LawyersWeekly

# Legal Tech Guide 2025

Legal technology gives legal professionals tools to navigate complex challenges easily and efficiently and is driving a revolution in the profession. This guide explores cutting-edge solutions, helping you stay competitive in 2025 and beyond.

AI / Chronology / Consultancy / Document management / e-Discovery / Practice management / Timekeeping

# LEGAL TECH GUIDE 2025

**IN RECENT** years, the legal profession has undergone a rapid digital transformation, with 2024 marking another pivotal year for technological innovation.

As advancements around AI, automation, practice and document management, and legal software continue to evolve, practitioners must remain agile and informed to navigate the dynamic intersection of legal practice and cutting-edge technology.

The transformative impact of emerging technologies is reshaping the legal landscape, compelling firms and departments to rethink traditional workflows. From enhancing productivity and mitigating risks to uncovering new revenue streams, technology is not just an accessory but a necessity in modern legal practice. Staying ahead in 2025 requires adopting tools that empower professionals to meet client demands, improve accuracy, and operate with heightened efficiency.

Lawyers Weekly's *Legal Tech Guide 2025* is designed to equip legal businesses with the insights and strategies needed to thrive in this ever-evolving environment.

This guide provides key insights across seven areas of legal technology:

- **Artificial intelligence**
- **Chronology**
- **Consultancy**
- **Document management**
- **e-Discovery**
- **Practice management**
- **Timekeeping**

On behalf of Lawyers Weekly and our partners, we hope this guide acts as a useful and instructional tool in helping you leverage digital tools to address the profession's increasing complexities and harness legal tech to future-proof your practice in the digital age.

**Lauren Croft**
Commercial Content Writer
Lawyers Weekly

# CONTENTS

03
**Artificial intelligence**
AI-enabled legal teams will, moving into 2025, be empowered to utilise increased AI tools in their daily workflows and deliver innovative legal services in an increasingly competitive landscape.

07
**Chronology**
While a crucial task in the profession, creating chronologies often means countless hours spent sifting through vast amounts of documents to organise case facts into a coherent timeline.

11
**Consultancy**
Over the last 12 months, the legal profession has experienced groundbreaking technological developments and innovative advancements, transforming how practitioners work.

15
**Document management**
Advanced document management systems and automation technologies are transforming how firms and legal departments operate in an increasingly digital world.

19
**e-Discovery**
As the legal profession increasingly embraces innovative solutions, e-discovery technology has become essential for managing large volumes of digital data and quickly uncovering critical information.

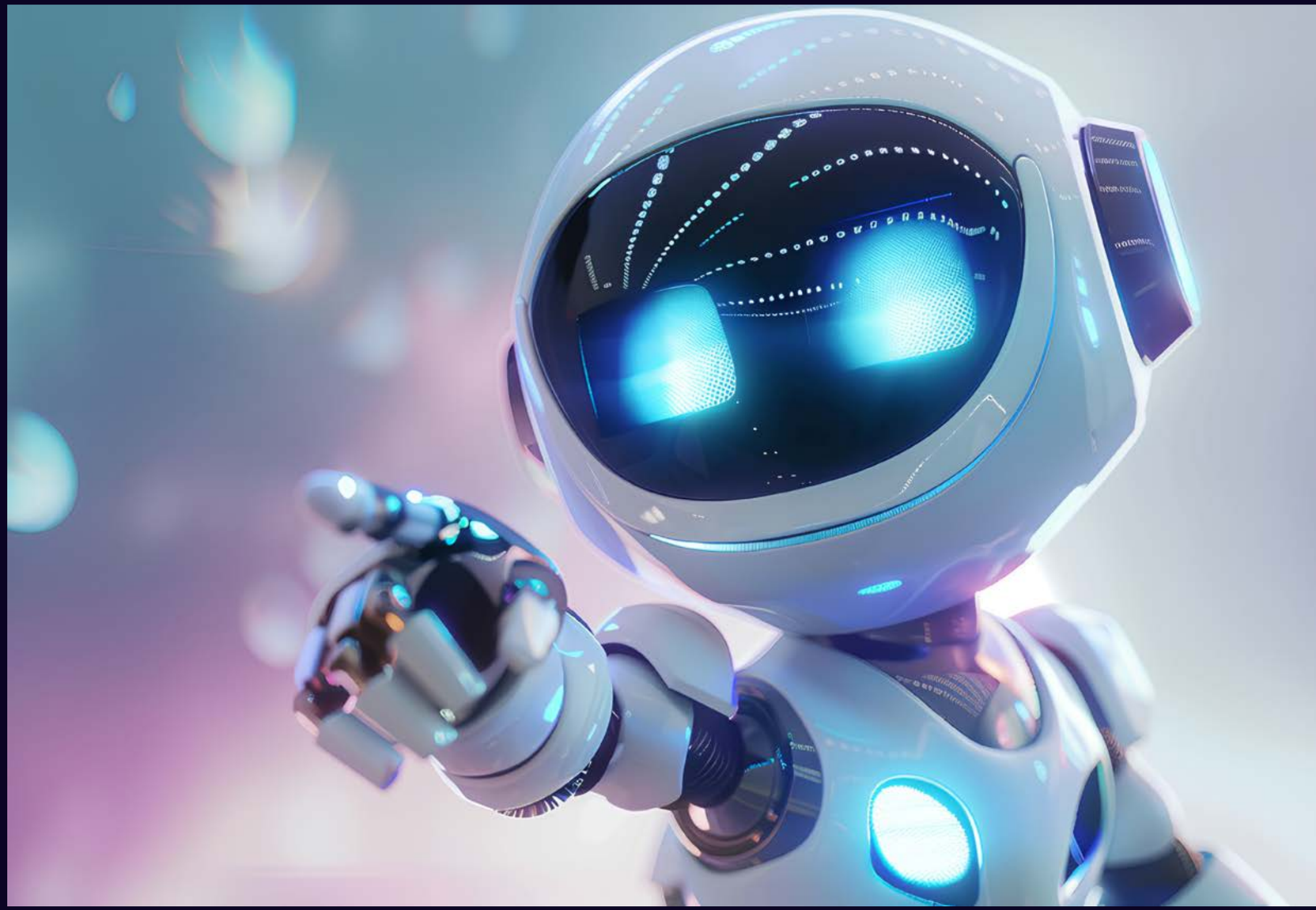
23
**Practice management**
In today's digital age, practice management software is changing how law firms and legal departments are run – making legal workflows more efficient and helping firms stay ahead of the competition in 2025.

27
**Timekeeping**
For lawyers working in a digital age, implementing a digital tool to automate time tracking and capture related data should be a no-brainer.

LexisNexis

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI-enabled legal teams will, moving into 2025, be empowered to utilise increased AI tools in their daily workflows and deliver innovative legal services in an increasingly competitive landscape. As AI and generative AI (GenAI) evolve beyond their initial novelty, the legal profession is discovering transformative ways to reshape workflows and enhance efficiency in legal practice.



LexisNexis

**EARLIER THIS** year, legal technology provider LexisNexis officially launched Lexis+ AI™ in the Australian market. The technology enables legal professionals to conduct legal research through conversational search and allows users to summarise cases, draft, and conduct document analysis.

LexisNexis general manager of content in Australia Lindsay O'Connor says that as GenAI and AI are now "no longer new concepts", the legal sector is just starting to see how this tech can transform the profession.

"As GenAI evolves, we see different use cases coming to the fore – data room analysis for M&A, contract analysis, case management and developing litigation strategy, among others. With this growth of usage, there is a growing need to ensure that all your team are properly trained on AI and aware of the risks and how to mitigate them," she says.

"The rise of generative AI will free up lawyers' time to engage in more strategic and creative work. It is an ideal moment for firms to consider what sorts of strategic initiatives will allow them to create value over the long term."

This is especially true within the areas of document drafting and review, where some "impactful" use cases have arisen recently.

"In the area of contract analysis and review, AI systems can quickly and accurately identify key clauses, terms, and potential risks, significantly reducing the time and effort required for manual review. Where document drafting is concerned, automated document generation, powered by natural language processing, can help to ensure consistency and accuracy while saving valuable time and resources," O'Connor says.

