

20 LAWTECH SUMMIT+ AWARDS



17 & 18 SEPTEMBER 2026 - JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST RESORT & SPA | QLD

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connecting leaders + ideas

Chilli IQ

LAWTECH ORIGINS

Australia's leading Legal Technology
event since 2006

The Origins of Lawtech: Two Decades in the Making

Twenty years ago, Chilli IQ saw what others had missed. In 2006, at a time when legal technology barely registered as a conversation within Australian law firms, we launched the Lawtech Summit – the country's first dedicated platform built specifically for this emerging community. It was a bold bet on a future that hadn't yet arrived.

The response told us everything we needed to know. For the first time, legal IT managers and technology leaders from firms across the country had a room of their own, a place to connect, compare notes, and realise they weren't alone in navigating uncharted territory. What began as a modest gathering quickly became something the industry didn't know it was missing until it existed.

Two decades on, that founding spark has grown into a movement. The legal technology landscape has been transformed almost beyond recognition, and the people who lead it have been transformed along with it. The function once dismissed as back-office IT support is now recognised as a cornerstone of firm strategy – a driver of innovation, resilience and competitive advantage at the highest levels of legal leadership.

Through every wave of change, from early automation to the cloud, from legal ops to generative AI, one thing has stayed constant: the Lawtech Summit has remained the place where this community gathers to connect, challenge and inspire one another. We've watched careers launch here, ideas take shape here, and an entire profession find its voice here.

We are proud to have stood at the start of this story. And twenty years on, we are even prouder to keep championing the thinkers, builders and changemakers who are already writing what comes next.



**No matter how many times I attend this conference
I am always enlightened by what is presented and
appreciate the open discussions that surround both
the formal and informal sessions.
Thank you to all at Chilli IQ**



Advisory Panel



The Lawtech Summit has always been shaped by the community it serves.

To ensure the 2026 program reflects the real priorities, challenges and opportunities facing the legal profession today, we have brought together an exceptional group of industry leaders, practitioners and forward-thinkers to form our 2026 Advisory Panel. Their collective expertise and insight are instrumental in guiding the direction, conversations and topics that will define this milestone 20th event.

Our esteemed panelists include:



CARYN SANDLER

Partner and Chief Knowledge
& Innovation Officer

GILBERT + TOBIN



GARY ADLER

Chief Digital Officer

MINTERELLISON



LISA KOZARIS

Partner, Chief Digital &
Legal Solutions Officer

ALLENS



KRIS MASON

CIO

ARNOLD BLOCH

LEIBLER



MICHELLE MAHONEY

Chief Innovation Officer

MALLESONS



TAE ROYLE

Director – Client

Solutions APAC

ASHURST ADVANCE

FROM THEN TO NOW TO NEXT: 20 years of Legal Innovation and the AI Inflection Point ahead

For two decades, the Lawtech Summit has been the place where the legal profession comes to make sense of change. We've watched legal technology evolve from document automation and early practice management systems to today's landscape of generative AI, agentic workflows, and enterprise-scale digital transformation, tracking the shift from legal technology to legal transformation along the way. This year, we stand at the sharpest inflection point yet. AI is no longer a pilot project or an innovation team's side experiment; it is moving into production, into high-stakes work, into boardroom conversations about ROI, and into the daily reality of how lawyers train, price, deliver and think. The pace is accelerating, and most of the profession hasn't yet grasped what's already possible, let alone what's coming next.

This year's Summit goes beyond the hype to focus on impact, bringing together the practitioners, innovation leaders, technologists and clients who are living this transformation right now, not theorising about it. Across two days, you'll hear how agentic AI is moving from sandbox experiments into real, governed, high-stakes production work, and explore the frameworks firms are using to prove genuine financial value from AI investment as boards and executive teams demand harder evidence of return. We'll examine how AI is forcing a reckoning with the traditional business model: billing, leverage, junior training and the pyramid itself, alongside the governance, risk and data sovereignty questions that are now unavoidable for every Australian firm.



