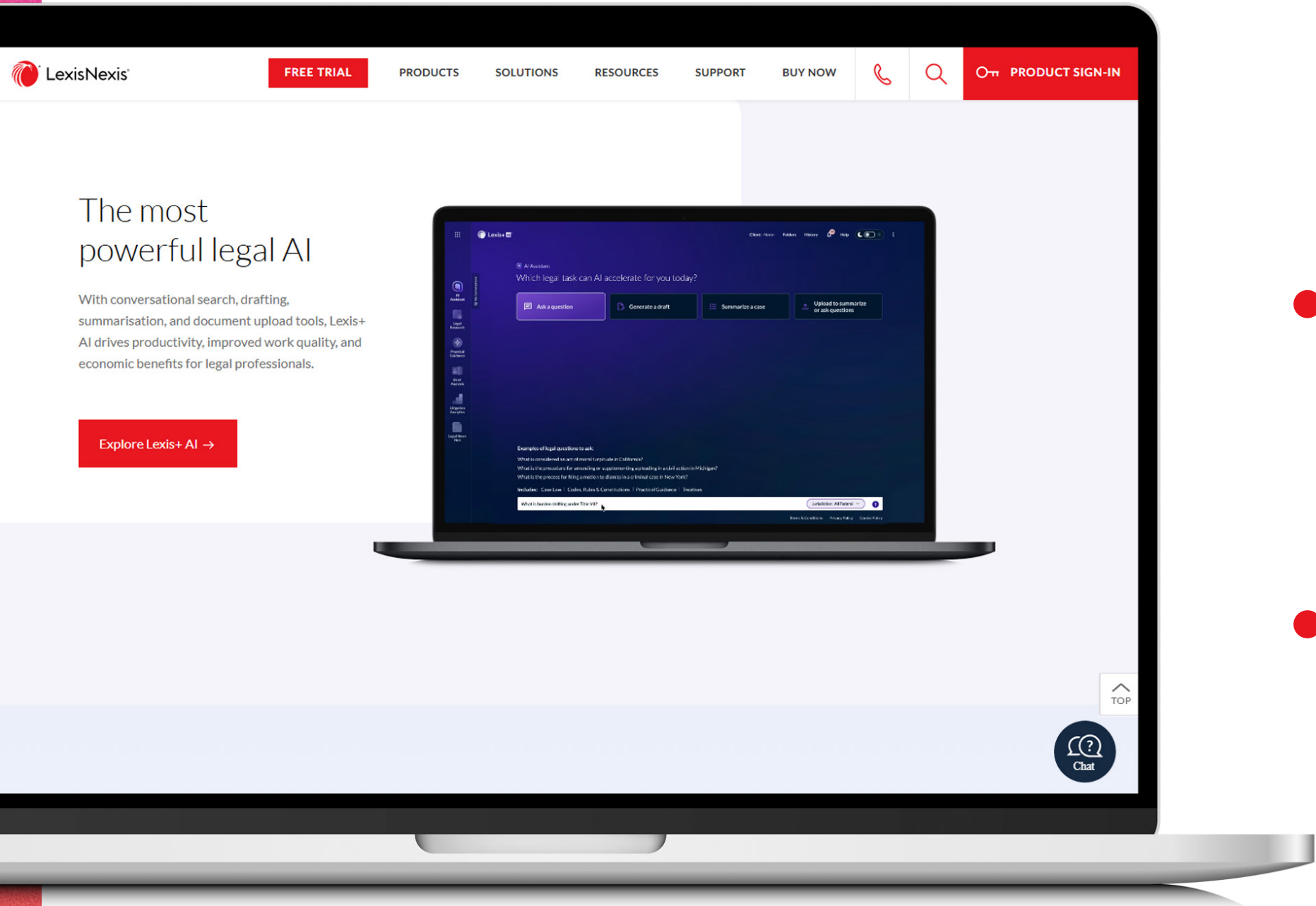




“In one place, in-house lawyers can get fast answers to legal questions, draft clauses, and analyse and summarise their documents. The added advantage of linked legal citations at your fingertips means you can verify the responses and suggestions provided by the AI assistant. Using technology can enhance responsiveness and collaboration between members of the legal team as well as their business partners and external providers.”



To learn more about Lexis+ AI, [click here](#).



Some of the solutions that LexisNexis has built for Australian in-house lawyers to enhance and streamline their legal workflows, improve efficiencies and respond to stakeholders at lightning speed times are:

- Lexis+ is a platform that provides comprehensive legal research capabilities, including access to a vast database of case law, statutes, regulations, and authoritative sources, featuring advanced search features and AI-driven insights.
- Lexis+ AI is the fastest legal generative AI assistant, answers legal questions, securely summarises and analyses sensitive legal documents, such as contracts, and prepares a great first draft of a legal document with speed, ease, and precision. The AI assistant within the Lexis+ AI solution will continue to be personalised further with the release of LexisNexis Protégé™ in late 2025.
- LexisNexis Practical Guidance, available through Lexis+ and Lexis+AI, provides practically focused content and tools that in-house lawyers need to conduct their work, including guidance, practice tips, legislation, cases, precedents, tools, and checklists.
- Lexis Create+ will be launched soon and offers document automation features, allowing lawyers to create standardised documents using templates and predefined clauses, integrating with Microsoft Word. ●

ABOUT LEXISNEXIS

lexisnexis.com.au

LexisNexis is a leading global provider of legal content and technology and serves customers in more than 175 countries with 10,000 employees worldwide as part of RELX Group, a global provider of information and analytics.

With over 10 years of experience in AI, LexisNexis provides legal firms with the tools to be more efficient and effective. With solutions to increase productivity and reduce risk, enhance reputation, build trust, and provide better outcomes, LexisNexis helps legal professionals act with insight, make more informed decisions, increase productivity, and serve their clients better.

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