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LEGAL STUDIES IN THE NEW ERA: LEGAL THINKING IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the impact of artificial intelligence technologies on jurisprudence, the transformation of legal thinking and modern approaches to the legal sphere. The ethical management of legal technologies, the practice of applying “Artificial Intelligence and Jurisprudence: Opportunities and Threats” and how they affect legal education are analyzed based on scientific sources. The legal and ethical consequences of the interaction between humans and machines in legal thinking are also considered.

Today, the process of digital transformation is deeply penetrating all aspects of society on a global scale. This process encompasses not only the economy but also law, medicine, education, and many other fields. In particular, the development of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies is introducing new directions and methodologies into the field of law. The application of AI in legal studies opens up new opportunities not only for the analysis of laws and legal documents but also for modeling legal thinking and behavior. Moreover, a legal expert is no longer just a specialist who works with laws and documents, but is also expected to be a thinker capable of addressing issues related to information technology, algorithmic decision-making, and digital security. The digital transformation of the legal system, through AI, enables the automation of various legal processes, prediction of court decisions, contract analysis, and optimization of legislative processes. At the same time, these developments raise complex questions about how legal thinking is evolving in the face of new challenges, what the duties and responsibilities of modern legal professionals are, and how ethical and moral issues in the legal field are to be addressed. Legal thinking is the ability to understand, analyze, apply, and interpret laws and legal norms. Traditional legal thinking typically relies on legal reasoning, concepts of social justice, and legal logic. However, with the advent of AI, this type of thinking is undergoing significant transformation. With the advancement of AI technologies, legal thinking is becoming more complex through algorithmic reasoning, statistical analysis, and modeling of legal behavior. For instance, AI now enables the automatic analysis of contracts, the prediction of legal proceedings, and the optimization of lawmaking. This demands a new model of thinking from legal professionals. In addition to traditional legal knowledge, today's lawyers are expected to master new skills such as technological literacy, digital ethics, and understanding of algorithms. These changes not only increase the effectiveness of legal practice but also pave the way for the creation of new legal methodologies.



The analysis of legal processes performed using AI — such as predicting court decisions and analyzing and classifying legal documents — shows that AI technologies provide significant support. For example, automatic contract analysis, prediction of judicial practices, and increased efficiency in legislative processes allow lawyers to enhance the speed and quality of their work. However, all of this raises not only technical but also ethical questions. In the era of artificial intelligence, the legal education system is also undergoing profound changes. For the new generation of legal professionals, it is essential not only to have legal knowledge but also to understand data analysis, algorithm structures, and technological legal security. As a result, leading universities around the world are launching new programs such as "Legal Tech" or "Law and AI". These new areas of study emphasize the need for legal professionals to understand the opportunities and limitations of technology and to continuously update their knowledge in the process of digital transformation.

The transformation of the legal education system is aimed not only at teaching theoretical knowledge but also at preparing professionals ready to work in the real world. Furthermore, legal education must now account for personal ethical values and social responsibility. Such an education system teaches not only legal knowledge but also the safe and effective use of technology, as well as skills to address the ethical challenges posed by AI systems.

Modern legal thinking now encompasses not only analog logical reasoning but also algorithmic, systemic, and predictive thinking. This transformation shapes the lawyer not merely as a user of AI but as a subject who understands and critically evaluates it. The integration of legal education and practice involves not only mastering traditional knowledge but also the correct application and regulation of new technologies, and working based on ethical principles.

One of the pressing issues of legal thinking is the question of responsibility and legal subjectivity between humans and AI. If an AI system provides incorrect legal advice or causes harm due to a faulty algorithm, who is held accountable? The legal responsibility of AI and the extent to which its decisions are subject to legal consequences remain unresolved. For instance, can AI be recognized as a legal entity, or should liability be attributed to it as if it were a human? Such questions lead legal thinking into new ethical and philosophical analyses.

Moreover, decisions made by AI must be supervised by humans. AI can never fully replace human reasoning, but it can serve as a powerful tool to enhance it. Therefore, legal thinking should involve not just the application of legal norms but also considerations of social justice, ethical standards, and historical context. AI is still in the developmental stage in these areas and requires a more in-depth approach to address these challenges. In the context of AI, a lawyer should possess the following abilities: evaluate and analyze AI systems from a legal perspective, identify algorithmic discrimination and transparency issues, actively participate in identifying potential discrimination and injustices in AI systems, manage legal technologies based on ethical standards, and properly manage digital technologies and analyze the legal issues arising from them based on ethical principles.

Protecting human rights and moral values in the face of technological progress is crucial. The lawyer of the new era not only works with the law but is also responsible for maintaining the balance between technological advancement and the protection of human rights.



In conclusion, legal thinking is undergoing significant transformation during the digital era. AI stands at the center of these changes. Although it increases the efficiency of legal activities, it cannot fully replace human reasoning, ethical analysis, and responsibility. Therefore, the legal practice of the new era must develop in collaboration with AI, but rooted in human values.

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