

4 LAWTECH FORUM NZ

17 June 2026
Park Hyatt Auckland -NZ

Gold Partners



LEGORA



Silver Partners

Actionstep

Bronze Partners



ELITE



Chilli IQ

connecting leaders + ideas



About ChilliIQ

connecting leaders + ideas

We are a leading creator of conferences and summits who aim to bring together great minds with avid learners amongst the thought-inspiring atmosphere of leading venues.

Chilli IQ has many years of collective experience in the area of creating and developing innovative conferences and summits for the changing business environment. This is not though what differentiates us from the crowd, what makes us unique is our modus operandi. We value quality and strive to ensure that every aspect of our events reflects this – from the choice of speakers, the venue and the genuine attention to detail.

Our main objective is to lead the field in the area of knowledge delivery and as this is a fluid process we are constantly seeking new avenues and evolving to make sure we never just settle. We ensure that all who partake in the Chilli IQ conference experience – whether it be as a delegate, a speaker, a sponsor or an endorsing association – maximise their investment and attain a higher level of understanding and awareness of the chosen business theme.

Lawtech Origins



It was way back in 2006 when Chilli IQ first developed the Lawtech Summit as we saw the need for a platform for the evolving legal technology market in Australia. It was new, fresh and created a buzz amongst the growing legal technology crowd but furthermore it created a community. It brought together legal IT Managers and everyone involved with the technology of a law firm in one place – for the first time in Australia.

Fast forward to now and the legal technology community has grown and thrived. Through the last 16 years the Lawtech Summit has seen the evolution of legal technology managers go from just the IT guys to becoming an important and essential part of the business strategy of law firms today.

Due to the importance of the legal technology market globally we have broadened to other countries like NZ, Asia and the Middle East, bringing the same quality and knowledge of the market across the globe.

We are proud to be an integral part of this ever evolving community and continue to offer a stage for thought leaders and ground breakers of the legal technology field.

Chilli IQ

connecting leaders + ideas

www.chilliiq.com.au

Beyond the Algorithm: Rethinking Legal Technology as Systems, People, Process, and Trust

The legal profession has spent the last few years asking whether AI is ready. In 2026, the more important question is whether we are. Globally, AI adoption in legal has more than doubled in a single year — yet the gap between adoption and genuine performance has never been wider. Few firms have formal AI policies, fewer still are actively measuring ROI, and most are yet to fundamentally re-engineer their processes, structures, and culture to capture real value. Meanwhile, in-house legal teams are moving faster than their outside counsel and increasingly bringing work in-house as a result — creating a competitive pressure that will only compound over time.

The technology is no longer the hard part.

The hard part is everything around it: the people, the processes, the governance, and the trust.

This event goes beyond the algorithm — bringing together the leaders, practitioners, and pioneers who are doing the difficult, unglamorous work of making legal technology actually work in the real world. We will examine how firms are re-engineering workflows, structures, and operating models to embed AI at scale rather than bolt it on at the edges, and what it takes to build formal governance frameworks that give boards, regulators, and clients the assurance they are increasingly demanding. Alongside that, we will dig into the performance question that too few firms are asking honestly: how do you measure ROI on AI, and how do you make the case — internally and externally — that it is delivering real, quantifiable results?

The business model conversation is equally urgent. AI-driven productivity is putting the billable hour under real structural pressure, and firms are navigating a genuine tension between efficiency gains and revenue models built for a different era. We will explore what sustainable alternatives look like in practice — from fixed fees and subscriptions to value-based and hybrid delivery models — and hear from those who are already making the transition. Woven through all of this is the client relationship: what clients actually want from AI-enabled legal services, how they feel about transparency around AI use, and how firms can lead that conversation with confidence rather than anxiety.

At the heart of everything is the human dimension. AI may be doing more of the work, but human judgment remains central — and the profession is grappling with how to retain expertise, supervise AI outputs responsibly, and keep people meaningfully in the loop. We will explore what this transformation means for careers, culture, wellbeing, and training, as well as the new roles emerging to bridge the gap between legal reasoning and machine logic — from legal engineers and AI compliance officers to Chief Transformation Officers. And as AI adoption scales, so too does exposure to cybersecurity, data, and compliance risk — areas that demand the same strategic attention as the technology itself.

This is not a conversation about what AI might do to the legal profession. It is a conversation about what we choose to do with it — and how we build the systems, the culture, and the trust to do it well.

Advisory Panel

In order to best represent the interests and needs of the legal technology profession, we have assembled some of the most prominent legal leaders and thinkers to form the **2026 Advisory Panel** that assists with the direction and planning of topics for the 4 Lawtech Forum NZ.