"These technologies are redefining the way businesses operate and innovate by streamlining processes, reducing costs, and enabling more data-driven decision making, ultimately enhancing efficiency and competitiveness. However, it's important to note that all of these use cases must be completed with appropriate human supervision, the so-called 'human in the loop' to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the outputs of the tools."

Legal research and due diligence are two other areas of legal practice that AI has streamlined – and some Lexis+ AI customers are already saving 3.5 hours per day and boosting productivity by 200 per cent by utilising AI tools effectively. And especially as this tech becomes more commonly used in firms and legal departments, O'Connor explains that more tailored solutions are starting to grow in popularity.

"For legal-specific tools, we're going to see a move towards the development of AI-powered legal assistants that are capable of providing intelligent support for research, document review, and other tasks. We'll also see the move towards providing personalised outputs where the GenAI and AI tools are able to work across an organisation's own content sets, providing outputs that are based on previous work and tailored to the organisation's individual style," she says.

"Some of these forthcoming tools have already been announced, such as the upcoming development of LexisNexis Protégé™ that is the next generation of generative AI assistant in Lexis+ AI. Protégé will be tailored to each individual user and securely connected to the digital workflows in which they operate."

The use of knowledge graphs will also enhance the outputs of GenAI in the profession and make tools more applicable for firms.

LexisNexis

**THE RISE OF GENERATIVE AI WILL FREE UP LAWYERS' TIME TO ENGAGE IN MORE STRATEGIC AND CREATIVE WORK. IT IS AN IDEAL MOMENT FOR FIRMS TO CONSIDER WHAT SORTS OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WILL ALLOW THEM TO CREATE VALUE OVER THE LONG TERM.**

**Lindsay O'Connor**
General manager of content, LexisNexis

"This is a way of structuring the underlying data into an interconnected web that plots relationships between data and mirrors the complexity of the real world. The use of knowledge graphs in GenAI ensures that the tool can 'understand' the intent and context behind the original query or instruction and provide more relevant outputs for the user," O'Connor says.

"This is particularly helpful in areas such as law where there are many important connections in the underlying data, for example, between case law, legislation and the associated commentary."

## Key strategies for AI-enabled legal businesses

In 2025, to effectively integrate AI and GenAI while mitigating risks, legal organisations must adopt a strategic approach by conducting thorough risk assessments, implementing robust data governance and security measures, and ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

"If organisations are seeking to work on their own AI projects, they should prioritise deploying ethical AI development practices. Where organisations are using third-party AI tools, they need to establish clear guidelines for responsible use and invest in training and upskilling their workforce to work alongside these technologies. One way to do this is to draft an organisation-wide AI policy and ensure this is communicated to all employees," O'Connor says.

"It is also a good idea to establish an internal AI working group that can be tasked with gathering user cases for AI and experimenting with potential solutions. At LexisNexis, as part of the RELX group, we follow the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Principles, which enables us to minimise risk and ensure that development of our solutions is in line with our company values."

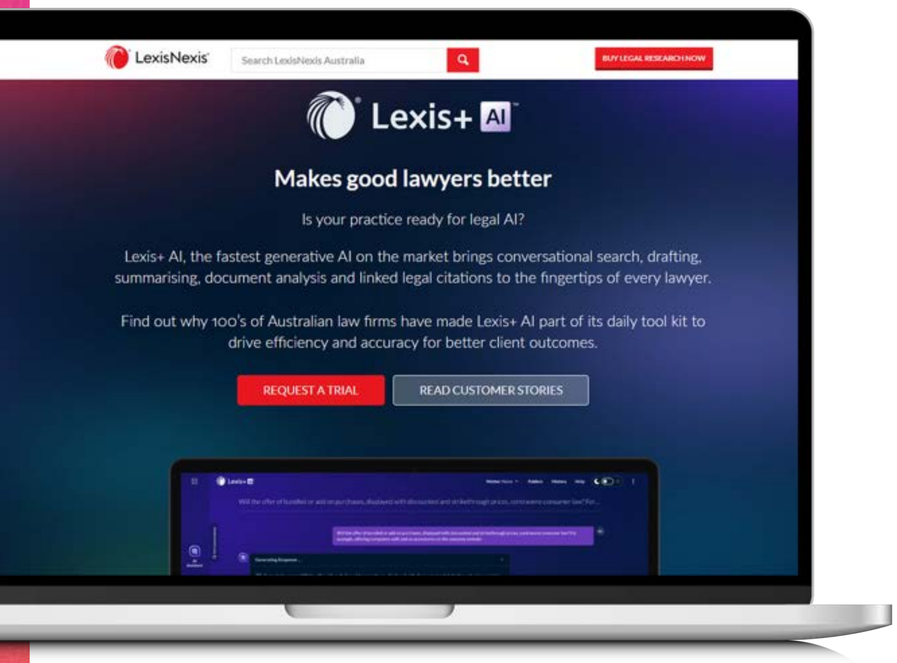
"Finally, organisations should establish a proper process for tracking the return on investment for any AI tools they deploy so they can ensure the tools are meeting the desired outcomes."

The responsible and ethical use of AI will also be a key strategic imperative, particularly as more lawyers start using AI tools – and as new regulations come into play.

"Some of the biggest impacts are likely to be in the areas of training and development. New lawyers

will be expected to have a good understanding of technologies such as AI and at least basic skills in this area. Those with more knowledge and experience are likely to stand out, so it's a good area for those studying law to upskill in," O'Connor says.

To learn more about Lexis+ AI, click here.




"In the next few years, we will see the introduction of new regulation, which will need to adapt quickly to this emerging area of technology and potentially lots of litigation as intellectual property law continues to evolve to take account of previous unforeseen situations."

As such, AI-enabled "legal organisations of the future" will be characterised by "seamless integration of AI and GenAI technologies across various processes and workflows", according to O'Connor.

"These organisations will prioritise continuous learning and upskilling of their workforce to foster collaboration between humans and AI systems, ensuring that legal professionals can effectively leverage these technologies to deliver more efficient, cost-effective, and innovative legal services," she says.

"Freeing up time in a legal professional's day will enable them to spend more time on other activities such as business development, fostering client relationships and thought leadership, as well as seeking to add more value to their clients beyond the task in hand. Towards the end of the decade, we're likely to see AI being fully integrated into all aspects of a lawyer's work."

## 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.**

Mary Technology

# CHRONOLOGY

While a crucial task in the profession, creating chronologies often means countless hours spent sifting through vast amounts of documents to organise case facts into a coherent timeline. With new AI and automation tech, however, extracting key facts from documents is made easier, quicker and more accurate – and is set to have a monumental impact on the legal profession moving forward.

Mary Technology

**CHRONOLOGIES ARE** fundamental documents for organising key facts, dates, and events in legal cases. This process, which would traditionally take lawyers or paralegals significant time to complete manually, is now being handled by AI-powered platforms in a matter of minutes.

As the legal profession rapidly adopts new technology, chronology automation software is gaining traction for its ability to analyse large volumes of case documents and organise key facts, events, and entities into a structured timeline within minutes.

Mary Technology co-founder Daniel Lord-Doyle explains that with the help of emerging tech, the chronology space is quickly evolving. "The space is developing rapidly and will challenge all law firms to review how effective their chronology process is and what they would do if their lawyers could generate an accurate, legal-grade chronology from thousands of documents in under 15 minutes for every matter," he says.

Mary Technology is a legal tech company focused on automating the creation of chronologies – which can be a time-consuming and labour-intensive process. While essential, manually creating chronologies can drain hours from practitioners' days, eating into productivity and leading to inefficiencies when facts are missed or disorganised.

"Mary Technology's platform fundamentally transforms case preparation by automating the organisation of critical facts into a clear and reliable timeline. Our AI-powered solution processes thousands of case documents, extracting key facts and contextualising them within their legal framework. In minutes, we create a legal-grade chronology that provides a solid foundation for building case strategy, without the traditional manual workload," Lord-Doyle says.

