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2025 Legal Technology and AI Adoption Report



Executive Summary

AllRize commissioned a new research project to gain insights into the issues, challenges, and priorities of nearly 100 law firms across the United States. This report presents findings from that research, which examined technology adoption, AI usage, operational challenges, and workplace dynamics in the legal profession.

The survey reveals an industry in transition, where smaller firms are leading AI adoption while many larger organizations remain cautious. The findings indicate significant opportunities for efficiency gains through technology integration, particularly in addressing the widespread stress from excessive workloads and administrative burdens that plague the profession.

The data also suggests that smaller organizations are demonstrating greater agility in adopting new tools, while their larger counterparts sometimes struggle with change management and organizational inertia. This dynamic creates both opportunities and risks as the profession continues to evolve in response to technological advances.

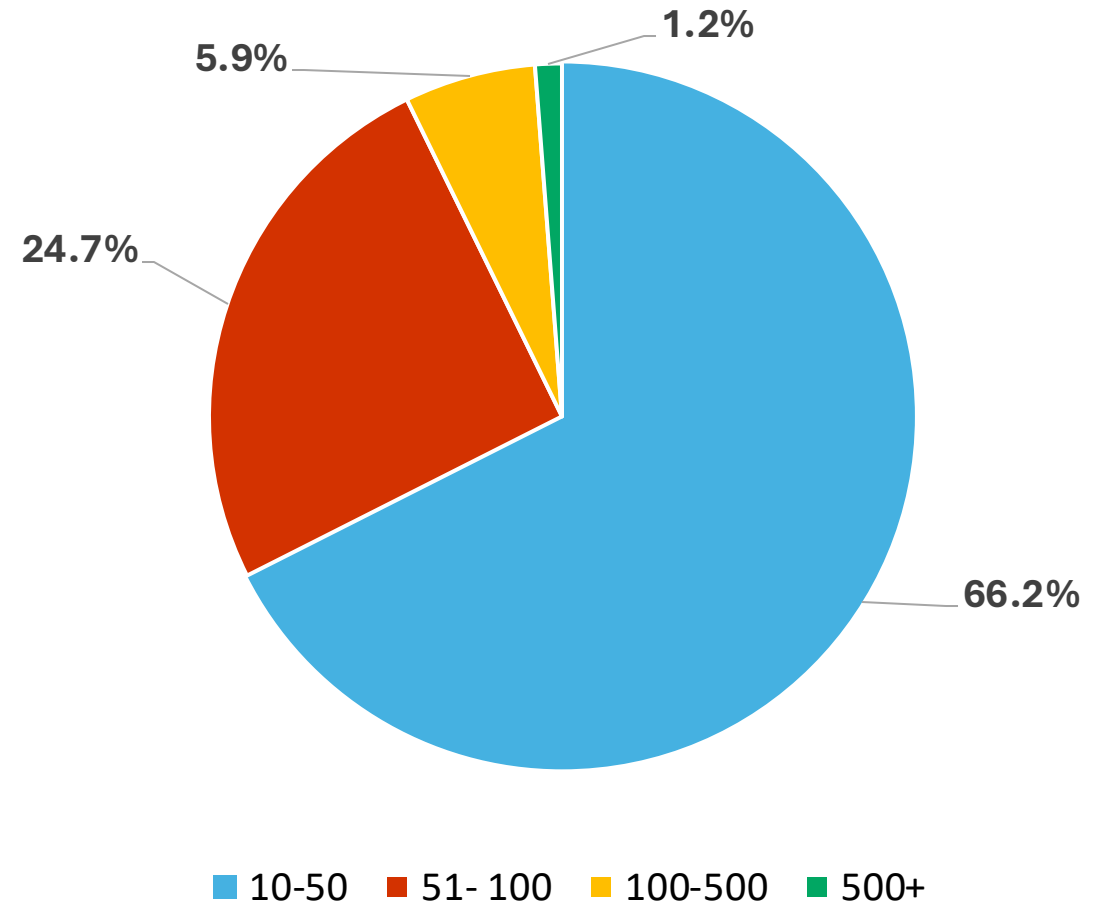


Survey Demographics and Methodology

The survey instrument consisted of approximately 25 multiple-choice questions designed to capture insights into firm operations, technology usage patterns, workplace stress factors, and attitudes toward emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence.

The respondent pool reflects the structure of the American legal market, with the overwhelming majority representing smaller practices. About 66% of respondents work at small firms employing less than 50 people, while about 25% work in firms with 51-100 employees. Less than 10% of respondents represent firms with more than 100 employees. This distribution aligns with industry data showing that small firms dominate the legal services landscape.

Number of Employees

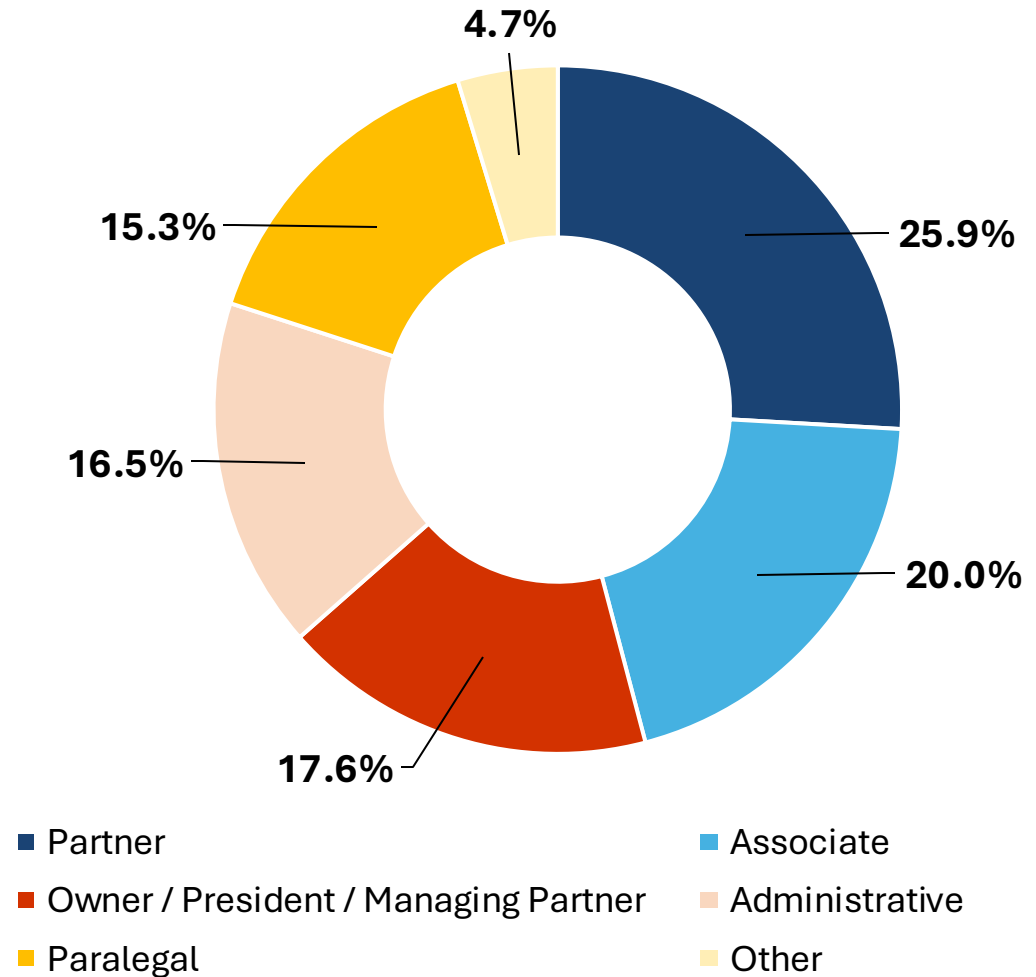


Survey Demographics and Methodology

The professional roles represented in the survey span the typical hierarchy often found in legal practices. Partners constitute the largest single group at 25.9% of respondents, followed closely by Associates at 20%. Owner, President, or Managing Partner roles account for 17.6% of responses, while Paralegals represent 16.5% and Administrative staff comprise 15.3%. The remaining 4.7% encompasses other specialized roles within legal organizations, including IT and Operations.