Our esteemed panelists include:



NATASHA WILSON
HEAD OF IT
DLA PIPER NEW ZEALAND



JON CALDER
CEO
TOMPKINS WAKE



CLIFTON WALSH
HEAD OF IT
RUSSELL MCVEAGH

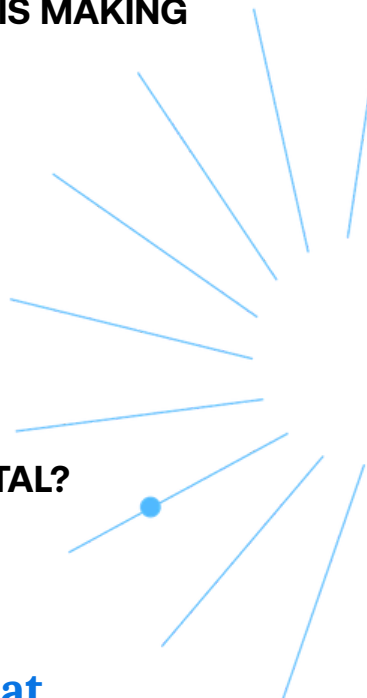


ADAM GOWER
CHIEF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
OFFICER
BUDDLE FINDLAY



What you will **learn**

The 2026 Lawtech NZ programme will focus on:

- **THE NZ LEGAL SYSTEM AND THE GEN AI TRANSFORMATION - HYPE OR CAUTION?**
 - **GOVERNANCE IN AN AI ERA**
 - **NEW PRICING MODELS IN PRACTICE**
 - **THE AI-LITERATE CLIENT — THREAT, OPPORTUNITY, OR BOTH?**
 - **THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH ABOUT LEGAL AI: FASTER IS MAKING YOU WORSE**
 - **CYBERSECURITY, RISK AND COMPLIANCE**
 - **DATA, PRIVACY AND TRUST**
 - **TALENT, ROLES AND THE CHANGING WORKFORCE**
 - **LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF AI – IS AI LITERACY VITAL?**
- 

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change"

— Charles Darwin—

Confirmed **Speakers**

The following speakers have been invited for their expertise and knowledge on the chosen topics:

- **STEPH GREGOR** MANAGER, CAPABILITY & GUIDANCE **OFFICE OF THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER**
- **PROFESSOR ALEX SIMS** PROFESSOR **UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND**
- **NICK VALENTINE** PARTNER | TECHNOLOGY & DATA **DLA PIPER**
- **NATASHA WILSON** HEAD OF IT **DLA PIPER NZ**
- **JON CALDER** CEO **TOMPKINS WAKE**
- **CLIFTON WALSH** HEAD OF IT **RUSSELL MCVEAGH**
- **ADAM GOWER** CHIEF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER **BUDDLE FINLAY**
- **DR LAURENT ANTONCZAK** MASTERS OF TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURES PROGRAMME LEAD **ACADEMYEX**
- **MARK FORD** COUNSEL **FORD SUMNER LAWYERS**
- **DR MAI CHEN** BARRISTER

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This event has been exclusively produced to address the function and capacity of the following position from the legal profession - law firms, legal counsel and the corporate sector:

- CIO's , COO's , CISO's
- IT Directors
- CFO's & Finance Directors
- Head of Innovation
- Legal Partners - IT Area, Litigation
- Risk Managers
- Head of IT Security
- All those who have a role in the technology side of a law firm or legal department

PROGRAMME

8:30 - 9:00

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

9:00 - 9:05

START OF CONFERENCE

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

9:05 - 9:45

SESSION ONE

LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF AI – IS AI LITERACY VITAL?

As AI transforms the legal landscape, we are at a crossroads for both those teaching the next generation of legal talent and those employing them: Is AI literacy a foundational requirement or a distraction from core legal knowledge? On one hand, AI proficiency is becoming a "must-have" for efficiency and modern practice. Conversely, there is the argument that premature AI reliance hinders a student's ability to learn the law, potentially producing graduates who on the surface can use AI tools but the output they generate is substandard as they lack understanding of the law.

This talk moves beyond the "either/or" stalemate and proposes a framework where AI is integrated in the latter stages of students' legal study, so it is a supplemental engine rather than a cognitive replacement. The goal is to ensure law graduates are not only AI-literate but equipped with the legal knowledge and reasoning skills necessary to supervise and validate the technology they will use.

PROFESSOR ALEX SIMS PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

9:45 - 10:30

SESSION TWO

A FIRESIDE CHAT

THE CHANGING ROLE OF IT, INNOVATION, AND LEGAL OPS - LETS DISCUSS

- IT and security teams as strategic partners, not back-office
- Skills, capability uplift, and "AI-literate lawyers"
- What the modern law-firm operating model looks like in 2026
- Measuring human outcomes, not just system metrics – What should "success" look like in legal tech?