"With a user-friendly interface, lawyers can explore and verify the chronology of events intuitively, reducing uncertainty and increasing confidence in the case's factual basis. Our clients are seeing time savings of 75–90 per cent on chronology drafting, allowing them to focus more on strategic, high-value work and less on document review. By transforming this core process, Mary enables legal teams to work smarter and faster, driving greater efficiency across the entire life cycle of a matter."

Properly utilising this tech can not only reduce human error but also enhance the accuracy of legal documentation and case timelines, further driving efficiency for firms and legal departments.

"Chronology technology significantly reduces human error by using AI to process and organise large volumes of documents more accurately and in far greater detail than is possible with manual methods. Mary Technology ensures that every document is correctly identified, categorised, and analysed to extract the most relevant facts.

"The platform then organises this information into a coherent timeline, reducing the potential for oversight or misinterpretation that often occurs when managing complex cases manually," Lord-Doyle says.

"Our system also enables real-time verification by showing each extracted fact alongside its source document, as well as our software's rationale for why it has included a fact or key date, allowing lawyers to quickly confirm the accuracy and relevancy of key events.

Mary Technology

"This structured, context-aware approach not only enhances accuracy but also ensures that no critical detail is missed, helping lawyers create more precise and reliable case timelines."

## Looking ahead

Moving forward, the impact this tech will have on the legal profession is yet to be fully realised, with new developments still in the works and the role of legal professionals set to continue to shift moving into 2025.

"Chronology technology has already begun to transform how legal professionals organise and interpret case data, but its full impact is still on the horizon. By automating the creation of case timelines, law firms are moving towards chronology-first legal workflows, enabling them to begin advising clients in a fraction of the time than was previously possible.

"This shift is particularly critical for firms where organised, accurate chronologies are key to case success, and enables better outcomes across cases by providing faster, more accurate access to the key facts of each matter," Lord-Doyle says. "Looking forward, the future of chronology technology lies in moving away from traditional document-oriented workflows – like those provided by current DMSs and practice management systems – and towards information-first workflows.

"These new workflows focus on structuring and managing key facts and events rather than simply storing documents. By shifting the emphasis to the value of information, firms will be better equipped to handle complex legal matters with speed and precision."

Automated chronology tools will also become "essential for creating these information-first ecosystems", allowing legal teams to work more intelligently, efficiently, and strategically, according to Lord-Doyle, who adds that the profession is currently undergoing a "fundamental shift towards becoming more data-driven".

"Firms that embrace this transformation will be positioned for long-term success. Historically, law has been rooted in manual processes and traditional methods of organising information, but with the rise of AI-first solutions, legal professionals are now equipped to harness the power of data and automation in ways that weren't possible before.

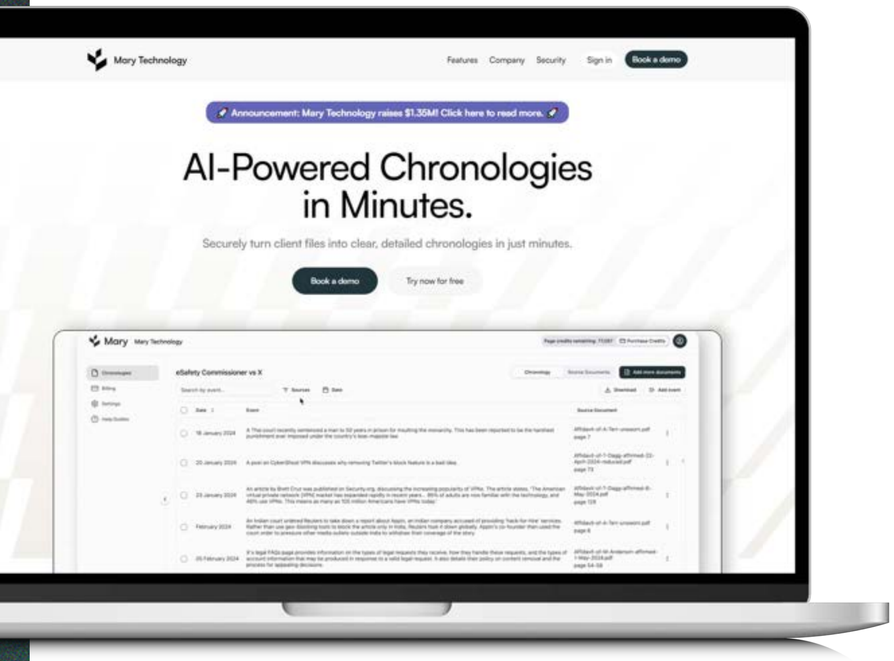
**"BY LEVERAGING AI-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS, FIRMS ARE ABLE TO ACCESS REAL-TIME INSIGHTS, MAKE MORE INFORMED DECISIONS, AND OFFER A HIGHER LEVEL OF SERVICE ROOTED IN THE STRATEGIC USE OF DATA.**

**Daniel Lord-Doyle**
Co-founder, Mary Technology

Mary Technology

"By leveraging AI-driven solutions, firms are able to access real-time insights, make more informed decisions, and offer a higher level of service rooted in the strategic use of the full range of information from client documents," he says. "Mary Technology is at the forefront of this evolution, helping law firms transform their workflows by enabling real-time extraction, organisation, and interpretation of vast amounts of legal information. This shift isn't just about increasing efficiency – it's about unlocking the full value of case data. Firms that adopt AI-driven platforms like ours can make more informed decisions, predict case outcomes with greater accuracy, and optimise how they manage cases from start to finish."

To learn more about AI-powered chronologies, click here.




As such, the future of law is "data-centric", with chronology tech helping firms transition into this new era.

"Law firms that have embraced data as a central asset can offer more insight-driven legal services, catering to clients' increasing demands for cost transparency and outcomes-based billing. This will also give firms a competitive advantage in talent acquisition, as younger legal professionals are drawn to tech-enabled firms that allow them to focus on high-impact, substantive work rather than repetitive manual tasks," Lord-Doyle says.

"Those who adopt these tools now will not only enhance their current operations but also future-proof their firms for the demands of a rapidly evolving legal landscape." ●

## ABOUT MARY TECHNOLOGY

marytechnology.com

**Mary Technology is an innovative legal tech company that allows legal professionals to turn files into clear, detailed chronologies in minutes, reducing the time spent on document review and giving them more bandwidth to focus on legal strategy and client relationships. Its AI-powered platform indexes, extracts, and organises crucial case information directly from client documents, transforming what would traditionally be a manual, time-intensive process into a streamlined, automated one.**

**Mary Technology is future-proofing the legal industry by driving the transition to AI-driven workflows, ensuring that law firms are equipped to handle the demands of modern legal practice with greater efficiency and insight.**

SIERA DATA

# CONSULTANCY

With the rise of sophisticated cyber threats and the continued integration of AI-driven tools, tech consultants can provide essential guidance to legal businesses, helping them manage risks, streamline processes, and harness innovative solutions to serve clients more effectively. Over the last 12 months, the legal profession has experienced groundbreaking technological developments and innovative advancements, transforming how practitioners work.

SIERA DATA

**IN 2025**, according to Siera Data founders and directors Samantha Bowie and David Bowie, practitioners can enhance their practices, better serve clients, and help shape the future of the legal field by "thoughtfully and ethically embracing" legal technology.

Enter Siera Data, a tech consultant and data management firm that helps legal businesses mitigate challenges around data and risks and guides them towards customised solutions.

Within tech consultancy, the pair says, cyber security, artificial intelligence, and user-friendly technology are "impossible to overlook".

"Cyber security has become a critical focus due to the rise of sophisticated cyber attacks, such as ransomware and phishing. Organisations face unprecedented vulnerabilities, and high-profile breaches have heightened awareness of the need for robust security measures. As reliance on digital technologies and remote work increases, implementing stronger protocols to safeguard sensitive data is essential," Samantha says.

"AI has long been part of our lives, but its seamless integration into everyday use represents one of the most transformative shifts we've seen. This evolution has led to the development of user-friendly tools and platforms that enhance our daily routines with remarkable ease. In the legal profession, AI offers significant advantages, including increased speed, cost efficiency, and enhanced analytical capabilities."

