



**The Society of
Licensed Conveyancers**

AI in legal: overview, opportunities and obstacles

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Is AI new?

Siri and Alexa have been around for a while...

- Using traditional rule-based and retrieval-based methods for conversations
- They rely on pre-defined code and database to support the queries and responses

When Open AI's ChatGPT burst onto the scene exactly a year ago, it offered something vastly different: **human-like responses, capable of reasoning, with a huge breadth of knowledge and contextual awareness.**

Generative AI v LLMs

Some common terms you might have heard - are they different though?

Generative AI is a broad category of AI that refers to artificial intelligence systems that create new content and outputs (like text, images, audio and video)

Large Language Models (LLMs) are a specific type of generative AI specialised in generating high-quality output in the form of human-like text, by training on massive data sets.

Jolly useful?

Lord Justice Birss made the headlines when he commented, “I thought I would try it. I asked ChatGPT can you give me a summary of this area of law, and it gave me a paragraph. I know what the answer is because I was about to write a paragraph that said that, but it did it for me and I put it in my judgment.

It’s there and it’s jolly useful.”

Not a perfect solution

Knowing when to use generative AI is really key to understanding the potential applications and use cases. Summarisation works great. Some other areas, not so much...

Things generative AI is **not** good at:

- Physical world knowledge
- Understanding complex context
- Complex logical reasoning (i.e. multi-step logic + deductions)

Helpful use cases?

- 1) Providing summaries
- 2) Explaining complex language in plain English
- 3) Translation
- 4) Answering questions about specific data or documents
- 5) Finding information across large and complex data sets

ChatGPT, Bard or Claude?

Generic chat interfaces with LLMs don't necessarily suit the needs of lawyers. Maybe for drafting a marketing email that you want to send with invites to your Christmas Party. But be wary for legal tasks:

- They have not been trained on legal data
- They don't sound and write like a lawyer
- They can hallucinate (we've all heard about the ChatGPT case in the US where the lawyers were fined!)
- They don't have context on your tasks

LegalTech products

Building the application layer on top of the foundation models. Next frontier products need to be tailored to the requirements of lawyers:

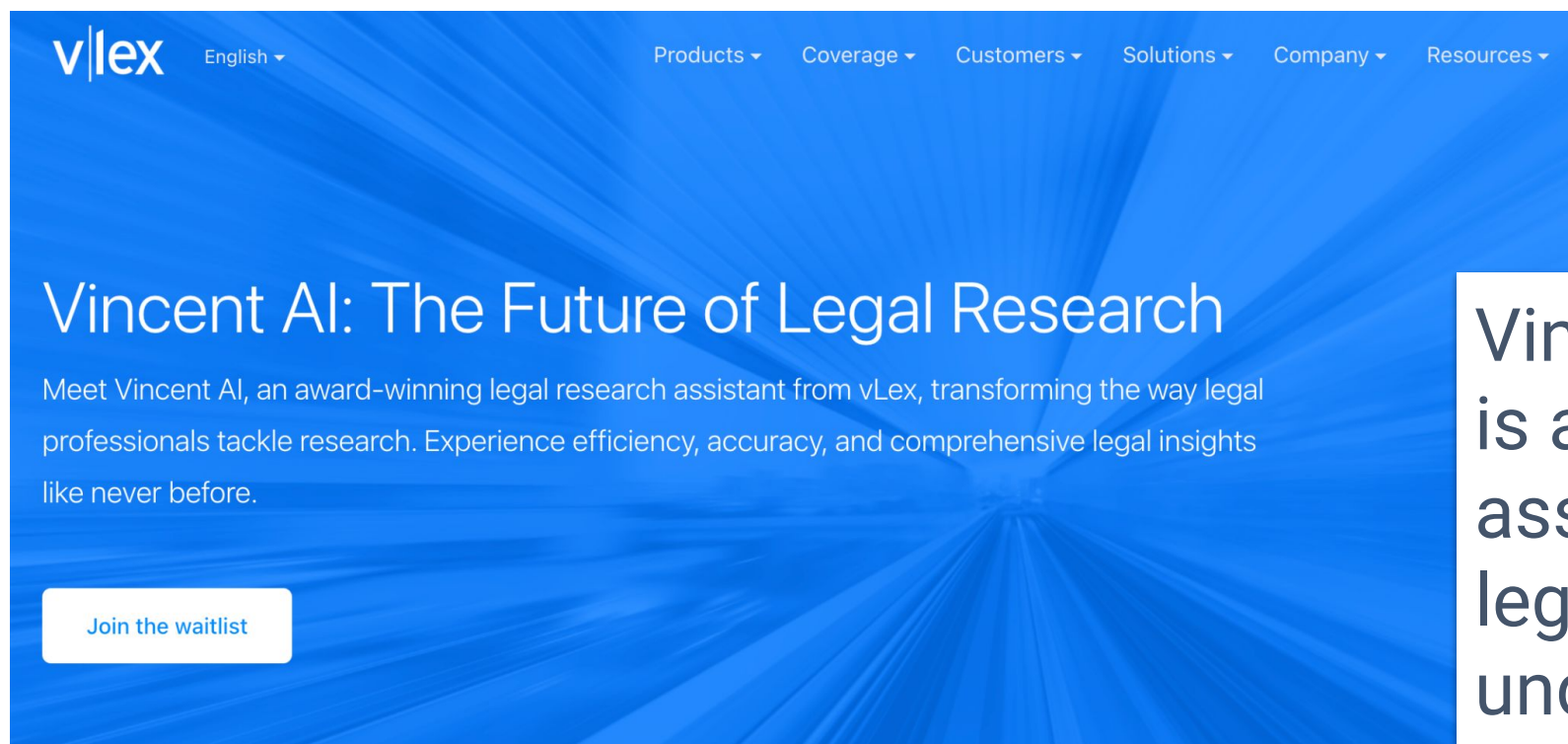
- Fine-tuning models (= evolving the LLM)
- Harnessing the right data sets (= training models on legal data)
- Prompt engineering (= giving the AI better instructions)
- Legal expertise (= collaboration + “lawyer-in-the-loop”)

