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Introduction to AI in the Legal Profession

Since the public release of ChatGPT 3.5 in November 2022, artificial intelligence has exploded in popularity, reshaping domains from communications-centric fields like customer service and entertainment to knowledge-driven areas such as healthcare and finance. This presentation will provide an accessible overview of how modern AI tools operate and the current AI landscape, as well as the benefits and challenges they present with specific focus on the legal profession. Special attention will be given to AI in legal and criminal contexts, exploring its dual role as a tool for attorneys - streamlining research, drafting, and analysis - and as a medium for crime - nonconsensual deepfakes, fraud, and “algorithmic collusion”. A key focus will be on evaluating the reliability and applicability of AI tools for various use cases. Further ethical issues like bias, privacy, and accountability will be discussed via real-world examples. The session will conclude with a discussion of the American Bar Association’s guidance (formal opinion 512) on ethical AI use in legal practice.