David adds: "Ultimately, these advancements empower our clients to take greater ownership of their data responsibilities. By demystifying complex terminology, addressing limitations, exploring workarounds, and identifying areas for improvement, we help clients navigate and understand technology. Our goal in tech consultancy is to guide clients towards tailored solutions that meet their unique needs, enabling us to provide meaningful consultations and support."

These advancements' impact on legal professionals is now driven by automation, generative AI (GenAI), and post-cyber breach analysis.

"As the protection of sensitive client data becomes ever more critical, strengthening cyber security protocols is essential. Siera Data partners with NSB Cyber to help clients navigate evolving regulations, mitigate risks, and avoid potential liabilities. Building cyber resilience hinges on the ability to continuously quantify and manage cyber risks," the pair says.

"This requires establishing a clear cyber security strategy, along with conducting regular risk reviews and assessments to ensure ongoing effectiveness and compliance."

Increased advancements also reflect a broader trend of legal workplaces integrating innovative technologies into everyday practices, enhancing efficiency, security, and sustainability, and streamlining administrative tasks – something that has skyrocketed since the onset of ChatGPT and other AI tech in 2022.

"Siera Data has partnered with pioneering firm Merlin Search Technologies to offer a GenAI platform that revolutionises how we discover, analyse, and report information from vast amounts of unstructured data. By the time this article is published, our pilot project with a leading Australian class action law firm will be well underway," David says.

SIERA DATA

**AS THE PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE CLIENT DATA BECOMES EVER MORE CRITICAL, STRENGTHENING CYBER SECURITY PROTOCOLS IS ESSENTIAL. SIERA DATA PARTNERS WITH NSB CYBER TO HELP CLIENTS NAVIGATE EVOLVING REGULATIONS, MITIGATE RISKS, AND AVOID POTENTIAL LIABILITIES.**

**Samantha Bowie and David Bowie**
Founders and directors, Siera Data

"The underlying technology is complex; however, the insights into its functionalities and uses are easy to see. The ability to rapidly review, analyse, and report on key findings is a game changer. The real magic, however, is that users are directed to the specific sections of the original documents that generated the answers, simplifying fact-checking and enhancing accuracy."

## Adding value in an era of technological change

As cyber crime becomes more prominent in the profession – and in Australia – leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance post-cyber breach analysis and meet reporting obligations is becoming more important than ever.

"Our approach ensures that reports are not only accurate but also comprehensive, addressing both personally identifiable information (PII) and sensitive information (SI) – whether corporate or personal – that may have been compromised. The key differentiators in our service are our rapid response times, precision in reporting, and the ability to minimise false positives, all while providing a cost-effective structure for our clients," Samantha says.

David adds: "The review and response process for post-breach analysis differs significantly from standard litigation. We collaborate with top software companies to develop solutions that improve efficiency and reduce costs during this critical assessment phase. We are creating AI models tailored to Australian document standards, which will enhance our existing machine-learning and human-assisted review strategies.

"Importantly, we aim to make these AI models portable, allowing organisations that have experienced a breach to leverage insights from the assessment phase to identify other areas of sensitive information as part of their remediation strategy."

Consultants must also stay ahead of emerging tools and trends, particularly given the rapid evolution of technology. In light of that evolution, law firms and legal departments can – and should – take proactive steps to future-proof their practices, keep costs down, and stay ahead of industry trends.

According to Siera Data, the first essential step is to partner with experts.

SIERA DATA

"Siera Data collaborates with clients to provide specialised insights on emerging trends and best practices tailored to their specific industries. This process includes regularly reviewing industry publications, attending conferences, and engaging in discussions with vendors to stay informed about technological advancements and market shifts. One of our key advantages when launching the firm was being able to freely explore and evaluate a wide range of new technologies, which led us to discover innovative GenAI and data privacy solutions," Samantha says.

"To keep pace with industry trends, firms must also conduct a thorough assessment of their existing technologies and capabilities. Choosing technologies that can grow with the firm, such as cloud-based systems, allows for flexibility and scalability. By evaluating current workflows, expenditures, contract terms, and technology life cycles, firms can identify gaps and opportunities for improvement."

Further, appointing an internal staff member to "champion" a culture of innovation and encourage experimentation with new tech is vital in the current market, as well as prioritising data protection and regulatory compliance while doing so. Looking ahead, Siera Data predicts increased advancements within GenAI, incorporating enhanced context awareness, improved decision-making capabilities, and greater adaptability across various industries, including the legal profession.

"Remote working capabilities will likely be further improved as collaboration tools become increasingly immersive. Perhaps we will see an incorporation of VR and AR to create virtual workspaces that closely mimic physical interactions and boost team engagement.

"As cyber threats continue to evolve, we expect to see the rise of more sophisticated, AI-driven vulnerabilities. Cyber criminals will increasingly leverage machine learning expertise to enhance their tactics and execute digital crimes more effectively. Finally, the trend towards sustainability will persist, with advancements in renewable energy technologies, carbon capture solutions, and circular economy practices becoming more mainstream," Samantha and David say.

"In summary, the innovations of 2024 set the stage for a transformative 2025, driven by a commitment to efficiency, security, and sustainability. It is an exciting time to be alive."

## ABOUT SIERA DATA

sieradata.com

Siera Data is a boutique data management firm specialising in electronic discovery services, investigations, and data analysis, helping clients solve their most challenging data, risk, and compliance problems. The team has collectively worked at and supported Australia's largest corporate regulator, some of Australia's largest law firms, and global advisory companies, with experience working on US, EU, and APAC engagements, as well as domestic Australian matters.

Siera Data has over 20 years of industry experience and firmly believes in investigation and adoption of only the best technology tools, coupled with a lean team of experts to wield them. Siera Data is well placed as a technology partner and consultant to clients and uses its ability to execute clients' solutions faster, more efficiently, and more effectively than its competitors.

netdocuments®

# DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Advanced document management systems and automation technologies are transforming how firms and legal departments operate in an increasingly digital world. These tools allow legal teams to streamline processes, increase accuracy, and deliver better outcomes for their firms and clients, driving more effective legal practices in a rapidly changing profession.

netdocuments®

**HEADING INTO** 2025, a document management system (DMS) is crucial for efficiently storing, organising, and retrieving documents – and its role has evolved significantly with the rise of advanced technology.

NetDocuments is an intelligent DMS platform with AI and automation seamlessly built in for a more comprehensive experience and solution for document and email management. According to NetDocuments product expert Michael Hill, a good DMS is absolutely vital in the current market, with new developments constantly on the horizon.

"Today's DMS solutions go far beyond basic features such as document and workflow automation, task and email management, version control, and collaboration tools. At one point, these features were groundbreaking – but today, they're table stakes. Innovation in this field, driven by advancements in generative AI and sophisticated cloud storage, has redefined what a modern DMS should look like," he says.

"Choosing a proven vendor is essential for maximising these capabilities. And now, with the ability to leverage AI within the guardrails of a trusted DMS, legal teams around the world are saving time, reducing errors, and delivering better services by tapping into the knowledge and expertise that already exists within their documents and emails.

"By selecting a vendor with a track record of innovation and dependability, legal firms can ensure they are investing in a DMS that will remain a critical asset in their operations, supporting their growth and adapting to future advancements."

Despite this, there are still key challenges within this space, mainly centred on cyber security and compliance. To combat this, Hill says NetDocuments provides advanced security measures that outpace on-premises and non-specialised storage options.

"As clients become more discerning about document storage, they will demand the capabilities of a top-tier DMS like NetDocuments. In addition to security, integration with existing systems, user adoption, and cost are key factors firms must consider. NetDocuments integrates seamlessly with platforms such as email and legal software, ensuring a smooth transition without disrupting workflows," Hill says.

**"THE REAL GAME CHANGER COMES FROM IMPROVING COLLABORATION TOOLS – MAKING IT EASIER FOR TEAMS TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE SAME DOCUMENTS, FROM ANYWHERE. ON TOP OF THAT, AI IS OPENING DOORS TO NEW WAYS OF AUTOMATING THOSE DULL, REPETITIVE TASKS THAT EAT UP VALUABLE TIME."**

**Michael Hill**
Director of product marketing, NetDocuments

netdocuments®

"User adoption is critical, as even the most sophisticated systems can fail if employees resist them, but NetDocuments' intuitive tools foster quick and efficient onboarding. Cost is another concern, but while cloud-based solutions might seem expensive, they offer long-term savings through enhanced security, reduced IT maintenance, and scalability."