NATASHA WILSON HEAD OF IT DLA PIPER NZ

JON CALDER CEO TOMPKINS WAKE

CLIFTON WALSH HEAD OF IT RUSSELL MCVEAGH

ADAM GOWER CHIEF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICER BUDDLE FINDLAY

10:30 - 10:45

**INDUSTRY
INSIGHT**

THOMSON REUTERS

10:45 - 11:15

BREAK

MORNING TEA AND TIME TO CHAT

11:15 - 11:30

**SESSION
THREE**

THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH ABOUT LEGAL AI: FASTER IS MAKING YOU WORSE

The first wave of legal AI promised efficiency and delivered it. But speed without verification is creating a new and more dangerous problem: cognitive surrender. Drawing on the latest research, this session challenges the assumption that faster is better and makes the case for productive friction as the defining principle of the next wave of legal AI.

DANIEL LORD-DOYLE CEO MARY TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAMME

11:30 -12:15
SESSION FOUR

DATA, PRIVACY AND TRUST

In an era of rapid digital transformation, data has become one of the most powerful — and most contested — assets in the legal profession. This session explores the evolving landscape of data privacy in Aotearoa New Zealand, from compliance obligations under the Privacy Act 2020 to the emerging challenges posed by AI-driven tools, cloud adoption, and cross-border data flow

STEPH GREGOR MANAGER, CAPABILITY & GUIDANCE **OFFICE OF THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER**

12:15 - 12:30
INDUSTRY INSIGHT

LEGORA

12:30 -13:30
BREAK

LUNCHEON BREAK AND TIME TO CHAT

13:30 -14:15
SESSION FIVE

FIRST PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE AND SECURE AI TOOL USE IN PURPOSE DRIVEN LEGAL PRACTICES AND THEIR TEAMS; EMBEDDING THE CULTURE AND STRATEGIES NEEDED FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

MARK FORD COUNSEL FORD SUMNER LAWYERS

Mark Ford is a commercial lawyer with a background going back to becoming an equity partner in the predecessor firms of DLA Piper at 27 to forming a 4 person clean slate commercial firm start up in 2005. That firm, Ford Sumner based in Wellington, now numbers just under 30 with representation on the All of Government Panel and represents high profile clients including Retail New Zealand, Master Electricians and over 22 airports throughout New Zealand.

Throughout his career he has been passionate about the delivery of better client centric legal services by law firms acting as smart and ethical providers serving all their stakeholders and with that in mind was a founder and now Executive Director of a collaborative of 33 independent law firms throughout New Zealand focussed on that very purpose.

14:15- 15:00
SESSION SIX

TALENT, ROLES AND THE CHANGING WORKFORCE

Despite the hype and fear, robots will not replace lawyers and AI is not eliminating legal roles. But it is reshaping them quickly. Junior lawyers will be the first truly AI-native cohort - what does this mean ?

DR MAI CHEN BARRISTER

PROGRAMME

15:00 - 15:30
BREAK

AFTERNOON BREAK AND TIME TO CHAT

15:30 -16:15
SESSION SEVEN

GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION

NICK VALENTINE HEAD | TECHNOLOGY & DATA **DLA PIPER**

Nick Valentine is the head of DLA Piper's Technology and Data team in New Zealand. He is a highly regarded practitioner with extensive experience in technology transactions and is recognised as one of New Zealand's leading data protection and cybersecurity lawyers. Nick advises public and private sector entities on the full range of technology transactions, including digital transformation, AI-adoption, strategic sourcing, and software development and licensing. He also regularly advises on data protection and cybersecurity; telecommunications and technology regulation; and brand protection.

16:15 -17:00
SESSION EIGHT
CLOSING KEYNOTE

BACK TO THE FUTURE : NOW AND TOMORROW, WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM TECHNOLOGY

DR LAURENT ANTONCZAK MASTERS OF TECHNOLOGICAL FUTURES PROGRAMME LEAD
ACADEMYEX

17:00 - 18:00
POST EVENT DRINKS

NETWORKING DRINKS

18:00 - **END**

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

EVENT INFORMATION AND HOW TO REGISTER

4th Lawtech Forum NZ 2026

Join senior legal, technology and innovation leaders from across New Zealand

Date

17 June 2026

Event Date: Wednesday 17th June 2026

Event Name: 4th LAWTECH FORUM NZ

VENUE: PARK HYATT AUCKLAND

99 Halsey Street, Auckland CBD,
Auckland 1010, New Zealand
Harbour Room

Event Schedule

Conference Registration

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Conference Programme

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Networking Drinks

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Registration Options

Delegate Pass

*Special Early Bird rate: NZ\$395 valid until : 15/05/2026 - [click link to register](#)

*Delegate Rate: NZ\$695 valid after: 015/05/2026- [click link to register](#)

[*refer to who should attend](#)

Industry Partner Rate

NZ\$1,295.00- Industry Partner Rate applies to delegates from organisations providing products or services to the legal sector.

ChilliQ
connecting leaders + ideas