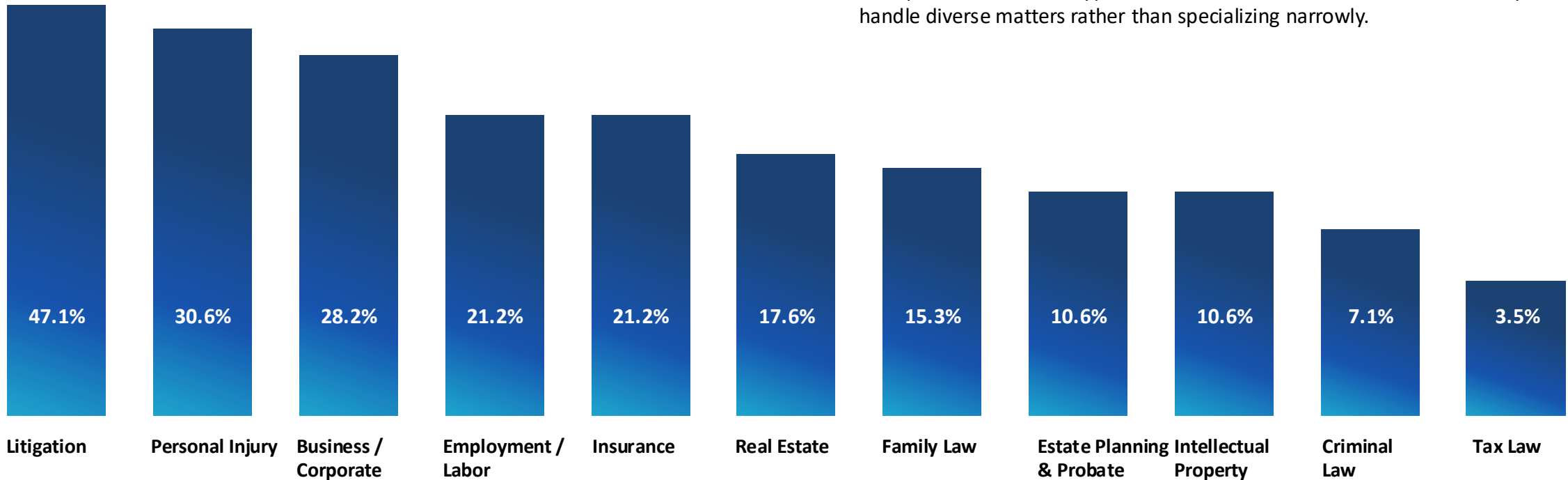
This distribution is useful for understanding technology adoption patterns and stress factors, as different roles experience legal practice from distinctly different vantage points. Partners and firm owners face strategic decisions about technology investments and billing models, while also working the longest hours. Associates navigate the tension between billable hour requirements and operational efficiency. Paralegals and administrative staff, who spend the most time on non-billable tasks and document management, are precisely the roles where AI and integrated software could deliver the most immediate productivity gains.

Job Function



Survey Demographics and Methodology

Primary Practice Areas



In terms of practice areas, some firms focus exclusively on one practice area, while other firms serve multiple types of clients, and they were noted in the survey. The top three practice areas are Litigation (47.1%), Personal Injury (30.6%), and Business and Corporate (28.2%). Firms focused on Labor Law and Insurance each account for 20.2%, rounding out the top five practice areas.

The relatively lower representation of highly specialized fields like Intellectual Property and Tax Law reflects the reality that these areas tend to be concentrated in larger firms or boutique practices, which comprise a smaller portion of the legal market.

These percentages total well over 100%, indicating that many respondents practice in multiple areas, which is typical of small to mid-sized firms where attorneys often handle diverse matters rather than specializing narrowly.