## The future of DMS

NetDocuments can also integrate AI capabilities directly into its platform, eliminating the need to transfer data to external systems and further allowing firms to remain at the forefront of innovation without compromising compliance or security.

AI, along with other key developments, adds Hill, will make accessing data through DMSs "more sophisticated" moving through the next decade.

"These systems will evolve beyond mere storage to connect data meaningfully with AI technologies, enhancing document creation and data analysis. Semantic search will revolutionise how legal professionals interact with their documents. Users will be able to perform context-aware searches and use natural language queries, making the retrieval process more intuitive and efficient," he says.

"As large language models (LLMs) become integral to daily operations, DMS will advance to support these technologies by automating complex tasks while ensuring compliance and security. This will free up valuable time for legal professionals to focus on strategic activities. AI-enabled agents, similar to Microsoft Copilot, will be embedded within DMS, allowing users to perform tasks through simple natural language commands."

As the profession approaches these advancements, robust capabilities will likely be delivered over the next five years, which will redefine how legal work is managed and executed, making DMS an "indispensable tool in the legal industry", according to Hill.

"There's a huge potential to transform how people engage with the knowledge in their DMS and to streamline repetitive tasks by tapping into document data. The real game changer comes from improving collaboration tools – making it easier for teams to work together on the same documents, from anywhere. On top of that, AI is opening doors to new ways of automating those dull, repetitive tasks that eat up valuable time. It's not just about working faster – it's about working smarter," he says.

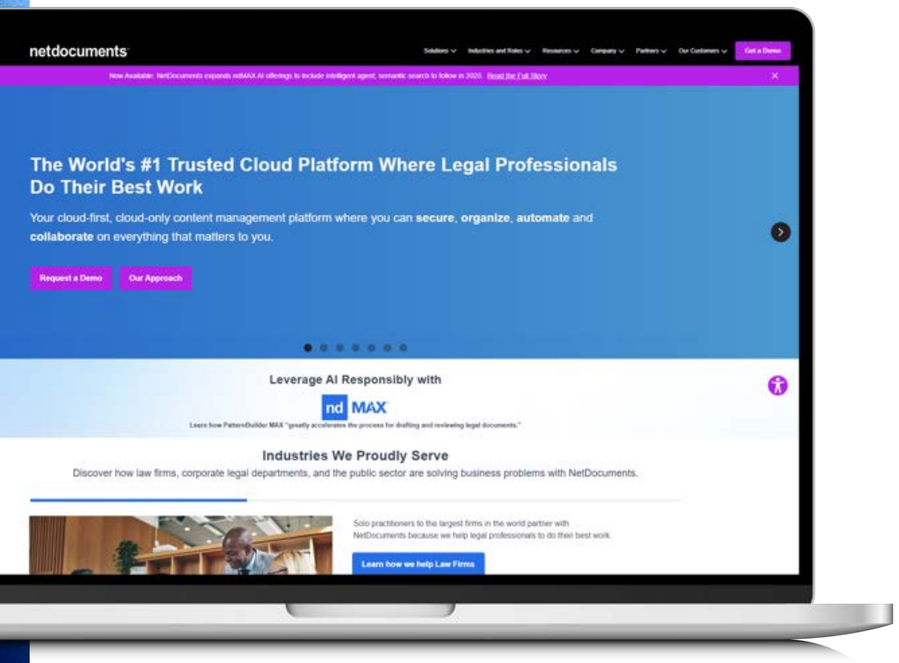
"As users find more ways to take advantage of these tools, the need for enhanced security and compliance features grows, ensuring that while the tech evolves, the protection around sensitive data does too. By integrating AI and automation directly into a secure, cloud-based DMS, organisations can boost productivity, cut down on manual work, and stay compliant – all while tapping into the future of work."

As new DMS platforms and tools emerge, it's vital that practitioners understand both the advantages and drawbacks of this tech, with training critical to gain a "significant edge" on the competition.

Moreover, those who fail to explore AI and automation opportunities will "risk falling behind", as firms that ignore tech developments and legal-specific automation solutions may "struggle to keep up in an increasingly automated and data-driven landscape", Hill says.

netdocuments®

To learn more about NetDocuments, click here.




"Being asked to move content outside the DMS should be a red flag. There has been a surge in generative AI interest, with new vendors popping up with AI tools that solve a single common legal task. Meanwhile, the NetDocuments DMS has an intelligent AI assistant as well as customisable apps that eliminate the need for one-off point solutions. And those solutions certainly won't have the connections to their other important software platforms that incumbents like NetDocuments have with over 150 integrations," he adds.

"As we head into 2025, the legal industry is at a pivotal moment where the effective use of data will be key to future success. Making the right software decisions now is critical for setting your firm up to thrive in this evolving landscape.

"By investing in the right DMS, firms can empower their teams to work more collaboratively, securely, and productively. It's an exciting time to consider mission-critical software that not only enhances efficiency but also positions your firm to leverage data in ways that drive better outcomes for clients and elevate your practice to the next level."

## ABOUT NETDOCUMENTS

netdocuments.com

**NetDocuments is the trusted intelligent document management platform that 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.**

Relativity®

# E-DISCOVERY

As the legal profession increasingly embraces innovative solutions, e-discovery technology has become essential for managing large volumes of digital data and quickly uncovering critical information. With advancements like AI, machine learning, and cloud-based platforms, e-discovery technology has continued to evolve since its inception, becoming vital for litigation or investigations.

Relativity®

**WHILE THE** e-discovery space is a relatively young industry, e-discovery tech has made significant strides over the past two decades. And now, the space is entering a new era: generative AI.

"We are experiencing a total transformation of the document review process, led by generative AI," says Cristin Traylor, senior director of AI transformation and law firm strategy at global legal technology company Relativity.

"The field has accelerated exponentially in the last 18 months."

Aron Ahmadia, Relativity's senior director of applied science, adds that "in a short period, we have progressed from the theoretical to the practical in using generative AI to review documents with great accuracy and precision".

Relativity creates AI-powered tools to conduct document and contract reviews, quickly respond to data breaches, pinpoint privileged information, reduce disclosure risks, translate documents, and more. In 2024, Relativity announced an integration with OpenAI's ChatGPT Enterprise Compliance API, which allows ChatGPT Enterprise customers to seamlessly collect and process human-to-AI conversational data using Collect in RelativityOne. But perhaps the most exciting innovation is the company's latest offering – Relativity aiR, a fit-for-purpose generative AI solution designed to revolutionise document review, privilege review, and case strategy.

## Generative AI: The great equaliser

Generative AI empowers legal teams to rapidly classify large volumes of data based on relevance, identify connections to specific issues, and pinpoint key documents – all at lightning speed and with great accuracy and precision. The downstream impact of this technology has empowered legal teams to develop stronger case strategies and deliver better outcomes for their clients.

As data volumes continue to increase, adopting these AI solutions, along with cloud-based software, can drive increased collaboration in legal teams, allowing practitioners to more efficiently handle complex cases and provide better services to clients – without adding staff.

**WE ARE EXPERIENCING A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE DOCUMENT REVIEW PROCESS, LED BY GENERATIVE AI. THE FIELD HAS ACCELERATED EXPONENTIALLY IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS.**

**Cristin Traylor**
Senior director of AI transformation and law firm strategy, Relativity

Relativity®

"Legal departments are constantly asked to do more with less, yet the increase in data results in higher expenses," Traylor says.

"This is where e-discovery technology that leverages generative AI can become the great equaliser. You don't need to hire more people to handle the growing data; instead, you can work smarter by using generative AI to accomplish more in a shorter amount of time."

## Preparing for the future of e-discovery with AI

To efficiently search large volumes of data and seek out relevant documents and other sources of truth, practitioners need to integrate e-discovery technology effectively into their practices and stay on top of new developments.

Establishing workflows for data intake, tagging, and analysis can save significant time and reduce manual work, but equally important is investing in new tools and technology.

