

Lawyers Using AI Could Replace Those Who Don't, New Insights Suggest

Laina Chan Talks to Xraised About the Human Heart of Legal Research

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"People Trust People—Not Just Algorithms"

"I get this question all the time," laughs Laina Chan, barrister at 2 Selborne Chambers and CEO of Miai Law. "Is AI about to make lawyers obsolete? My answer is always: AI won't replace lawyers. But lawyers using MiAI will replace lawyers!"

Behind the quick wit, Laina is serious about what's at stake. "Law is ultimately about people. No matter how fast technology gets, clients want someone who understands their story, feels their pain, and stands up for their interests. Machines don't build trust—people do."

"Al Should Help Us Do What We Do Best"

Laina is optimistic about the impact of legal AI, but only if it's used the right way. "Legal research has always been about finding needles in haystacks," she says. "AI can help us sort and search those haystacks faster than ever. But it can't replace judgment, creativity, or empathy."

From e-discovery to document review and even predicting case outcomes, Laina sees real value. "Al can handle the repetitive stuff. But when a case turns on a subtle point or a client needs nuanced advice? That's where lawyers shine."

"The Problem With Most Al? It Doesn't Read the Law Like Lawyers Do."

Most current legal tech relies on large language models (LLMs) trained on general content. Laina isn't convinced. "The truth is, most Al tools aren't reading the law—they're reading summaries and commentary. They don't get context, jurisdiction, or the nuances in old cases. Sometimes they even make things up just to have an answer. That's not good enough."

"We Need Tools That Anchor Every Answer to Real Law"

That's why Laina is excited about Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). "RAG lets us search the

actual legal texts, not just summaries. But even then, you need to anchor every output to its source. Otherwise, mistakes creep in—and that's a risk I won't take."

She's clear about her bottom line: "Al should be a tool for lawyers, not a black box. If you can't audit or explain an answer, it's not trustworthy."

"If AI Can't Explain Itself, It Has No Place in Justice"

Transparency is non-negotiable for Laina. "There are real dangers if AI can't explain how it reached a decision. We've seen what happens in the US with COMPAS and other systems that hide their reasoning—it can lead to unfairness and bias at scale."

Her prescription? "Every legal AI system should be auditable and challengeable. Mandatory audits, fairness metrics, and always a human override. That's how we build systems that serve justice, not undermine it."

"The Best Future Is Hybrid—Al Plus the Human Touch"

So, what does Laina see as the future of legal work? "The best outcomes will come from collaboration. Let AI do the heavy lifting with big data and paperwork. Let lawyers focus on relationships, ethics, and strategy. I want AI to handle timelines in a data breach, so I'm free to fight for my client's reputation."

"The Soul of the Law Is Still Human"

Laina leaves us with a clear vision. "Technology is an amazing enabler, but it will never replace the soul of our profession. Legal AI must be built with accountability, fairness, and—most of all—human oversight. That's how we safeguard justice."

Watch the full interview at Xraised website.

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