

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

THE BUSINESS MODEL SQUEEZE

- How AI-first delivery is reshaping billing, leverage, pricing, and the traditional pyramid &
- What a sustainable legal operating model looks like next.

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

- Designing the Future Legal Operating Model
- Can Legal Tech Survive the Foundation Model Era
- Growth or Contraction? The State of the LegalTech Industry

TALENT, AND THE FUTURE OF WORK IN AN AGENTIC WORLD

- 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

LEADING WITH HUMANITY – WHAT AI CAN'T REPLACE

- Flourishing people create better outcomes. Instead of asking: "How can AI make us faster?"
- What if we/you were also to ask: "How can AI help people do more meaningful work?"

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

confirmed 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.



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

Keynote Speakers



ANDREW NUNN

Andrew Nunn is a Sydney-based mentalist and keynote speaker, specialising in helping leaders think clearly under pressure. His interactive keynote experiences combine behavioural psychology, live mentalism, storytelling and audience participation to challenge assumptions, reveal blind spots and make better thinking visible.



DR TIM SHARP 'DR HAPPY'
PSYCHOLOGIST & FOUNDER **THE HAPPINESS INSTITUTE**

Dr. Sharp has three degrees in psychology (including a Ph.D.) and an impressive record as an academic, clinician and coach. He established and ran one of Sydney's most respected clinical psychology practices, a highly regarded Executive Coaching practice, and is the founder & CHO (Chief Happiness Officer) of The Happiness Institute, Australia's first organisation devoted solely to enhancing happiness in individuals, families and organisations.

Confirmed Speakers

- **Dr Kellie Nuttall** Executive Director **Future Secure AI**
- **Katina Michael** Professor- Strategy, Innovation and Technology **University of Sydney**
- **Sean Gallagher** Founder **Humanova**
- **Lisa Fitzgerald** Partner | Technology, Privacy and Data Protection **Norton Rose Fulbright**
- **Alex Comyn** Associate Director, Legal Technology (Australia) Digital Legal Delivery **HSF Kramer**
- **Jenae Webb** Associate Director, Disputes (Australia), Digital Legal Delivery **Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer**
- **Gavin Wingfield** Director - Applied Legal Technology **Mallesons**
- **Kris Mason** Chief Information Officer **Arnold Bloch Leibler**
- **Jacqui Kernot** CEO **Model Security**
- **Nikki Rollason** Director, Legal Operations & Innovation **Norton Rose Fulbright**
- **Peter Campbell** Head of Legal Product **Allens**
- **Kali Astill** Senior Manager - Digital Enablement **Ashurst**
- **Luke Hewitt** Learning & Development Manager **HWL Ebsworth**
- **Ron Dutta** Director Information Technology **McCullough Robertson**
- **Beth Patterson** Director **ESP Connect**

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



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](#)**

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**

CONFERENCE DAY 1

9:30 – 10:00

Registration Open

10:00 – 10:15

Opening Remark from the Chair :

LISA FITZGERALD PARTNER | TECHNOLOGY, PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION **NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT**

10:15 – 11:00

Session 1
Opening
Keynote
Session

WONDERFULLY UNCOMFORTABLE: REFRAMING CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

The future is moving fast, and uncertainty is unavoidable. In this engaging and thought-provoking keynote, Andy challenges the assumptions and automatic thinking that shape how we respond to change. Through powerful insights, interactive demonstrations, and unexpected moments, he shows how reframing discomfort and uncertainty can help us think differently, adapt faster, and make better decisions about what comes next.

ANDREW NUNN 'THE MENTALIST'

11:00 – 11:45

Session 2

WE TRAINED MACHINES TO THINK LIKE LAWYERS. NOW WHAT DO WE TRAIN LAWYERS TO DO?

In 2026, an AI diagnostic system outperformed a panel of specialist clinicians four to one. A separate benchmark just matched that result against a room of contract lawyers. This isn't a talk about tools, prompts, or productivity hacks – it's about what a profession gets to become when the work that used to define expertise stops being the scarce thing. Drawing on the same evidence reshaping medicine, consulting, and Big Four accounting, this session makes the case that the real work ahead isn't managing disruption – it's design. What should the human lawyer role actually look like now: what stays, what grows, what's entirely new? The firms that design this on purpose, rather than discovering it by accident, won't just adapt to the shift. They'll define what "great lawyer" means for the next generation.