"Firms and organisations must stay on top of this ever-changing field to achieve better outcomes for their companies or end clients," Traylor says.

"This often involves finding ways to organise and analyse the data – think of e-discovery technology coming to the rescue. It's also important to consider new data types, which are emerging constantly and any of which could become potential evidence in litigation or investigations.

"It's crucial to have a robust technological process in place to manage and sift through all this data, especially since the most interesting communications are no longer confined to emails.

"In the digital age, data can proliferate and persist for a long time – those who understand the technology will be better equipped to handle these challenges."

Looking to 2025, lawyers and legal workplaces will likely become increasingly engaged with e-discovery technology – particularly as it starts to align more with their way of thinking through the integration of generative AI capabilities.

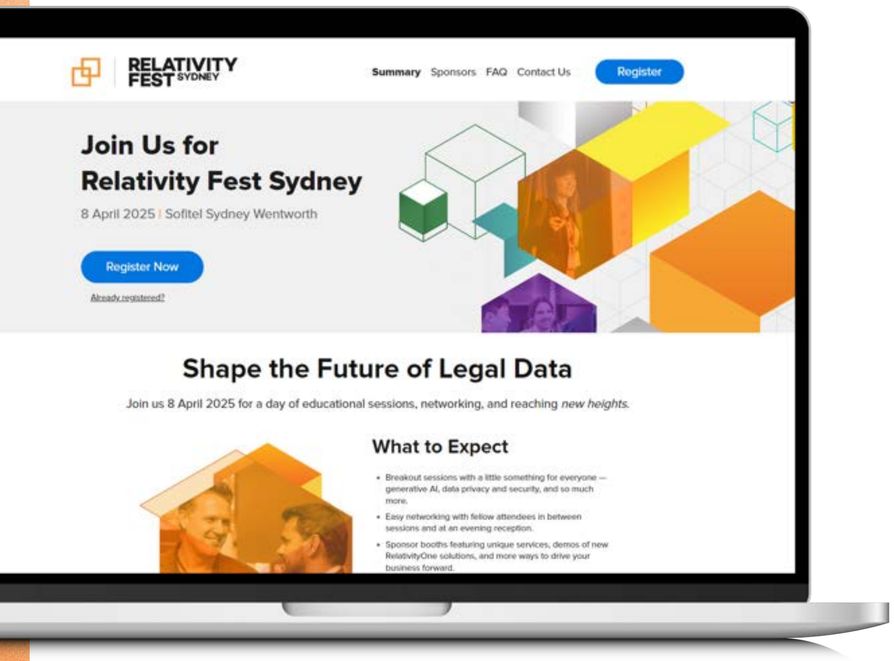
"Companies are beginning to insist that their outside counsel leverage generative AI to their

**AS AI CONTINUES TO RESHAPE THE FUTURE OF E-DISCOVERY, FIRMS THAT DON'T EMBRACE THESE ADVANCEMENTS RISK FALLING BEHIND. LEGAL PROFESSIONALS WHO LEVERAGE GENERATIVE AI TO STREAMLINE PROCESSES AND REDUCE COSTS WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO NAVIGATE THE FUTURE.**

**Aron Ahmadia**
Senior director of applied science, Relativity

Relativity®

To learn more about how Relativity can help you, click here.




advantage, especially for cost savings and efficiency. Lawyers will not be able to ignore this revolution; otherwise, their clients may turn to other firms that are utilising this technology to their benefit," Ahmadia says.

"As AI continues to reshape the future of e-discovery, firms that don't embrace these advancements risk falling behind. Legal professionals who leverage generative AI to streamline processes and reduce costs will be better equipped to navigate the future."

RELATIVITY FEST SYDNEY

*To see how these innovations are shaping the industry, join Relativity on 8 April for the first-ever Relativity Fest Sydney! Connect with e-discovery and tech professionals from APAC for a full day of insights, networking, and innovation.*

*Discover how Relativity aiR is transforming investigations, explore generative AI best practices, and tackle legal data challenges with industry leaders.*

*Learn more and register for free here.*

## ABOUT RELATIVITY

relativity.com

**Relativity makes software to help users organise data, discover the truth, and act on it. Its SaaS product, RelativityOne, manages large volumes of data and quickly identifies key issues during litigation and internal investigations.**

**Relativity has more than 300,000 users in approximately 40 countries, serving thousands of organisations globally, primarily in legal, financial services, and government sectors.**

About section written by Phoebe Cracknell

LEAP

# PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

In today's digital age, practice management software is changing how law firms and legal departments are run – making legal workflows more efficient and helping firms stay ahead of the competition in 2025.

# LEAP

**LEAP IS** a practice productivity solution that combines matter management, accounting, document automation, publishing, and AI into one cohesive platform. This includes revolutionary AI-powered features that streamline routine tasks and increase billable hours.

Practice management software, says LEAP CEO and founder Christian Beck, "helps legal professionals manage their daily operations more efficiently" and is crucial for modern law firms and legal departments.

"LEAP features proprietary AI technology designed specifically to support daily legal practice, boosting productivity for legal professionals. Its AI-powered features, included in every subscription, automate routine tasks to simplify daily operations and increase billable hours, enhancing overall efficiency and profitability," he says.

"From accelerating research to better understanding your matter and automating document generation, LEAP's AI handles these tasks so you can focus on applying your expertise to complex and strategic legal work."

Significant advancements in practice management tech have also saved law firms more than 15 hours per week and earn 19 per cent more revenue.

"Lawyers can now complete tasks that were once time-consuming in a fraction of the time, such as legal research, document drafting, and matter analysis. By automating these processes, AI enables lawyers to allocate their time to focus on higher-value tasks that require their expertise, and they also have time to serve more clients," Beck says.

"Ultimately, AI is reshaping the legal landscape by empowering law firms to deliver high-quality service more efficiently, adapt to increasing workloads, and stay competitive in an evolving industry."

Some of LEAP's most notable technological advancements are:

- **LEAP Leads** – designed to connect lawyers with high-quality, relevant leads sourced from LawConnect.com, LEAP Leads provides an exclusive opportunity for firms to expand their client base by engaging directly with individuals who are actively seeking legal assistance in their areas of expertise.
- **Matter AI** – this tool allows users to search, understand, and analyse their matter information, create chronologies, compare multiple documents for inconsistencies, and summarise documents. Instantly search thousands of documents, spreadsheets, emails, attachments, images, scanned PDFs, and even handwritten notes to receive a detailed response complete with references in seconds.
- **Advanced AI Prompts** – the LEAP library of AI prompts uses Matter AI technology to create comprehensive legal documents, which includes matter data and the ability to chat with the document for customisation and relevancy.
- **LawY** – an AI legal assistant for research, to review case law and legislation, or to summarise information, complete with linked legal citations. It also provides users with a free verification process underpinned by experienced, Australia-based lawyers.
- **AutoTime** – LEAP's intelligent time recording automatically tracks every billable minute in the background to identify lost fees, find new

LEAP

**ULTIMATELY, AI IS RESHAPING THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE BY EMPOWERING LAW FIRMS TO DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE MORE EFFICIENTLY, ADAPT TO INCREASING WORKLOADS, AND STAY COMPETITIVE IN AN EVOLVING INDUSTRY.**

**Christian Beck**
CEO and founder, LEAP

revenue opportunities, enhance workflows, and optimise resource allocation.

- **Generator** – automate drafting of legal documents, forms, emails, or letters. By leveraging client and matter data stored in LEAP, Generator quickly produces a quality first draft, significantly speeding up the drafting process.

## The ongoing evolution of practice management technology

As the profession becomes increasingly more advanced, so does practice management software, with workflow automation and client collaboration tech making massive strides.

"Practice management tech now goes beyond basic task management to enable fully integrated workflow systems that streamline entire matter life cycles. By automating routine tasks such as document drafting, time tracking, billing, and matter management, modern platforms help reduce administrative overhead and allow legal teams to focus on higher-value work," Beck says.