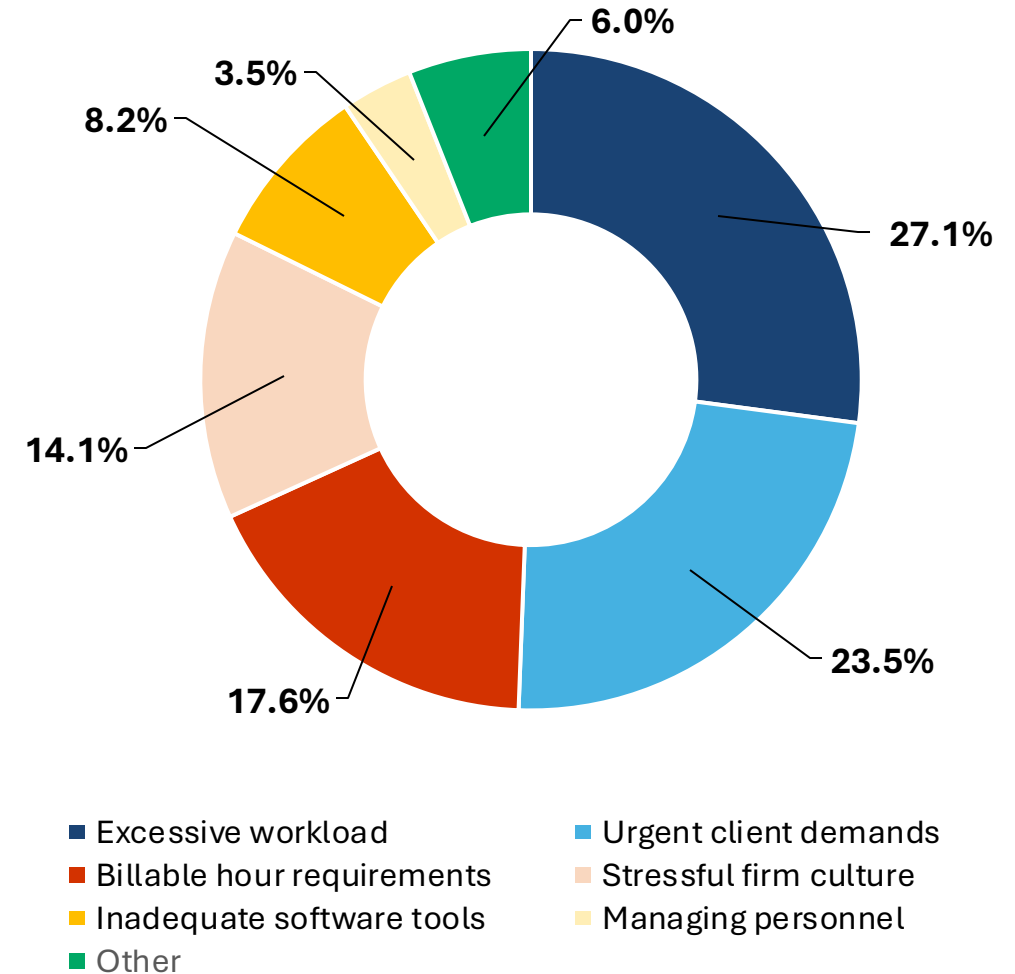
Work Harder, Bill More

Excessive workload emerges as the single largest stressor at 27.1%, followed closely by urgent client demands at 23.5%. Together, these two factors account for over half of all stress responses, indicating that the sheer volume and pace of work—rather than its nature—creates the greatest burden for legal professionals. Billable hour requirements add another 17.6% to the stress profile, highlighting the ongoing tension between productivity metrics and sustainable work practices.

What's particularly notable is that 14.1% cite stressful firm culture as their primary source of stress, suggesting that workplace environment and interpersonal dynamics create significant strain beyond the work itself. Meanwhile, 8.2% identify inadequate software tools as their biggest stressor—a percentage that may seem modest but represents a purely operational issue that should be entirely within firms' control to address. This finding reinforces the technology integration challenges documented throughout the survey and suggests that poor software systems aren't just inefficient, they're actively contributing to employee stress.

The 3.5% citing managing personnel and 6% citing other factors round out the picture. Taken together, this data reveals a profession under substantial pressure from multiple directions, with technology representing one of the few stress factors that firms could theoretically address through strategic investment in integrated, user-friendly systems that reduce rather than add to daily operational friction.

What is your biggest source of stress?

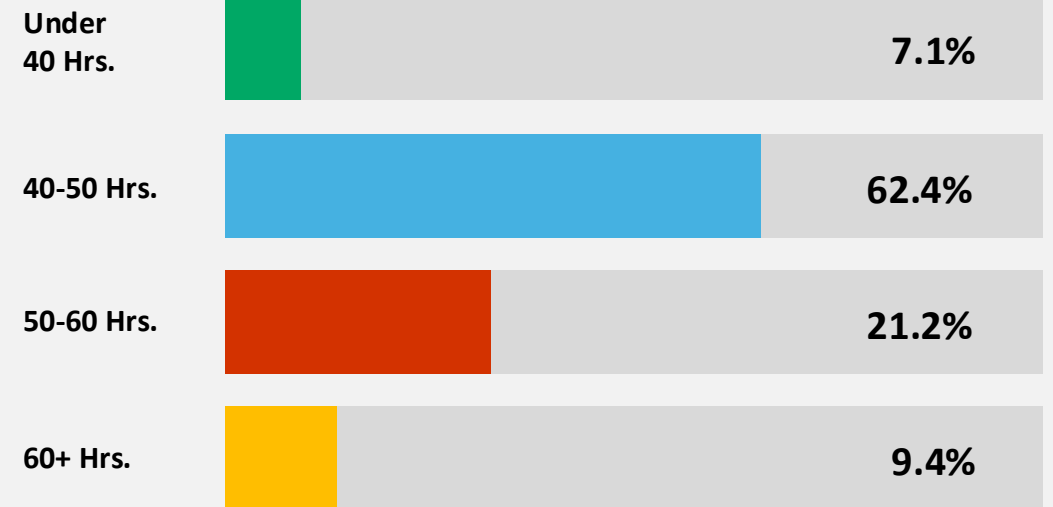


Work Harder, Bill More

The survey reveals concerning patterns regarding work-life balance and stress levels across the legal profession. While 62.4% of respondents report working what might be considered a standard 40 to 50-hour work week, another 21.2% regularly exceed 50 hours weekly. Finally, 9.4% work more than 60 hours each week. This pattern becomes more pronounced when examining specific roles, with Partners and senior leadership consistently working longer hours than support staff.

The relationship between job function and working hours demonstrates a clear hierarchy of time commitment. Partners emerge as the most time-intensive role, with 37% reporting workweeks of 60 hours or more. Associates follow this pattern, though to a lesser degree, with 13.3% working these extended hours. In contrast, Paralegals and Administrative staff maintain more traditional work schedules, with over 75% of both groups working the standard 40–50-hour range.

How many hours do you work each week?

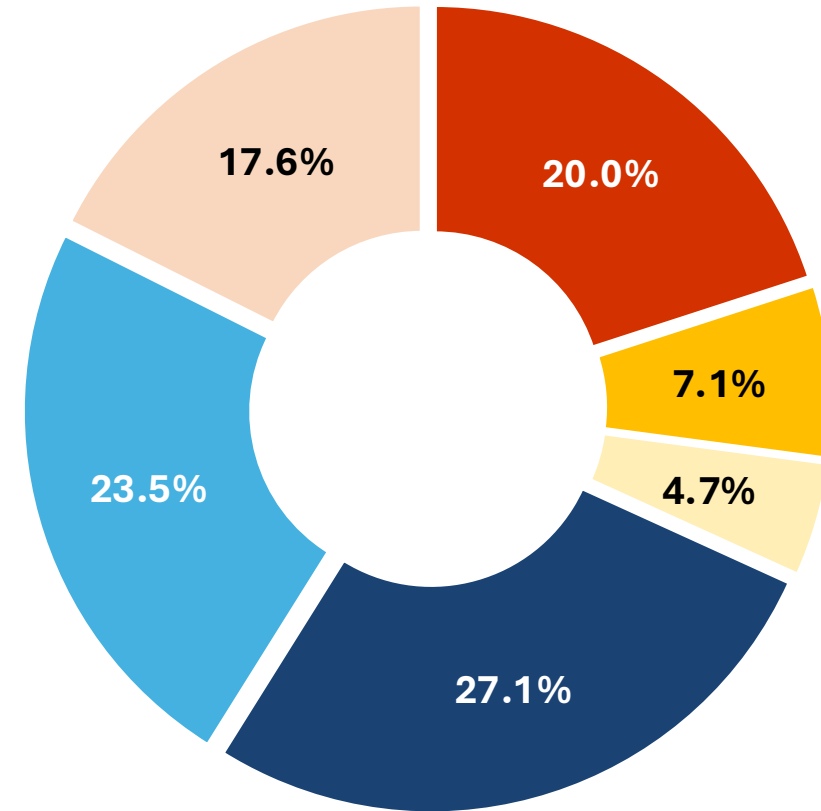


Work Harder, Bill More

Despite the emphasis on billable hours in legal practice, only 17.6% of total respondents spend more than 80% of their time on billable work. On the other end of the spectrum, 20% of employees spend less than 10% of their time on billable tasks, suggesting significant administrative and operational overhead across the profession.

This disparity becomes even more pronounced when considering firm size, with correlated data showing 100% of respondents from large firms spending more than 80% of their time on billable work. This could indicate greater operational efficiency or more specialized role definitions.