KELLIE NUTTALL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **FUTURE SECURE AI**

11:45 – 12:15

Session 3

WHY ALL DISPUTE AND LITIGATION TEAMS NEED A FACT LAYER AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT

Litigation teams manage documents, not facts. That's why the chronology gets rebuilt at every stage of a matter, and why general AI tools sitting on top of an unstructured document pile produces limited extractions that nobody can check. Dispute teams need a fact layer: a source-linked record of what happened that's built once and reused across every work product. He covers the case for it and the practical steps to implement it in a firm.

DANIEL LORD-DOYLE CEO **MARY TECHNOLOGY**

12:15 – 12:30

**Industry
Insights**

IS THIS GOOD LAW? VERIFYING AI-GENERATED LEGAL RESEARCH

The proliferation of legal research generated by non-legal AI is on the rise, forcing lawyers to spend time correcting the work when clients expect them to reduce their hours instead. This session will preview the upcoming release of a major update to CoCounsel: Thomson Reuters' flagship legal AI product that natively incorporates both Australian black letter law and trusted guidance on how to apply that law using the latest in agentic AI capabilities

ZIGGY CHENG LEGAL AI **THOMSON REUTERS**

12:30 – 13:15

Lunch Break

LUNCHEON & HAVE A CHAT TIME

CONFERENCE DAY 1

13:15 – 14:00

Session 4

BEYOND TECHNOLOGY: LOSS, LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP IN AN ERA OF CONTINUOUS CHANGE.

- As technology reshapes the professional landscape, leaders face a new challenge: helping people evolve alongside it.
- This session examines the behaviours, beliefs, and habits that determine whether change succeeds or stalls.
- Gain fresh perspectives on what it takes to build adaptable, future-ready teams.

LUKE HEWITT LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT LEAD AND AI AMBASSADOR (P&D)
HWLE LAWYERS

14:00 – 14:15

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

THE FREE LUNCH IS OVER: LEGAL AI AFTER VC SUBSIDIES

Legal AI is moving into a new economic phase. As venture capital subsidies recede and first-generation enterprise contracts come up for renewal, the industry is shifting from flat-fee experimentation toward consumption-based pricing. That change will force firms and clients to look much more closely at what AI actually costs, how value is measured, and whether every workflow should depend on expensive generative models. This session looks at the economics behind legal AI, the implications of token and consumption billing, and why the next competitive advantage may come not from using more AI, but from designing systems that use it more intelligently. The free lunch is ending. What comes next will reshape how legal AI is bought, built and deployed.

LACHLAN JAMES CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER **CICERO**

14:15 – 15:00

Session 5

THE BUSINESS MODEL SQUEEZE

How AI-first delivery is reshaping billing, leverage, pricing, and the traditional pyramid and what a sustainable legal operating model looks like next.

JENAE WEBB ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DIGITAL LEGAL DELIVERY, AUSTRALIA
HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS KRAMER

15:00 – 15:30

Break

Afternoon Break and chat time

15:30 – 15:45

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

LEGORA AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL LAWYER

AI will replace lawyers" makes for a good headline, but it misses what's actually happening. The lawyers pulling ahead aren't being replaced. They're using AI to do work that was never possible before. This talk challenges the framing of legal AI as a pure efficiency play. Time savings are real, but they're the least interesting part of the story. The bigger shift is in scope: AI lets lawyers take on risks they've historically scoped out of their work entirely, whether that's reviewing every contract instead of a sample, monitoring obligations across a whole portfolio, or pressure-testing positions that were previously too costly to explore. It also changes how lawyers engage with clients and stakeholders, adding depth, responsiveness and proactive insight at no extra cost. Drawing on real examples from teams using Legora, this session makes the case that the future belongs to entrepreneurial lawyers: those who treat AI not as a threat or a timesheet tool, but as a way to create value they never thought possible.