"Such technology also enhances collaboration with clients through secure, cloud-based portals that provide real-time access to matter updates, documents, and communication tools. These client portals support transparency, allowing clients to stay informed on matter progress, review documents, and provide feedback directly within the platform. Additionally, integrated communication features, like messaging and document sharing, help ensure seamless, efficient collaboration between law firms and their clients."

There also remain challenges in the legal profession around efficiency and manual tasks – and according to LEAP, practice management software and automation tools can overcome a number of key challenges, including resistance to change, billable hours, and ethical considerations.

"Some legal professionals are hesitant to adopt AI, either due to concerns over its complexity or fears about it replacing human roles, which can slow adoption and reduce the hugely beneficial impact of AI tools. Providing thorough training and highlighting AI's role as a supportive tool rather than a replacement can ease this transition.

"There are also concerns that if artificial intelligence technologies speed up workflows by

LEAP

LEAP automating routine tasks and streamlining research, lawyers will have fewer billable hours. While practice management tech enables lawyers to complete tasks more quickly, this increased efficiency doesn't necessarily reduce their overall billing. Instead, it allows lawyers to help more clients and manage more matters," Beck says.

"The rapid advancement of AI in law requires lawyers to understand both its benefits and risks. AI can boost productivity but lacks guaranteed accuracy, especially for complex matters. We encourage lawyers to actively review AI outputs. Continuous learning is key to ensuring that users stay on top of technological advancement while maintaining ethical standards."

Therefore, looking towards 2025, Beck emphasises that practice management software, as well as AI-enabled tools within this tech, is "set to bring transformative changes to the legal profession by efficiently handling tasks that currently consume a substantial amount of lawyers' time".

AI will increasingly be a part of practice management software tools and solutions and assist with tasks such as:

- Drafting initial versions of legal documents.
- Creating court-compatible annexures with embedded links.
- Tracking and documenting time spent on matters with detailed descriptions.
- Sorting through correspondence, like emails, and alerting lawyers to important or urgent issues.
- Extracting and entering data from documents and emails into databases or forms.

"As AI reduces both the cost and time required for essential legal services, in 2025, more people will be able to access quality legal support. This is particularly significant in areas such as family law, where high litigation costs have made legal services inaccessible to much of the population," Beck says.

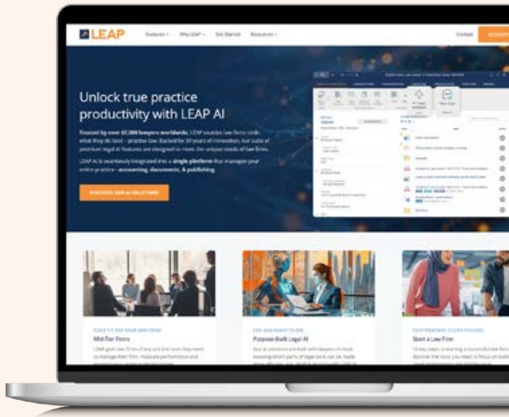
"Lawyers will be able to serve more clients efficiently, billing more overall while each client pays less. This shift has the potential to address the current imbalance in access to justice, making legal assistance more accessible."

## ABOUT LEAP

leap.com.au

**LEAP Legal Software is a practice productivity solution that combines accounting, document automation, matter management, publishing, and AI into one cohesive platform. It has been delivering intelligent legal software to revolutionise the way firms operate for over 30 years.**

**LEAP's AI-powered features are included in every subscription, streamlining routine tasks and increasing billable hours. LEAP AI is exclusive to LEAP clients, and all tools are purpose-built to meet the unique needs of lawyers.**

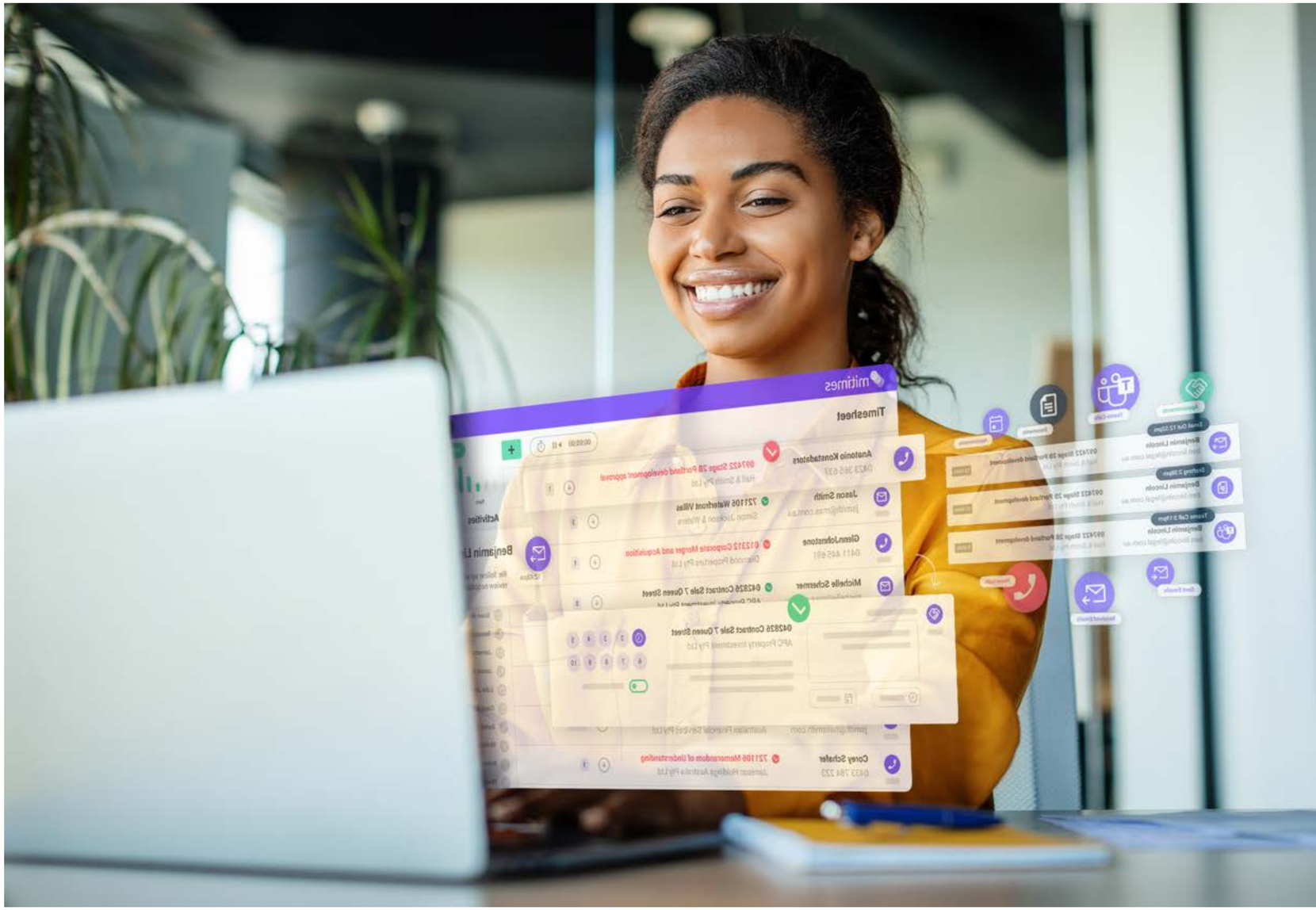



To learn more about LEAP's AI-powered features, click here.

mitimes
Hands-off timekeeping

# TIMEKEEPING

For lawyers working in a digital age, implementing a digital tool to automate time tracking and capture related data should be a no-brainer – and with timekeeping technology only getting more advanced, this technology is becoming a strategic imperative to remain competitive moving forward.



mitimes
Hands-off timekeeping

**IN 2025**, capturing data from meetings, audio or video calls, and emails, as well as tracking the drafting or reviewing of documents, is made simple with timekeeping technology and the increased automation of data entry.

This technology is also swiftly developing, according to Mitimes CEO Kirsten Rillo.

“The development of timekeeping software has been rapid, driven by advancements in automation, artificial intelligence and integration capabilities,” she says.

“Modern solutions offer features that help firms make informed decisions and remove the manual effort made by lawyers to capture this data and repurpose their time to higher-value work.”