What % of your time is billable?



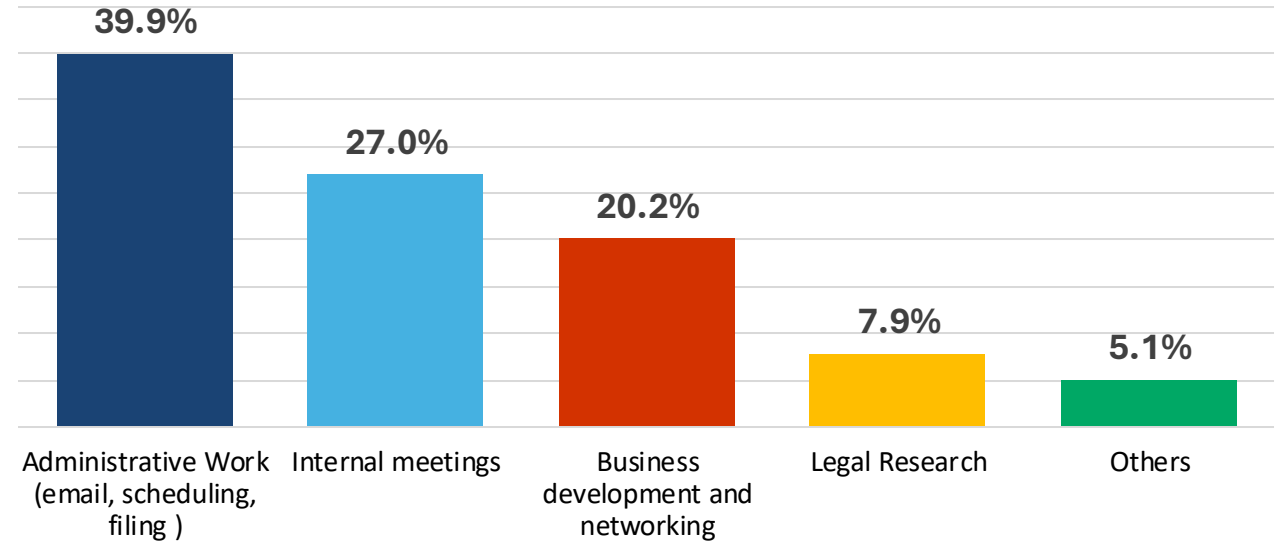
■ Less than 10% ■ 10-20% ■ 20-40% ■ 40-60% ■ 60-80% ■ More than 80%

Work Harder, Bill More

The non-billable task data reveals where legal professionals are losing productive time and points directly to opportunities for technology-driven efficiency gains. Administrative work—including emails, scheduling, and filing—consumes nearly 40% of non-billable time and represents the single largest drain on productivity across law firms. Internal meetings follow at 27%, while business development and networking account for 20.2%. Surprisingly, legal research ranks fourth at only 7.9%, suggesting that much of what prevents attorneys from billing time has nothing to do with substantive legal work.

This distribution has significant implications for legal management professionals considering AI and automation investments. The fact that administrative tasks consume such a disproportionate amount of time—nearly double that of internal meetings and twice as much as business development—indicates exactly where technology should be deployed first. These are precisely the areas where AI tools excel: drafting and organizing emails, managing calendars, automating document filing and organization, and streamlining routine administrative workflows.

What non-billable tasks take most of your time?

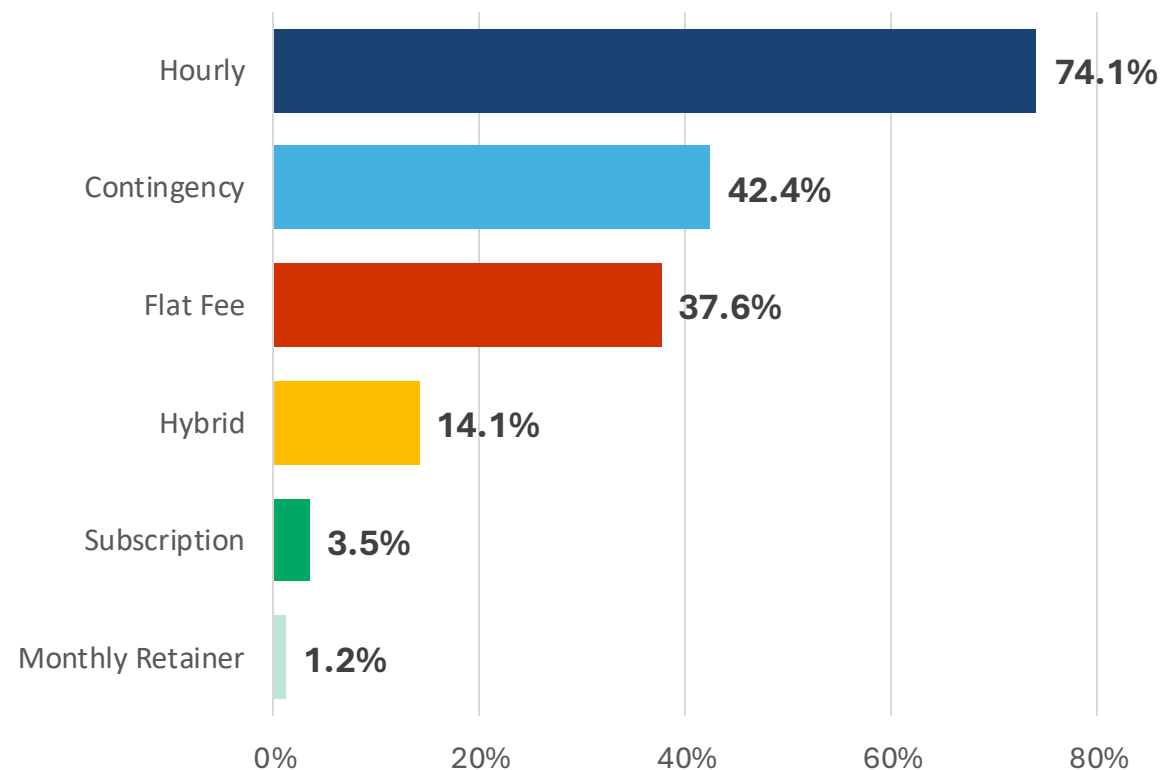


Hourly Billing Still Rules

While hourly billing remains the dominant model at 74.1% of firms, the legal profession has embraced significant diversity in how it charges clients. Contingency billing is used by 42.4% of firms, flat fee structures by 37.6%, hybrid models by 14.1%, and subscription-based billing by a small but notable 3.5%.

These percentages total well over 100%, revealing that most law firms now offer multiple billing options rather than adhering to a single model, a flexibility that reflects evolving client expectations and the varied nature of legal work across different practice areas and matter types.

What billing options does your firm offer clients?