**The question is no longer whether AI will transform legal services.
It's whether your firm, your team and your career are ready for how fast that transformation is now happening.**

The conversation will also turn to trust: why the relationship between firms and in-house teams is under growing pressure, what clients really expect from an AI-enabled service relationship, and why a firm's data estate, not its AI licence, is the true foundation of transformation success. Just as importantly, we'll spend time on the human side of this moment, from wellbeing and leadership through relentless change to the urgent question of how we train and mentor the next generation of lawyers when research, drafting and first-pass analysis are increasingly automated. We'll also ask whether legal tech products can survive and compete against foundation models, and what that shift means for the innovation leaders and CIOs steering their firms through it.

Whether you've attended every Summit since the beginning or are joining us for the first time, this year's event marks a milestone: 20 years of reflecting on where we've been, understanding where we are, and more urgently than ever; preparing for what's next.

The question is no longer whether AI will transform legal services. It's whether your firm, your team and your career are ready for how fast that transformation is now happening.

what you will learn



The 2026 Lawtech programme will be focussing on the following topics:

AGENTIC AI IN PRACTICE

- "From Pilot to Production: Embedding Agentic AI Safely and Measurably
- Agents at Work: Where Automation Ends and Human Judgment Begins
- Scaling AI Across the Firm: Governance, Training and Change Management at Enterprise Level
- Adoption in Action: Real Lessons from Moving Lawyers Along the AI Journey

PROVING VALUE & ROI

- Show Me the Money: Frameworks for Proving AI's Financial Value
- Measuring What Matters: Data-Driven Approaches to AI Impact

GOVERNANCE, RISK & DATA SOVEREIGNTY

- Data Residency and Responsible AI: The Sovereignty Question for Australian Firms
- Building an AI Governance Framework
- MCPs and Interoperability: Solving Friction or Creating New Risk?

DATA & KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATIONS

- Your AI Strategy Is Only as Good as Your Data Estate
- From Knowledge to Advantage: Turning Precedent and Experience into Strategic Assets

CYBERSECURITY & RESILIENCE

- Cyber Resilience in an Agentic World

THE CHANGING BUSINESS MODEL & ECONOMICS

- The Pyramid Under Pressure: Rethinking Billing, Leverage and Associate Training
- Designing the Future Legal Operating Model
- Can Legal Tech Survive the Foundation Model Era
- Growth or Contraction? The State of the LegalTech Industry

TALENT, TRAINING & JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

- Reimagining Legal Education for the AI Generation
- The New Legal Workforce: Hiring for Roles That Didn't Exist Two Years Ago
- Fact-Checker or Trusted Advisor? The Future Identity of the Lawyer

TRUST, TRANSPARENCY & CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

- Confronting the credibility gap around AI-driven legal work.
- What Clients Really Want: Transparency, Reporting and Value in the AI Era

LEADERSHIP & ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

- From Systems to Strategy: The Evolving Role of the CIO: Why innovation leadership is now about business change and risk, not just technology.
- Technology Is the Easy Part: Leading Behavioural Change
- Leading Through Relentless Change: Wellbeing at Hyper-Speed

invited speakers

Creating a brilliant conference programme requires brilliant speakers.
Each speaker featured has been carefully selected for their deep expertise
and forward-thinking perspectives on the issues shaping the legal industry today.

Keynote Speakers



JEREMY HOWARD

Data scientist, researcher, developer, educator, and entrepreneur Fast.AI

Jeremy Howard is a data scientist, researcher, developer, educator, and entrepreneur. He created ULMFIT, the AI system at the heart of all of today's major language models, including ChatGPT and Google Gemini. Jeremy is the founding CEO of Answer.AI, a new kind of AI R&D lab which creates practical end-user products based on foundational research breakthroughs. He is also the co-founder of fast.ai, a research institute dedicated to making deep learning more accessible, an Honorary Professor at the University of Queensland, and a Digital Fellow at Stanford University. Previously, Jeremy was a Distinguished Research Scientist at the University of San Francisco, where he was the founding chair of the Wicklow Artificial Intelligence in Medical Research Initiative.



