

AI Agents and Agentic AI in the Law

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Artificial intelligence has evolved and introduced terms like generative AI and agentic AI, but these two similar realms are not interchangeable.¹ One article from IBM establishes that Generative AI is a form of artificial intelligence capable of creating original content, such as text, images, or code, in response to a user's prompt or request. *Id.* Likewise, an article from Thomson Reuters highlights that generative AI excels at producing specific content based on direct, step-by-step prompts.² Moreover, IBM experts clarify that Generative AI is primarily reactive to user input and functions in a request-response model, like the chatbots that have taken the world by storm. *Id.* at 1. However, MIT Sloan's Sinan Aral states that we are already well into the "Agentic Age of AI," where AI tools are being given more autonomy³. The same report from IBM further clarifies that Agentic AI describes AI systems designed to make decisions and act autonomously, through pursuing complex goals with limited supervision. *Id.* at 1. Furthermore, these experts distinguish Agentic AI by its focus on making decisions rather than creating content, and its proactive approach, which contrasts with GenAI's reactive nature. *Id.*

Specifically, NVIDIA highlights that Agentic AI uses sophisticated reasoning and planning to solve complex, multi-step problems autonomously⁴. Additionally, the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy highlights agentic AI's potential to perform tasks historically dependent on human judgment, from negotiating contracts to exploring legal arguments. *Id.* at 3. Likewise, these

¹ <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/agentic-ai-vs-generative-ai>

² <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/insights/articles/agentic-ai-vs-generative-ai-the-core-differences#:~:text=Agentic%20AI%20makes%20decisions%20and,sweet%20spot%20is%20content%20creation.>

³ <https://mitsloan.mit.edu/ideas-made-to-matter/4-new-studies-about-agentic-ai-mit-initiative-digital-economy>

⁴ <https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/what-is-agentic-ai/>

researchers discovered that Agentic AI can be taught to handle exceptions by understanding human reasoning, further allowing it to adapt its decisions beyond strict rules. Id. Accordingly, tools like Grammarly are seeking to infiltrate this space themselves by leveraging their existing platform to integrate always-on AI agents across over 500,000 applications and websites, which understand context to provide frictionless, integrated assistance, unlike other large-language models that require manual cutting, pasting, and re-prompting for output⁵.

Consequently, for the legal profession, an article from Thomson Reuters indicates that developing Agentic AI promises to streamline workflows and elevate work quality. Id. at 2. More specifically, experts note that Agentic AI achieves this by automating processes like due diligence, regulatory monitoring, and compiling findings into structured reports across multiple datasets. Id. As such, these experts highlight that platforms like CoCounsel are already integrating these advanced agentic AI capabilities within established professional workflows. Id. Accordingly, Thomson Reuters emphasizes that this approach enhances human expertise and amplifies what lawyers do best, rather than replacing their judgment. Id.

AI Agents and Automated Workflows

The new realm of Agentic AI represents a significant evolution from Generative AI tools, which were already considered revolutionary by professionals within the space⁶. Importantly, RunSensible clarifies that Agentic AI systems operate with a high degree of autonomy, advanced decision-making capabilities, and adaptability⁷. Further, IBM states that Agentic AI focuses on decisions rather than creating new content and does not rely on human prompts or require constant

⁵ <https://www.computerworld.com/article/4007791/grammarly-looks-to-evolve-into-an-always-on-desktop-ai-agent.html>

⁶ <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/innovation/how-the-rise-of-agentic-ai-is-revolutionizing-professional-work/>

⁷ https://www.runsensible.com/blog/agentic-ai-in-law-firms/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

human oversight. Id at 1. Likewise, ContractPodAi defines AI agents as semi-autonomous systems that make decisions, dynamically control their own processes, and take actions to achieve specific goals with limited human interaction⁸. One article from LEGALFLY highlights that Agentic AI goes beyond simply generating content by understanding context, retrieving information, applying reasoning, and taking actions with minimal human input⁹. To illustrate, The National Law Review notes that agentic AI can function like a "virtual army of associates" specialized in various practice areas, dynamically routing tasks to the right "expert" within the system¹⁰. Adding that this collective knowledge, when harnessed at scale, leads to top-notch work products and reduced turnaround times. Id. Moreover, ContractPodAi adds that these systems leverage task-specific expertise and collaborative intelligence to optimize complex workflows, enabling comprehensive end-to-end problem-solving. Id at 8.

Accordingly, this evolution directly leads to agentic workflows that are transforming the legal landscape according to Thomson Reuters¹¹. Initially, experts from A3Logics indicate that AI agents are set to revolutionize legal practice areas by enhancing overall efficiency and automation¹². Further, Thomson Reuters elaborates that agentic AI specifically specializes in workflow automation and independent problem-solving, enabling it to handle complex, chained tasks such as extensive research, detailed analysis, and comprehensive reporting¹³. For example, A3Logics explains that Agentic AI fundamentally transforms legal research by quickly sifting through enormous legal texts, statutes, and case law to find relevant precedents with significantly

⁸ https://contractpodai.com/news/agentic-ai-legal/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁹ https://www.legalfly.com/post/everything-you-need-to-know-about-agentic-ai-for-legal-work?utm_source=chatgpt.com

¹⁰ <https://natlawreview.com/article/thinking-lawyer-agentic-ai-and-new-legal-playbook>

¹¹ <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/blog/agentic-ai-use-cases-in-the-legal-industry/>

¹² <https://www.a3logics.com/blog/use-cases-of-ai-agents-in-legal-industry/>

¹³ <https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en-us/posts/technology/agentic-ai-legal/>

greater accuracy than humans. Id at 12. Similarly, Thomson Reuters further illustrates that AI agents can summarize case documents, build timelines, and generate high-level case analyses or strategy memos to support early case assessment and planning. Id at 13. Financially, the National Law Review establishes that integrating Agentic systems allows law firms to significantly cut down the time for tasks, thereby maintaining or even improving profit margins with predictable, value-based billing. Id at 10. As such, this enables firms to take on more cases, offer new services (ex: real-time compliance monitoring, rapid contract generation), and scale their practice without expanding headcount, in turn driving revenue. Id. Additionally, a study from Arizona Legal Studies contends that AI agents can provide nearly instant feedback at a virtually unlimited scale, supporting ethical decision-making and compliance within legal processes¹⁴. Finally, the National Law Review echoes that this transformative power promises to streamline workflows and significantly elevate work quality, allowing lawyers to focus on high-value strategic work rather than routine tasks. Id. at 10.