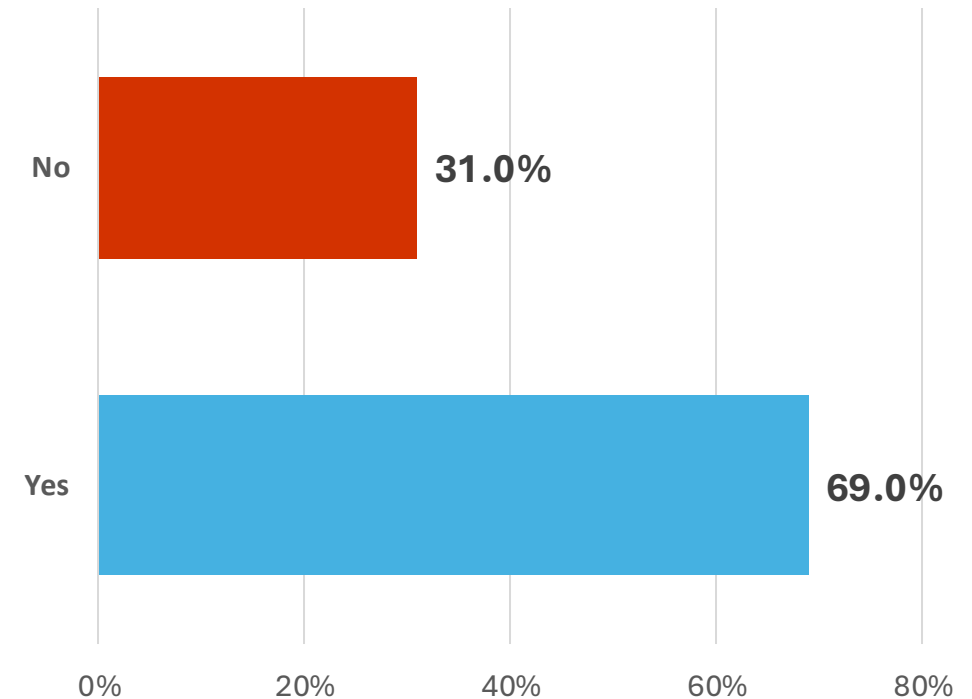


Hourly Billing Still Rules

Despite this apparent diversity, billing innovation remains limited. Only **31%** of firms report actively exploring alternative billing arrangements in the past year, suggesting that while many firms have adopted multiple models, they're largely sticking with established approaches rather than experimenting with new structures. This conservative stance may represent a missed strategic opportunity.

As firms achieve greater operational efficiency through AI and integrated technology—particularly in automating non-billable tasks—they become better positioned to offer value-based or fixed-price arrangements that could differentiate them competitively and improve client satisfaction. The dominance of hourly billing, which ties revenue directly to time spent rather than value delivered, may increasingly conflict with the efficiency gains that technology enables. Firms that successfully leverage AI to reduce the time required for tasks may find themselves penalized under hourly models, creating a financial disincentive to fully embrace productivity-enhancing technology.

Has your firm explored other billing options?

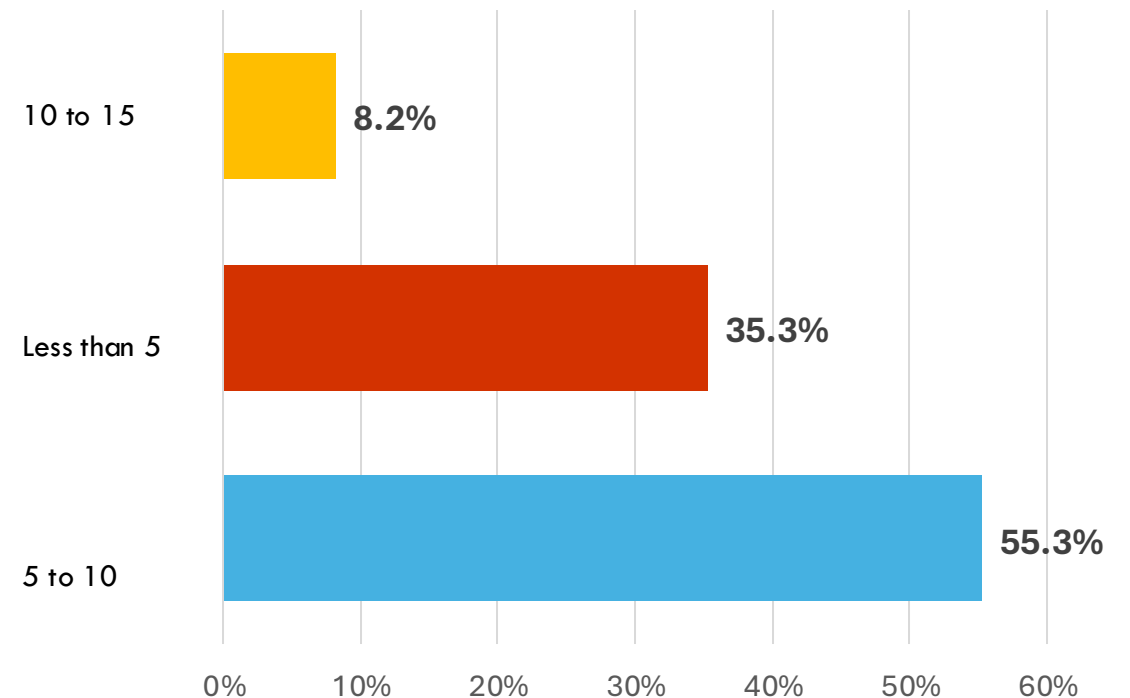


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

The application usage data reveals that legal practices operate with surprisingly complex technology environments, though most maintain a manageable footprint. Most firms (55.3%) use between 5 and 10 different software applications to run their practices, while an additional 8.2% use 10-15 applications, and 1.2% somehow manage more than 15 different tools. At the opposite end, 35.3% operate with fewer than 5 applications.

This distribution highlights a fundamental challenge facing the legal profession: even at the "moderate" level of 5-10 applications, firms are juggling multiple systems for functions like case management, billing, document storage, client communication, scheduling, accounting, and general productivity. Each additional application introduces complexity that requires separate logins, distinct user interfaces, and often manual data transfer between systems.

How many apps do you use to run your practice?