RICHARD TROMANS

Founder

Artificial Lawyer [UK] *

After working in management consulting at Thomson Reuters and Jomati Consultants LLP, Richard launched his own business which focuses on legal innovation and also founded the pioneering and globally-read legal AI site, 'Artificial Lawyer'.

He strongly believes that AI can be a force for good in the legal world.

*VIA VIDEO LINK

Confirmed Speakers

- **Kate Conroy** General Manager **AI Safety Institute** *TBA*
- **Dr Kellie Nuttall** Founder **Future Secure AI**
- **Katrina Michael** Professor- Strategy, Innovation and Technology **University of Sydney**
- **Sean Gallagher** Founder **Humanova**
- **Simon Newcomb** Partner and Head of AI **Clayton Utz**
- **Caryn Sandler** Partner & Chief Knowledge & Innovation Officer **Gilbert + Tobin**
- **Michelle Mahoney** Chief Innovation Officer **Mallesons**
- **Gary Adler** Chief Digital Officer **MinterEllison**
- **Kris Mason** Chief Information Officer **Arnold Bloch Leibler**

who should attend



The Lawtech Summit has evolved alongside the industry it serves. What began as a gathering for legal IT managers has grown into the essential meeting point for anyone shaping the future of legal services; because in an AI-enabled world, legal innovation is no longer confined to the IT department.

The Lawtech Summit is created for the following job titles:

- **CIOs & CTOs** Technology leaders from leading and mid-tier firms across Australia and New Zealand setting the strategic direction for AI adoption, infrastructure and enterprise-wide transformation
- **Legal Innovation Leaders & Heads of Innovation** Those driving the shift from experimentation to embedded, measurable impact across the firm
- **Legal Technologists & Solutions Architects** The builders responsible for evaluating, deploying and integrating AI tools, agentic systems and platforms into real legal workflows
- **Knowledge Management Leaders** Those turning firm knowledge, precedents and data estates into the foundation every AI strategy depends on
- **Legal Operations Leaders** Professionals rethinking pricing, resourcing, delivery models and the changing shape of the firm
- **IT Directors & Digital Transformation Leads** Those managing the practical realities of governance, cyber resilience, data sovereignty and change management at scale
- **Innovation Counsel & Legal Engineers** The emerging hybrid roles bridging law and technology, building the tools and workflows of tomorrow's practice
- **Legal Tech Vendors, Founders & Product Leaders** Providers building the solutions this community depends on, navigating a market being reshaped by foundation models



It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change.

- Charles Darwin -



2026 Lawtech Awards



The Lawtech Awards celebrate the innovators, disruptors and quiet achievers reshaping the legal IT landscape – a genuinely peer-driven recognition of excellence across the industry.

Over the years, the Awards have grown into one of the most respected accolades in legal technology, honouring standout innovation and performance across IT projects, teams and individuals: from bold new initiatives to established programs delivering lasting impact.

More than just a trophy, the Awards offer a powerful platform for visibility and recognition – a chance for individuals and teams to have their achievements celebrated by the peers who understand the work best.

NOMINATE NOW !

Anyone from a law firm can vote to champion their team or an individual for an award

As the legal technology leadership has expanded to encompass new responsibilities and areas of impact, we've introduced new award categories to reflect this evolution, with nominations open across both TEAM and INDIVIDUAL categories.