Spotlight on UKLTA

Our mission is to **build a community** where legal professionals, technology providers and consumers of legal services can come together to **shape the future of legal services, collaboratively.**

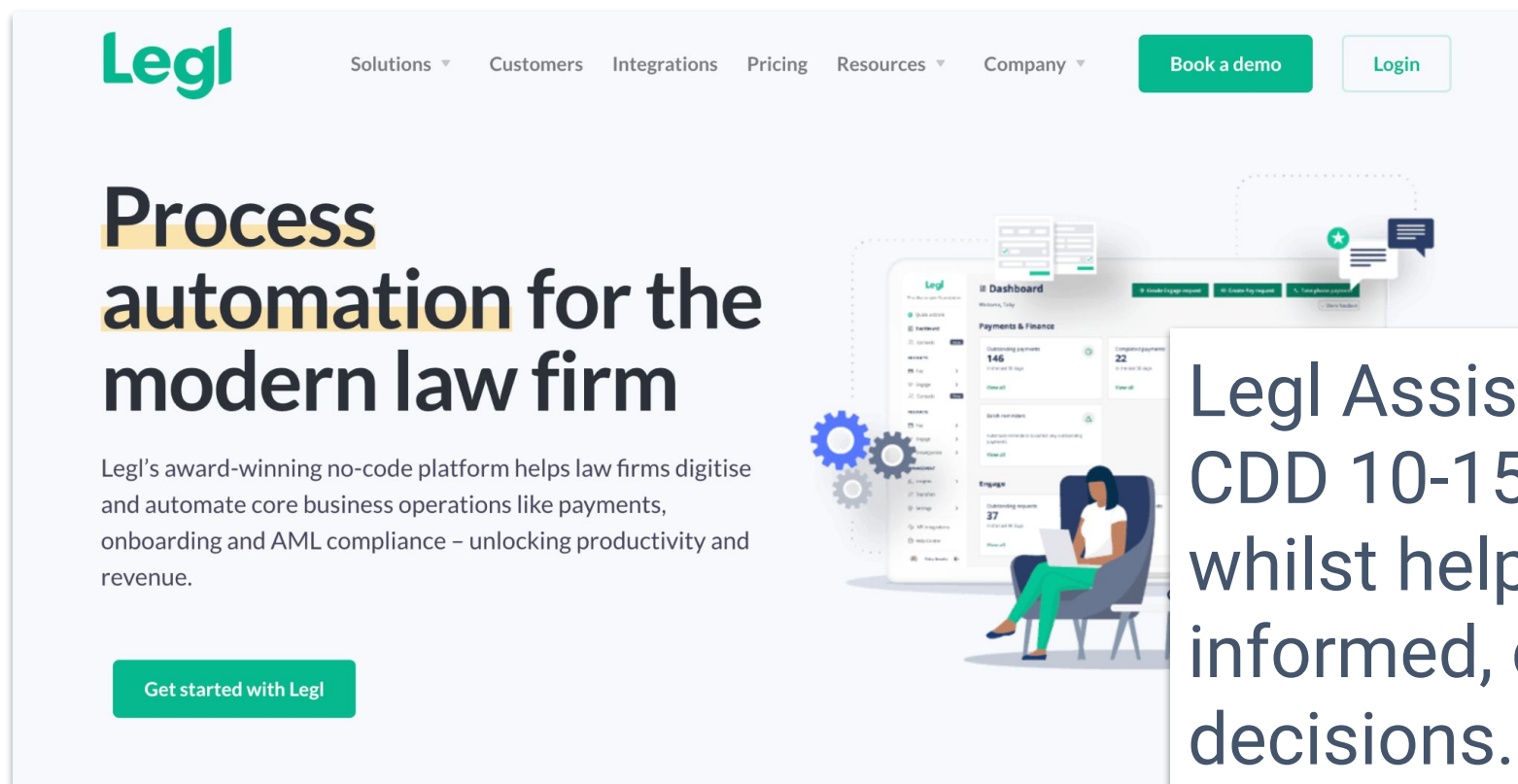
With all the developments in technology and AI this year, it's more important than ever to be fostering a better sense of community, providing educational resources, and opportunities for collaboration.