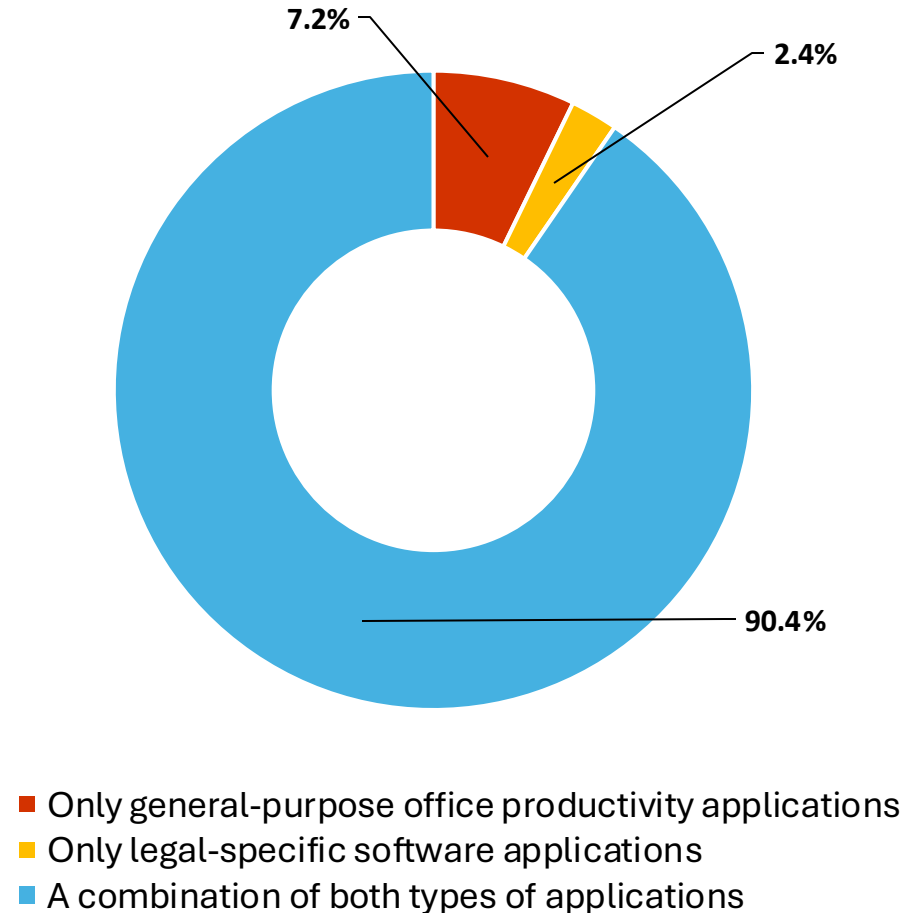


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

As noted earlier, legal professionals often spend a significant amount of time on non-billable tasks. Most of those administrative tasks are likely performed using basic office productivity tools, not legal-specific applications. For that reason, it makes perfect sense that more than 90% of firms would use some combination of general-purpose and legal-specific applications within the overall group of 5-10 applications typically used to run a law practice.

However, there is a time and complexity cost when legal professionals need to learn 5-10 different desktop applications and integrate them into their daily workflow.

Which type of software do you use to run your practice?

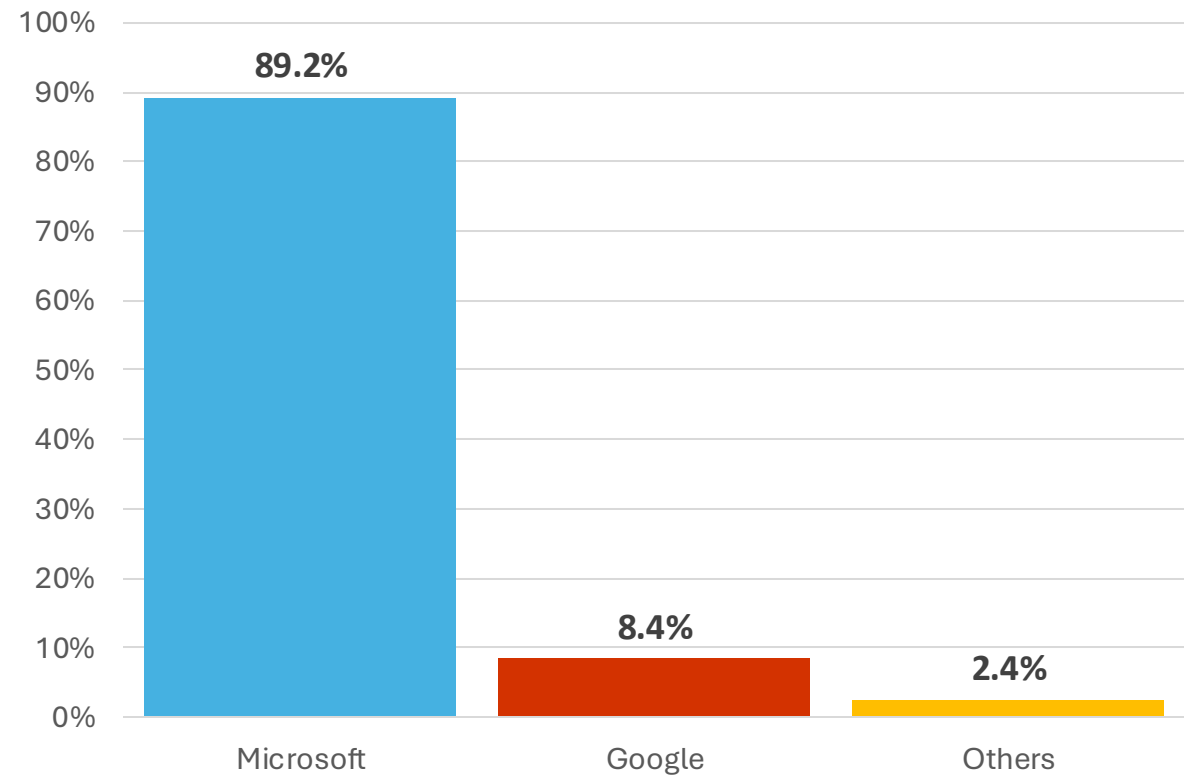


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

In terms of general-purpose office productivity tools, law firms have a strong preference for Microsoft. Although Google Workspace has a slightly larger share of the overall cloud-based productivity suite market and excels at real-time cloud collaboration, 89.2% of law firms rely on Microsoft productivity tools compared to just 8.4% using Google.

Law firms often prefer Microsoft 365 due to its security and compliance tools, robust desktop applications (Word, Excel) for complex legal document formatting and integration with other legal software, and the extended Microsoft ecosystem that includes Teams and SharePoint.

Who is your primary vendor for general office productivity tools?