Here is a list of the LAWTECH AWARD categories to be awarded in 2026:

CATEGORY 1. INNOVATION IN LEGAL IT

CATEGORY 2: LEGAL IT TEAM OF THE YEAR – SMALL TO MEDIUM FIRM

CATEGORY 3: LEGAL IT TEAM OF THE YEAR – LARGE FIRM

CATEGORY 4: LEGAL IT RISING STAR

CATEGORY 5: LEGAL IT LEADER OF THE YEAR – SMALL TO MEDIUM FIRM

CATEGORY 6: LEGAL IT LEADER OF THE YEAR - LARGE FIRM

NOMINATE NOW

To nominate you or your team for a Lawtech Award in any of the above categories simply click on the link below.

Fill out the online survey style form, attach any further supporting documentation (optional) and send it through.

<https://chilliiq.survey.fm/the-lawtech-awards-nomination-form-2026>

EMAIL: jenny.katrivesis@chilliiq.com.au

**[CLICK HERE TO
NOMINATE](https://chilliiq.survey.fm/the-lawtech-awards-nomination-form-2026)**

2026 Lawtech Awards

Category Description



NOMINATE NOW !

Anyone from a law firm can vote to champion their team or an individual for an award

Here is a list and description of the LAWTECH AWARDS categories to be awarded in 2026:

CATEGORY 1. INNOVATION IN LEGAL IT:

This category acknowledges superior innovation in Legal technology on a broad spectrum. The nominees can include the following in their nomination:

- A needs analysis of the project
- Project definition/objective
- Implementation
- Success factor

CATEGORY 2: LEGAL IT TEAM OF THE YEAR – SMALL TO MEDIUM FIRM

This category recognises team effort in regards to innovation in Legal IT in a firm of

- Less than 15 IT employees
- Less than 300 legal staff
- Outline the improvement on current technology or establishment of a new system to transform the legal business process as a team.
- Describe the impact of the team's achievement, including any financial benefits, strategic advantages and improvements in productivity of the law firm.

CATEGORY 3: LEGAL IT TEAM OF THE YEAR – LARGE FIRM

This category recognises team effort in regards to innovation in Legal IT in a firm of

- More than 15 IT employees
- More than 300 legal staff
- Outline the improvement on current technology or establishment of a new system to transform the legal business process as a team.
- Describe the impact of the team's achievement, including any financial benefits, strategic advantages and improvements in productivity of the law firm.

CATEGORY 4: LEGAL IT RISING STAR

This category recognises the efforts of an individual member of a team (BUT NOT THE TEAM LEADER) that consistently works above and beyond their 'call of duty' in legal IT. The nomination should include the following:

- A description of the Rising Stars qualities
- A description of the project/s that they have excelled in.
- Success factor

CATEGORY 5: LEGAL IT LEADER OF THE YEAR – SMALL TO MEDIUM FIRM

This category recognises the efforts of a TEAM LEADER in leading their team to success:

- Less than 15 IT employees or
- Less than 300 legal staff
- A description of the Team Leaders qualities
- A description of the project/s that they have excelled in.
- Success factor

CATEGORY 6: LEGAL IT LEADER OF THE YEAR – LARGE FIRM

This category recognises the efforts of a TEAM LEADER in leading their team to success:

- More than 15 IT employees or
- More than 300 legal staff
- A description of the Team Leaders qualities
- A description of the project/s that they have excelled in.
- Success factor

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE](#)

event information

EVENT NAME:

20TH LAWTECH SUMMIT + AWARDS

EVENT DATE: Thursday 17th & Friday 18th September 2026

VENUE: JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST – RESORT & SPA

EVENT ADDRESS: 158 Ferny Ave, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217

PHONE NUMBER: Main Line: (07) 5592 9800

CONFERENCE TIMING:

DAY 1: Thursday 17th September 2026

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: 9:30AM- 10.00AM REGISTRATION

CONFERENCE TIMING: 10.00AM- 5:30PM

CONFERENCE FREE TIME 5:30PM – 6:30PM

AWARDS DINNER & DRINKS: 6:30PM – 9:30PM

DAY 2: Friday 18th September 2026

CONFERENCE TIMING: 9:00AM- 2:00 PM

DRESS REQUIREMENTS: CASUAL



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