AI in Legal Research

Introductory Concepts

- Data-driven law isn't new; lawyers have been automating parts of legal research for years.

- Increased reliance on AI-driven legal research creates or magnifies tension between certain ethical obligations, including diligence, competence, confidentiality, and supervision.

- Technological advancement is happening against a backdrop of a widening access to justice gap, which legal tech could shrink or widen. The next generation of lawyers will steer the development, adoption, and use of these tools, so legal education has a big role to play.

- The profession needs to address barriers that limit access and the feasibility of data-driven tools for some lawyers.

- If developed and used responsibly, increased efficiency can do more than just increase clients and revenue – it can make us more mindful and healthy lawyers and people.

In the Classroom

- Encourage students to resist the "I went to law school to avoid math" mentality by acknowledging the ways in which legal research has always been data driven.

- Identify the algorithm and data-driven tools that are part of basic Lexis and Westlaw services (campus representatives are usually very willing to explain new features), and discuss the benefits and limits of these and other emerging tools.

- Consider an exercise where, instead of writing for a faceless audience or a fictional court, students analyze an issue set before a real decisionmaker for whom legal analytics exist.

Assessment Options

- Research pathfinders that incorporate traditional and new research techniques and tools.

- Polls or quizzes to test whether students are effectively incorporating new legal research techniques and tools into their process or whether they are ineffectively using them to replace important parts of the research process.

Additional Resources

- Drew's "Ethical Issues in Robo-lawyering" article [here](#) discusses some of the challenges and opportunities associated with data-driven legal research and other legal AI.
- Also check out Professor Jamie Baker's article, *2018: A Legal Research Odyssey: Artificial Intelligence as Disruptor*, [here](#).
- See [here](#) for Professor Katrina Lee's article on the link between legal tech and mindfulness.