

AI AND THE BUSINESS OF LAW

MAY 8, 2026

AGENDA (all times are Central Daylight Time)

375 E CHICAGO AVE, RB 150

Friday, May 8, 2026

7:30 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:20-8:25 a.m. | Welcome

Zachary Clopton, Dean, Daniel Hale Williams Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

8:25-9:25 a.m. | Introduction to AI and Use Cases in Law*

Using AI responsibly and well in the practice of law requires developing a functional understanding of the technologies. This session provides an overview of how AI tools are developed and work, as well as the benefits and risks of using different AI tools for various legal tasks. Professor Linna will also discuss how AI tools are being used in courts, and the implications for lawyers and their clients.

Daniel Linna Jr., Director of Law and Technology Initiatives and Senior Lecturer, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

9:30-10:30 a.m. | AI and the Law: A Practical Approach to the Way Forward

To make the most of AI tools, lawyers need to both understand how they work and develop the skills to use them effectively. Professor Hammond will provide an accessible and practical survey of how large language models (LLMs) power AI tools. Based on this understanding, he will offer guidance to lawyers on how to maximize the impact of LLMs on legal practice.

Kristian Hammond, Bill and Cathy Osborn Professor of Computer Science, Northwestern McCormick School of Engineering, Evanston, IL

10:30-10:45 a.m. | Break

10:45-11:40 a.m. | How to Get Partners to Embrace Technology*

The transformational shifts that we are seeing today are driven by technology. But law firms are typically world-class at resisting change. What are the structural and psychological factors that make changing partner behavior so challenging? And what are the capabilities that most effectively engage partners to embrace technological change? During this session, Professor Jolly will outline his research findings about the challenge of successful change in the legal market, as well as the ways to ensure that your firm is able to manage change successfully.

Richard Jolly, Clinical Associate Professor of Management & Organizations, Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, IL

11:40 a.m.-12 p.m. | Lunch Pickup

12-12:50 p.m. | Fireside Chat with Che Chang*

Join us for an engaging fireside chat with Che Chang, General Counsel of OpenAI, the multibillion-dollar company behind ChatGPT, where we will explore the intersection of technology and law in the rapidly evolving AI landscape. Learn about the legal frameworks that are shaping innovation and hear from an industry leader about his perspective on the future of AI.

Che Chang, General Counsel, OpenAI, San Francisco

MODERATOR:

Zachary Clopton

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PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

1-1:50 p.m. | AI-Generated Content and the Law*

Deepfake images, text, and audio are now omnipresent. The use of LLMs is expanding across all disciplines. During this session, Professor Subrahmanian will show examples of deepfake audio and video and their potential use and misuse in courtroom settings, discuss the use of LLMs in legal settings—along with both the benefits and the risks—and conclude with an overview of coming enhancements in AI and their potential implications for the practice of law.

V.S. Subrahmanian, Walter P. Murphy Professor of Computer Science, Northwestern McCormick School of Engineering, Evanston, IL

2-3:15 p.m. | AI Considerations & Implications for Businesses*

Our panel of in-house attorneys and professionals will examine the impact of artificial intelligence inside businesses of various sizes. They will address the various applications of AI within legal practice on the in-house side, the challenges it presents, and the unique opportunities it offers to corporations and their legal teams for enhancing efficiency and decision-making. The panelists will also discuss what clients expect from outside counsel on AI and legal practice.

MODERATOR:

Daniel Rodriguez, Harold Washington Professor of Law, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

PANELISTS:

Lacey Bundy, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary, Petsmart LLC, Phoenix

Donna Haddad, Former Vice President and Associate General Counsel, IBM; Executive in Residence, Governance, Risk and Emerging Technology, Energy Innovation Lab, Northwestern University, Chicago

James Hairston, Global Head of Innovation Policy, OpenAI, Chicago

Wendy Rubas, Chief Legal and Compliance Officer, Innovaccer, Chicago

3:15-3:30 p.m. | Break

3:30-4:30 p.m. | Smart Counsel: Navigating the Intersection of AI and Professional Responsibility*

AI raises key questions of legal ethics and professional responsibility. Learning to use AI responsibly is not “a static undertaking,” as noted in ABA Formal Opinion 512 on Generative AI (GAI). Professor Muchman will discuss key ethical principles in the use of GAI under the Rules of Professional Conduct: the duty of competence (Model Rule 1.1) and maintaining confidentiality (Model Rule 1.6), as well as attorney-client privilege. In addition, the session will cover when and how much outside counsel must communicate with their clients about the firm’s use of GAI tools (Model Rule 1.4) and how firms consider calculating fees when using GAI tools (Model Rule 1.5). Finally, Professor Muchman will discuss how the duty of supervision has changed and what is needed to ensure staff and third-party AI tools’ compliance with professional obligations (Model Rules 5.1-5.3), the usage of ethical walls, and whether GAI is ready for conflict screening (Model Rules 1.7-1.10).

Wendy Muchman, Professor of Practice, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, Chicago

4:30-5:30 p.m. | Reception

Contact Us

Contact us at professional-ed@law.northwestern.edu with any questions.

Agenda as of 4/3/2026