What are members up to? (1)



Vincent AI from vLex is a legal research assistant. Helping legal professionals to undertake research more efficiently and accurately.

What are members up to? (2)

The image shows the Legl website homepage. At the top is the Legl logo in green. To its right is a navigation bar with links: Solutions, Customers, Integrations, Pricing, Resources, and Company. Further right are two buttons: 'Book a demo' (green) and 'Login' (white with green border). The main heading is 'Process automation for the modern law firm', with 'Process' and 'automation' highlighted in yellow. Below this is a paragraph: 'Legl's award-winning no-code platform helps law firms digitise and automate core business operations like payments, onboarding and AML compliance – unlocking productivity and revenue.' At the bottom left is a green button that says 'Get started with Legl'. On the right side of the page is a large illustration of a person sitting in a chair, working on a laptop. Behind them is a large screen displaying a dashboard with various charts and data. To the left of the person are three interlocking gears in blue and grey.

Legl

Legl Assist is a GenAI tool making CDD 10-15% quicker for law firms whilst helping them to make informed, compliant, risk-based decisions. It enables law firms to review CDD results with the right context to make faster decisions.

What are members up to? (3)



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

New LegalTech module that launches in January 2024, designed to help to educate the next generation of lawyers about the applications and use cases of LegalTech and Legal AI.

Developing cutting-edge solutions that help law firms to tackle particular challenges like managing Source of Funds in AML processes.



armalytix

JAMESON LEGAL TECH 
Technology for Lawyers

Helping law firms and LegalTech companies to recruit the right people with knowledge of the landscape and best practices.

Trusted, independent advisor to UK law firms. Truly passionate about technology and very experienced in advising law firms on the UK LegalTech landscape and selecting technology.



Practical steps

- Get in the conversation - learn more about **different use cases** and how they might benefit your practice.
- Leverage educational resources - UKLTA has some great resources, as do our members. **Get comfortable with the concepts and the jargon.**
- Test out some of the **free tools** in LegalTech - see for yourself what works and what doesn't
- Find opportunities to get the team involved and to hear different perspectives from across your business.

Outcomes we've seen

Bearing in mind this tech has been available for just 12 months, and lots of LegalTech companies are still building out the “application” layer, there have been some pretty exciting developments:

- Better oversight and visibility of risk (helping to cut through noise of large volumes of information)
- Enhanced and faster search capabilities (of contracts, of policies, of case law, of legislation etc)
- Faster turnaround (especially in tasks like reviewing routine contracts, preparing summaries etc)

Robot lawyers incoming?

Short answer, no.

But there are some really exciting new products and applications of LLMs in the legal sector. They are worth investigating to see if you can enhance your work:

- Giving clients a better experience (e.g. plain English explanations of complex legal concepts)
- Enabling you to find information faster (less time spent looking for things, more time on substantive legal work)
- Improving productivity (especially when it comes to more of the business operations tasks like client onboarding)

Lawyers that know how to make their life easier with AI might have a better work/life balance, better client relationships and enhanced productivity, compared to those who don't!

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