Mitimes is a global software company that uses technology to track lawyers’ timesheets and solve the inaccurate and incomplete capture of data. The tool captures an array of data, including activity type, content time and duration, and provides accurate client data insights, improves billing compliance, reduces write-offs, and increases revenue for firms.

Once this data is confirmed and checked by the practitioner, the software also moves data into the firm’s practice management system (PMS) for processing.

“The adoption of modern timekeeping technology has significantly enhanced the accuracy and efficiency of legal billing as a basic use case. Automated data capture and timesheets time tracking reduces the likelihood of human error, ensures that billable hours are recorded precisely, and gives lawyers time to spend on higher-value work,” Rillo says.

“This increased accuracy leads to detailed records – and in the event of a cost dispute, will reduce revenue leakage, provide more transparent and detailed billing opportunities and, ultimately, benefit both legal professionals and their clients.”

Particularly as AI will continue to offer opportunities in the profession to automate repetitive work, Rillo says there is currently “an immediate opportunity” for lawyers and firms to “transform traditional manual work practices” and focus more on critical thinking, strategy, growth opportunities, and complex problem solving rather than menial tasks.

“The workflow of the manual timesheet is ready for automation, and technology can achieve that today with great results. The automation of this workflow will elevate the lawyer tasked with time recording to higher-value work instead. Technology removes the distraction of manual time recording and gives them a fact-based record of their workday to confirm,” Rillo says.

“A good timekeeping tool should deliver a seamless experience, an auto-built timesheet and activity record to approve and edit. This technology helps provide deeper insights to identify patterns, optimise resource allocation, and forecast future needs.

“Additionally, the rise of mobile platforms and cloud-based solutions will make timekeeping accessible and flexible, allowing legal professionals to access their time records from anywhere.”

mitimes
Hands-off timekeeping

**A GOOD TIMEKEEPING TOOL SHOULD DELIVER A SEAMLESS EXPERIENCE, AN AUTO-BUILT TIMESHEET AND ACTIVITY RECORD TO APPROVE AND EDIT. THIS TECHNOLOGY HELPS PROVIDE DEEPER INSIGHTS TO IDENTIFY PATTERNS, OPTIMISE RESOURCE ALLOCATION, AND FORECAST FUTURE NEEDS.**

**Kirsten Rillo**
CEO, Mitimes

## Automation and the future of time tracking in legal workplaces

Looking ahead, the automation of manual data entry plays a "crucial role" in the evolution of any legal business – and using time-tracking tech frees up valuable resources, provides insights to firms, and drives fact-based productivity, learning and development, and business development investment decisions.

"Investment in automation of the time recording workflow is currently overlooked by many firms – yet will provide tangible revenue and productivity benefits in many areas of a law firm. The most obvious benefit is that a lawyer is not asked to manually remember and record every email, call and document client interaction each day," Rillo says.

"Mitimes captures all the lawyers' activities and creates a suggested timesheet each day for them to add and edit. Research shows a high-performing legal professional asked to manually capture their work will undervalue their billable time by 115 billable recoverable hours per year, minimum. In addition, removing manual time recording will immediately reduce time spent on time recording and free, on average, 30 minutes per day to focus on higher-value work.

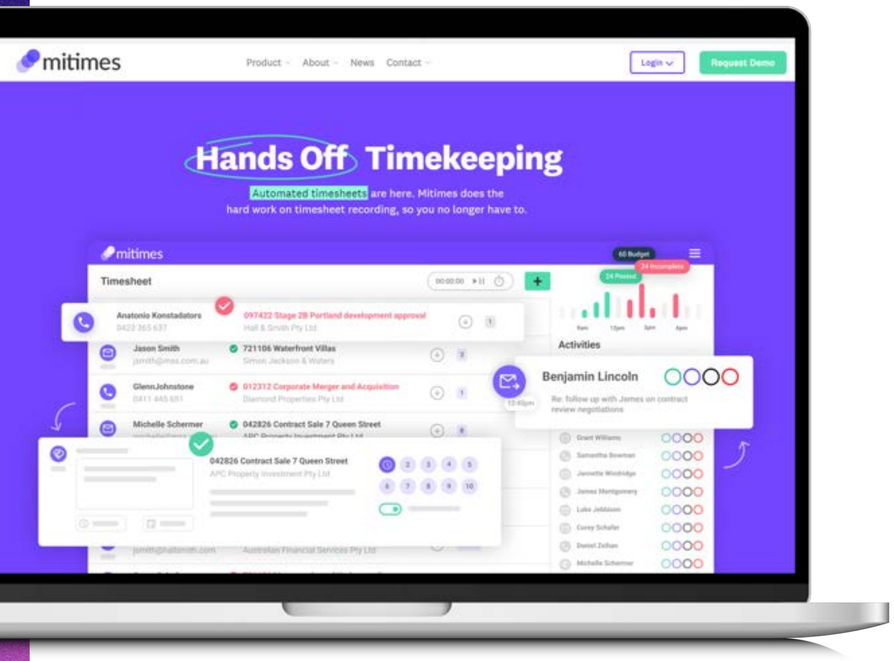
"Further, choosing a specialised time recording or data capture tool, which can integrate into the firm's ecosystem of technology, will increase the value that can be extracted from a PMS. The need for manual data entry into the PMS is reduced, with data made available in near real time and resources can focus on the analysis and insights instead."

With lawyers' timesheets showing growth, loss, and client behaviour, having a data capture tool in place to automatically track timesheets and move data to the PMS also means that firms can access "significant business insights", beyond billing.

Automation also reduces the risk of human error and revenue leakage, provides data insights for business development and growth opportunities, and guarantees an impartial data point for cost disputes and baseline value-based billing. These benefits will be key moving into 2025, according to Rillo.

mitimes
Hands-off timekeeping

To learn more about hands-off timekeeping, click here.




"As we look ahead to 2025, the role of automation in timekeeping and data capture technology is expected to be even more prominent. The ability to deliver a 90 per cent accurate, ready-to-process timesheet is a reality today. It is important for lawyers to include technology in their strategy to differentiate themselves and to be competitive and relevant.

"The leaders in any industry, including legal, will take advantage of technology as it will transform how law firms and legal departments work and deliver value and, ultimately, resulting in greater efficiency and productivity. Legal professionals should stay abreast of these evolving trends to ensure they leverage the full potential of automated workflows and the exciting opportunity to focus on their legal work," she says.

"With the continuous improvement of features and capabilities, which will transform how law firms manage their time and resources, think about data as a source of reference for broader business decisions – beyond billing clients and ultimately leading to greater efficiency, productivity, and insights for business development and growth strategy."

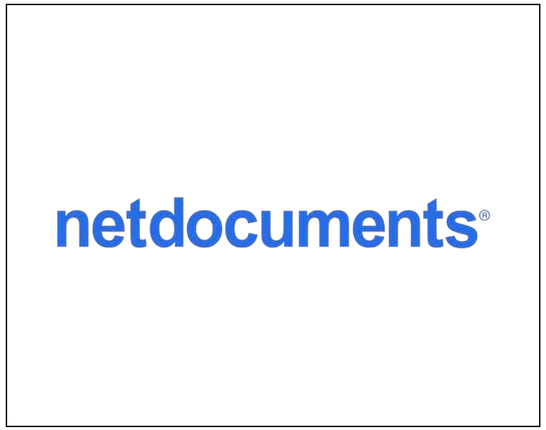
## ABOUT MITIMES

mitimes.com

Mitimes utilises advanced algorithms, machine learning, and AI to automate and enhance the accuracy of timekeeping. By converting tasks such as emails, calls, and meetings into a comprehensive timesheet, Mitimes liberates lawyers from the time-consuming and often-overlooked task of manual entry.

The software has the potential to increase billable time by at least 30 minutes daily per lawyer, freeing up an additional five hours each week for client-focused legal work or personal wellbeing. In the evolving legal landscape, Mitimes offers a unique opportunity for law firms to compete effectively, enhance client relationships through accurate data capture, and make informed, real-time decisions.

# WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



LawyersWeekly

www.lawyersweekly.com.au