KOSTA HOUNTALAS LEAD LEGAL ENGINEER **LEGORA**

CONFERENCE DAY 1

15:45 – 16:05

INDUSTRY
INSIGHTS

FROM PROTOTYPE TO PRODUCTION: BUILDING, SECURING AND GOVERNING AI WITHIN THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE

Join us for a fireside chat where Richard Davies (VP APAC Airia), Justin Westbrook (GM of Technology and Knowledge Services Lantern Legal Group) and Robin Masih (Director of Data Lounge) – share real world examples of how AI can be used practically and securely to deliver real world innovation within a legal practice – covering off integrating key systems such as iManage and Harvey all while maintaining the high levels of security and governance expected.

RICHARD DAVIES REGIONAL LEAD, ANZ **AIRIA**

JUSTIN WESTBROOK DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE SERVICES
LANTERN LEGAL GROUP

ROBIN MASIH DIRECTOR **DATA LOUNGE**

16:05 – 17:00

Session 6
Panel
Discussion

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE : WHAT DO CIOs REALLY THINK?

Over the last two decades, legal technology has moved from a back-office curiosity to a boardroom priority and yet the gap between vendor promises and day-to-day reality has rarely been discussed openly.

This panel brings together leading CIOs for a candid conversation about what actually happened over the past 20 years, what is really working and what is not today, and where technology leadership is headed next. From the disruption that was overhyped to the innovations that quietly transformed how firms operate, the panellists will share the unfiltered view from the top of the IT function and their predictions for the next chapter of Lawtech.

KRIS MASON CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER **ARNOLD BLOCH LEIBLER**

PETER CAMPBELL HEAD OF LEGAL PRODUCT LAB **ALLENS**

RON DUTTA DIRECTOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **MCCULLOUGH ROBERTSON**

MODERATOR: GAVIN WINGFIELD DIRECTOR – APPLIED LEGAL TECHNOLOGY **MALLESONS**

17:00 – 17:30

Session 7
Closing
Keynote

AI WITHOUT ECONOMICS HAS LITTLE VALUE

AI is a technology that fundamentals ‘changes the means of production’ – including the production of legal work.

Nearly every economic aspect changes with AI. Billable time becomes a liability, not a benefit. Hours become weak measures of value. The labour pyramid changes shape and more.

And then we have questions around what are clients paying for? What about the issue of token costs? It really is going to be a fundamental shift and economics will be at the heart of it

RICHARD TROMANS FOUNDER **ARTIFICIAL LAWYER (UK) ***

*(via video link)

