

EXPERT INSIGHT

Christina Blacklaws



The Law Society



Christina Blacklaws

President of the Law Society of England and Wales

Christina is the President of the Law Society of England and Wales and performs a range of ambassadorial and representative functions both domestically and internationally. In addition, she holds a range of public appointments including member of the Family Justice Council, trustee of LawWorks, member of the Judicial Diversity Forum, chair of the Law Society's Legal Technology Policy Commission, and chair of the government's Lawtech Delivery Panel. Christina also leads on the Law Society's relationship with Barclays to develop lawtech incubators. She is passionate about diversity, inclusion, technology and access to justice and uses every opportunity to advocate positive change in these areas.

In my role as President of the Law Society, I am striving to help the legal profession to adapt by supporting technologies for the future. Companies like Luminance are instrumental in transforming the day-to-day lives of lawyers and are a key component in future-proofing the industry. Over the past decades as volumes of data have grown exponentially, our stock-in-trade as lawyers has become our ability to process information in high volumes. Now, as AI can increasingly handle low-level tasks, the profession must return to its roots. Value to the client will be once again be driven by the insight and expertise of trusted advisors rather than the size and resilience of the firms' workforce. To meet these expectations, innovation has become the key to survival for firms, and failure to modernise will inevitably lead to being left behind. The traditional structure of law firms and legal providers has been a barrier to the adoption of new technologies and in order to overcome this, the benefits of machine learning and artificial intelligence must be understood. Luminance eliminates the repetitive and lengthy drudge work of manual document review which has become an increasing strain on the profession. The burnout of young lawyers poses a real threat to the future of our industry and therefore, technologies like Luminance need to be harnessed to improve the mental health and wellbeing of lawyers.

It is time for the British government to support and nurture legal technology to ensure our industry does not fall victim to disruption. Legal tech has the ability to support economic growth and drive opportunity within the United Kingdom if it is harnessed swiftly and efficiently.

We should be training the lawyers of the future in twenty-first century practice methods, rather than simply recycling the traditions of their forebears. The entirety of the legal industry must now turn their eyes to the future, from the smallest firm to multinational companies, and make a concerted effort to adapt to the changing nature of the industry. Private practice especially needs to embrace and embed the tools of this new technological age, and subsequently enjoy the benefits that the technology behind Luminance can provide.