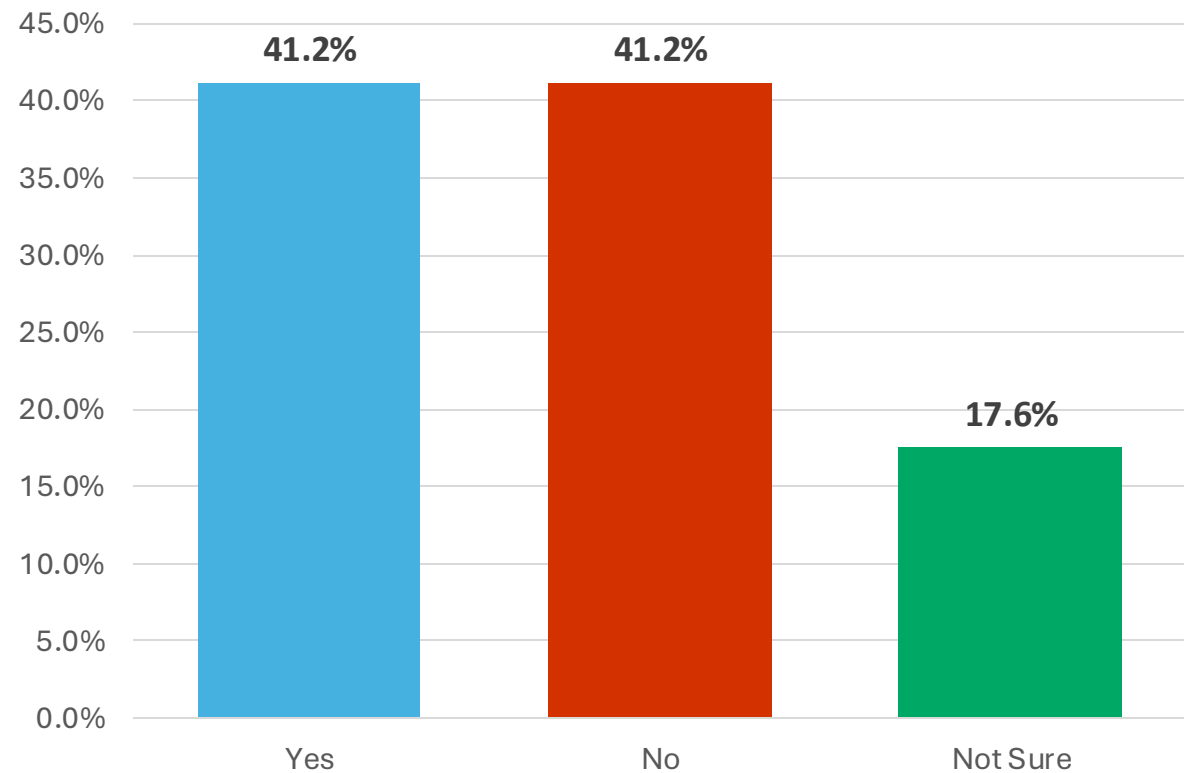


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

With most firms using so many different software applications to run their practices, the requirement that these applications integrate seamlessly and share data automatically has become critical. The time lost manually transferring information between disconnected applications - and the complexity of managing multiple systems - directly reduces the number of billable hours legal professionals can achieve each week.

The survey suggests that many firms may have solved this integration problem, while an equal number have not (41.2% in both cases). The remaining 17.6% express uncertainty about their satisfaction level, which may indicate either limited technical knowledge or inconsistent experiences with their current systems.

Are you satisfied with how your apps work together and share information?

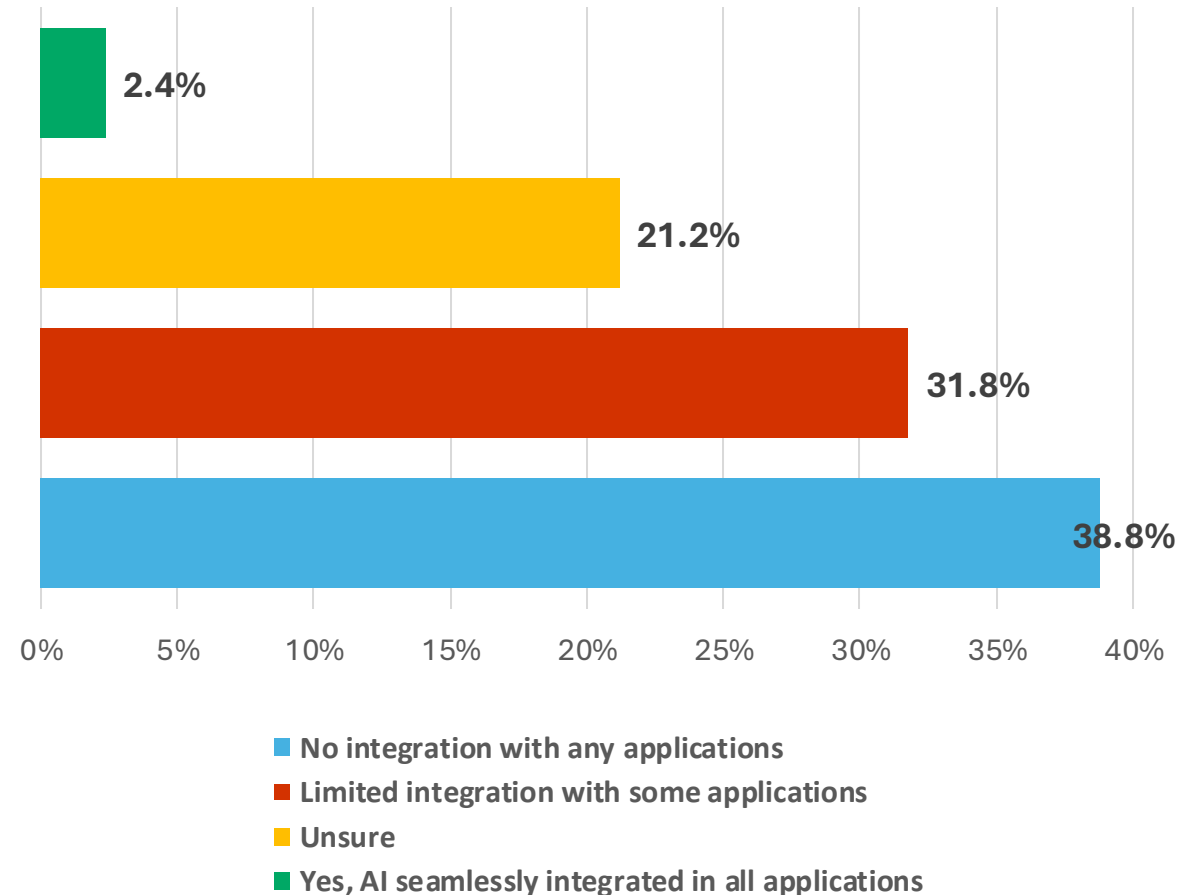


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

Later in this report, we'll provide more data and insights into AI adoption in law firms. But for now, it's worth noting that 38.8% of respondents indicate that their AI tools are not integrated with any of the other applications they use each day. Another 31.8% say there is only some limited integration. This data suggests that employees might be adopting a "shadow AI" strategy of their own where they download their favorite AI tool and use it as best they can.

While this user-driven strategy might offer some benefits, the lack of application and business process integration has serious implications for AI's effectiveness, data security, and adoption trajectory. When AI tools don't connect with case management, document management, billing, and CRM systems, users must manually transfer information between platforms, negating much of the efficiency AI promises to deliver. And this shadow AI behavior adds yet another disparate application and more complexity to the user's desktop.

Is AI integrated with the other applications you use?

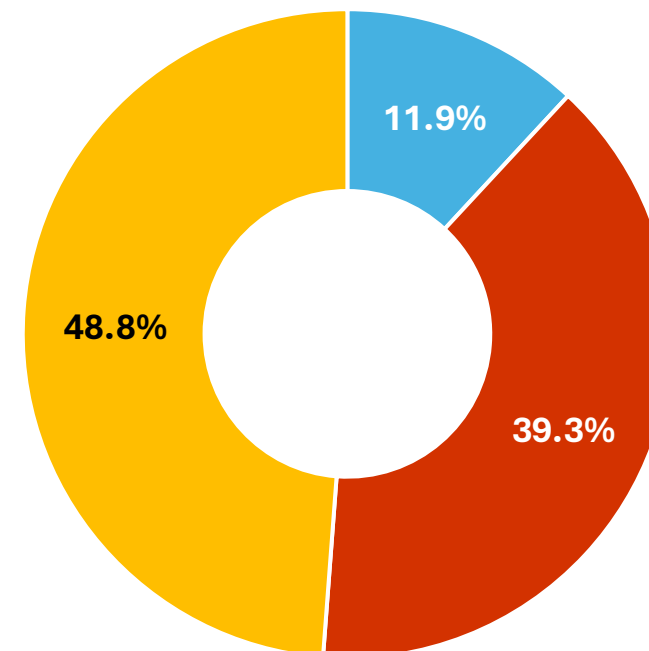


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

One way to address the software integration challenge would be to provide legal professionals with a comprehensive suite of integrated practice management applications from a single vendor—a unified solution that would eliminate the complexity and inefficiency of managing multiple disparate systems. The majority of respondents (48.8%) prefer that option, and it's possible that many firms have already implemented a single legal tech application suite to solve their integration problems.