17:30 – 18:30

COCKTAIL HOUR – JOIN NETDOCUMENTS

17:30 – 18:30

FREE TIME

18:30 – 19:00

NETWORKING DRINKS – SPONSORED BY THOMSON REUTERS

19:00 – 21:30

AWARDS PRESENTATION & DINNER

CONFERENCE DAY 2

9:00	Opening Remark from the Chair: LISA FITZGERALD PARTNER TECHNOLOGY, PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT
9:00 – 9:45 Session 1	BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT: FABRICATED EVIDENCE, DEEPPAKES, AND THE LAWTECH WE NOW HAVE TO BUILD THE CAPTURE imagined a unit fabricating CCTV to secure convictions. In September 2025 a Californian court dismissed a case with prejudice after a party submitted video testimony from a witness who never gave it. This session traces how courts absorb each new form of machine evidence – radar, satellite navigation, GPS, RFID, Horizon – and why generative models break the pattern: earlier technologies failed by accident, this one succeeds by design. It examines how a judge actually detected a deepfake, why that offers less comfort than it appears, and sets out six things legal IT teams can build now, starting with the unglamorous discipline of not destroying your own exhibits. KATINA MICHAEL PROFESSOR OF STRATEGY, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY BUSINESS SCHOOL & INAUGURAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR MBA (TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL STRATEGY)
9:45 – 10:00 INDUSTRY INSIGHTS	THE GOLDFISH PROBLEM: WHAT AI REMEMBERS, WHAT IT FORGETS, AND WHY IT MATTERS FOR YOUR FIRM This talk is about context: the missing layer in legal AI that separates a smart tool from one that actually knows your firm. Most AI tools start fresh with every conversation, with no memory of past matters and no sense of how your firm actually works. We'll unpack why that's a problem for legal teams specifically, and what it looks like when AI can finally hold onto context the way a trusted colleague would. COLLEEN BAEHREND DIRECTOR, LEGAL AI SOLUTIONS NETDOCUMENTS
10:00 – 10:15 INDUSTRY INSIGHTS	THE OPEN SOURCE WAVE IN LEGAL AI: WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR FIRM One of the fastest-moving shifts in legal AI is the ability for lawyers to access open source legal tech and AI to build in-house solutions as an alternative to using the big commercial tools. It's a topic almost no conference stage has touched. This session looks at what lawyers have already built, how it stacks up against the tools firms rely on today, and how to judge whether any of it belongs in your practice. It'll show where these tools could cut into seat counts, and how firms of any size can get real value from them. The harder question: as AI absorbs more of the lawyer's work, how do you keep hold of the knowledge that makes your firm valuable? CASPAR ROXBURGH GENERAL MANAGER DRAFTABLE
10:15 – 11:00 Session 2	YOUR CLIENTS DON'T DISTRUST AI. THEY WANT RECOURSE. Transparency, verification and what the credibility gap is actually about We may have diagnosed this wrongly. Evidence from customer service indicates that people are not broadly distrustful of AI; they are discriminating about where it is acceptable. Tolerance rises for low-stakes work and hardens where the stakes are high – and as AI capability grows, that split widens rather than closes. Almost everything a firm charges properly for sits on the hard side of that line. What is being asked for there is not humanness, and not a disclosure statement. It is recourse: who is accountable when the work is wrong, and what it was checked against. That makes the credibility gap a design problem rather than a staffing one. The uncomfortable consequence: a human in the loop who cannot detect the error is not a control, but a liability shield. Humanova's national research finds seventy per cent of Australian knowledge workers using AI weekly, yet only one in eight with genuine capability – and senior leaders are four times more likely to be among them. Meanwhile agents are absorbing the routine work through which juniors built their verification instinct. Sean sets out what firms can build now: verification designed into the workflow, capability developed deliberately, and accountability someone actually feels. DR SEAN GALLAGHER FOUNDER HUMANOVA

CONFERENCE DAY 2

11:00 – 11:15
INFO SPIEL

MEET YOUR SILVER PARTNERS

11:15 – 11:45
BREAK

Morning Tea & have a chat time

11:45 – 12:30
Session 3
FIRESIDE
CHAT

BEYOND THE HYPE: REIMAGINING WHAT INNOVATION TRULY MEANS FOR THE FUTURE OF LAW – A DISCUSSION

- Has "innovation" in law become synonymous with "AI," and if so, what are we missing?
- Moving beyond tools and tech stacks — what does genuine innovation in legal service delivery and culture look like?
- What role does change management and firm culture play in successful innovation?

ALEX COMYN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, LEGAL TECHNOLOGY (AUSTRALIA) DIGITAL LEGAL DELIVERY
HSF KRAMER

NIKKI ROLLASON DIRECTOR, LEGAL OPERATIONS & INNOVATION **NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT**

KALI ASTILL SENIOR MANAGER – DIGITAL ENABLEMENT **ASHURST PERKINS COIE**

MODERATOR: BETH PATTERSON DIRECTOR **ESP CONNECT**

12:30 – 13:00
Session 4

CYBERSECURITY & RESILIENCE IN AN AGENTIC WORLD

As AI agents increasingly handle sensitive legal work from document review to client communications; the attack surface for law firms is expanding fast.

This session explores what cyber resilience really means in an agentic world, where autonomous systems introduce new risks alongside new efficiencies, and firms must rethink security from the ground up to protect data, clients, and trust.

JACQUI KERNOT CEO **MODEL SECURITY**

13:00 – 13:40
Session 5

LEADING WITH HUMANITY – WHAT AI CAN'T REPLACE

Flourishing people create better outcomes.

Instead of asking: "How can AI make us faster?"

What if we/you were also to ask: "How can AI help people do more meaningful work?"

Based around the principles of Positive Psychology, top discussion points would be:

- Purpose and Meaning
- The competitive advantage of emotional intelligence
- Positive relationships are everything
- Psychological strengths
- Recovery and wellbeing

Technology should free humans to become more human, not simply more productive.

DR TIM SHARP 'DR HAPPY' PSYCHOLOGIST & FOUNDER **THE HAPPINESS INSTITUTE**

13:40 – 13:50
CLOSING
REMARKS

Closing remarks from the Chair

13:40
END OF
SUMMIT

Luncheon and End of the Lawtech Summit

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

connecting leaders + ideas