Risks of Agentic AI

However, experts establish that the journey to full agentic AI adoption is not without significant challenges and considerations. Id. At 13. One article from Thomson Reuters emphasizes that building these complex agents is not for the weak, as they require a whole host of clean data and difficult engineering. Id. Additionally, the same article also establishes the fundamental challenge of articulating and standardizing the multi-step nature of complex legal tasks, as human lawyers often don't explicitly think through every discrete step involved in their work, which AI agents require. Id. Furthermore, while AI can mitigate human biases, one source highlights that AI can still reflect bias if trained on a bias-laden prompt or a limited data set that

¹⁴ https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5113810

incorporates bias. Id at 12. Accordingly, they establish that these faults require conscientious, periodic testing and human oversight to detect and correct them. Id. Further, these experts stress data privacy and security as other critical concerns, with law firms handling sensitive data that could be vulnerable to breaches if security protocols are not enhanced. Id.

Importantly, A3 Logics establishes that the inflated cost of integrating AI through software, infrastructure upgrades, and employee training can be a massive hurdle to growth. Id. Furthermore, the resistance to change within the legal profession is a significant barrier; a challenge this source feels will require effective communication, education, and strong leadership to foster adoption. Id. Nonetheless, the legal market is already experiencing a significant shift, with the market for AI in legal services expected to reach \$1.236 billion by 2025. Id. Currently, while only 13% of legal departments have adopted AI, 48% of law firms are actively investing in AI-driven solutions. Id. As such, experts predict that AI could automate up to 100,000 legal jobs by 2036 and take over 40% of tasks traditionally performed by lawyers by 2030. Id. Likewise, Thomson Reuters also notes a significant gap between acknowledging AI's importance and prioritizing effective strategies, underscoring the need for strategic adoption. Id at 13. Accordingly, their experts have advised law firms to prepare for a "gradual change" and invest in training to adapt to this evolving landscape. Id.

Agentic AI Tools Available Now

The legal field is now actively deploying Agentic AI tools, which represent a significant advancement from earlier AI, proactively tackling complex legal workflows. Id. At 11. Evidence of their real-world application and impact is emerging from recent studies and industry reports. Id. For instance, the Vals Legal AI Report (VLAIR), a benchmark study, highlighted Harvey AI as a standout performer, achieving the highest scores in five out of six tasks, including an impressive

94.8% accuracy for document Q&A¹⁵. Harvey consistently outperformed human lawyers in four tasks and was noted as the fastest tool overall, often responding in under a minute. Id. Specifically, Artificial Lawyer further reports that the platform's "Vault" feature is the second most popular for due diligence review, adding that it also leads in legal drafting and contract negotiation/redlining. Id. Similarly, CoCounsel from Thomson Reuters, another key tool, consistently ranked among top performers, achieving an average score of 79.5% across its evaluated tasks, excelling in document Q&A (89.6%) and summarization (77.2%) with "extraordinarily quick" responses. Id. Further, CoCounsel empowers professionals to streamline legal research, review documents, assist with trial preparation, and draft preliminary legal memoranda. Id. Importantly, both tools use elements of Generative AI, Agentic AI, and automated workflows to help their clients best serve their audience's needs¹⁶.

Additionally, Leah by ContractPodAi is an agentic platform that integrates multiple AI agents for end-to-end problem-solving, such as analyzing vendor contracts for risks, suggesting redlines, and ensuring compliance across workflows¹⁷. Likewise, V7 Go is engineered for complex, document-intensive legal tasks, allowing legal teams to design and deploy specialized AI agents for detailed contract review, due diligence, and regulatory compliance¹⁸. Importantly, this tool processes diverse file types and provides verifiable AI Citations, linking insights directly to source documents for accuracy. Id. Specifically, Pinsent Masons has adopted V7 Go to develop custom AI applications, and one user reported a 35% productivity increase in diligence processes. Id. Finally, Flank (formerly Legal OS) has been embedded into existing communication workflows

¹⁵ <https://www.lawnext.com/2025/02/legal-ai-tools-show-promise-in-first-of-its-kind-benchmark-study-with-harvey-and-cocounsel-leading-the-pack.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.aoshearman.com/en/news/ao-shearman-and-harvey-to-roll-out-agentic-ai-agents-targeting-complex-legal-workflows>

¹⁷ <https://contractpodai.com/leah/>

¹⁸ <https://www.v7labs.com/blog/v7-go-agentic-legal-ai-software>

like Slack and Outlook, with some customers processing thousands of legal requests monthly for NDA edits, Terms & Conditions, and Statements of Work, leading to considerable time and cost savings¹⁹. Accordingly, these examples demonstrate that agentic AI is not just a concept, but a tangible, impactful reality for legal professionals today. Id. at 11.

¹⁹ <https://www.insightpartners.com/ideas/workflow-automation-for-legal-teams-how-flank-is-empowering-law-yers-with-an-autonomous-ai-agent/#:~:text=Flank%20agents%20can%20handle%20NDA,time%20on%20more%20complex%20issues.>