Interestingly, 39.3% claim no preference, which may reflect either satisfaction with current workflows, resignation to the status quo, or uncertainty about alternatives. Only 11.9% actively prefer the best-of-breed approach of selecting specialized tools from multiple vendors, despite this being close to the current operational reality for most firms. This disconnect suggests that the current patchwork of applications is more a result of incremental adoption and market limitations than deliberate strategy.

Would you prefer an integrated software suite or best-of-breed from multiple vendors?



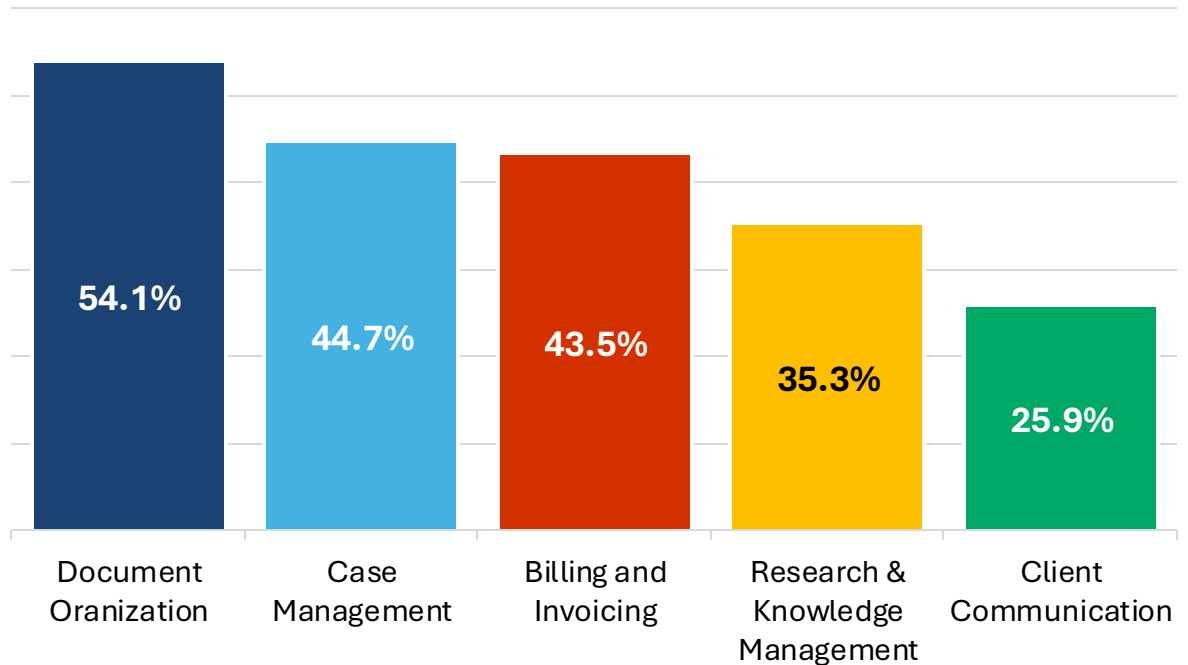
- Best-of-breed software from multiple vendors to address specific needs
- We have no preference
- Comprehensive suite of integrated practice management applications from one vendor

Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

In addition to sharing their legal tech software preferences, respondents also identified specific areas within their core legal operations that could be improved with the right specialized software solutions.

Document organization tops the priority list at 54.1% of firms, reflecting the document-heavy nature of legal work and the inefficiencies created by poor information management. Case management follows at 44.7%, indicating that many firms struggle with systematic approaches to matter management. Billing and invoicing processes require improvement in 43.5% of firms, suggesting that even fundamental business operations suffer from inefficient technology implementation.

What business processes could be improved with the right software?

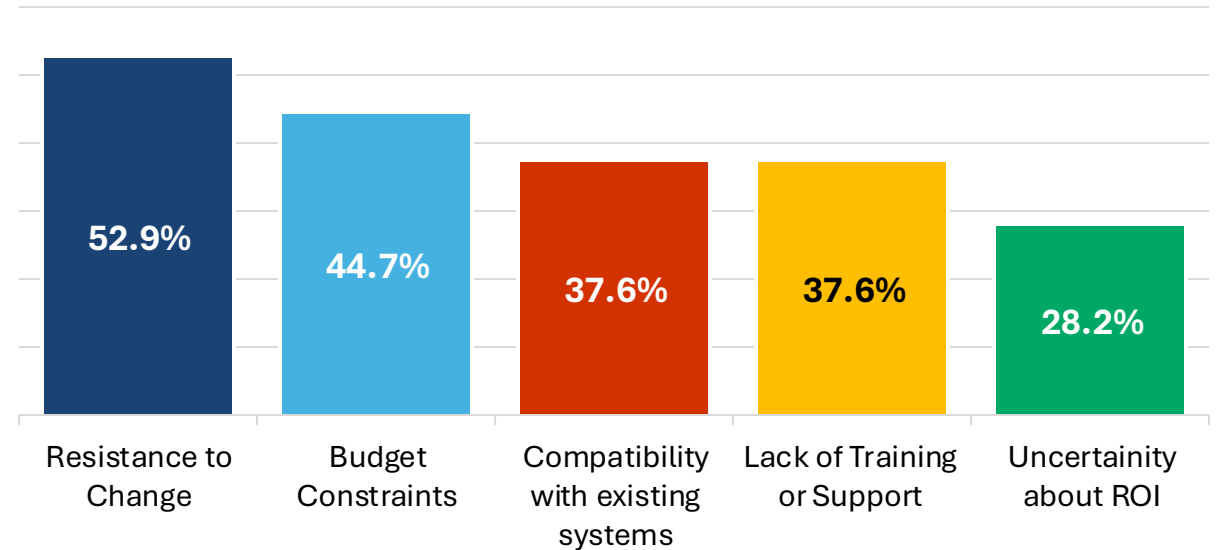


Many Firms Struggle to Optimize Tech Strategy

However, when firms attempt to implement new software solutions, they encounter predictable but significant obstacles. Most firms identify more than one obstacle. For example, resistance to change affects 52.9% of firms attempting new implementations, highlighting the human element in technology adoption. Budget constraints present barriers for 44.7% of organizations, demonstrating that financial considerations remain a significant factor in decision-making on legal tech.

In addition, 37.6% of respondents say that compatibility with existing systems, and a lack of sufficient product training, are both significant obstacles. In either case, it creates additional implementation challenges as firms struggle to integrate, and become productive with, new software solutions within their technology infrastructure.

What are your top challenges with implementing new software tools?



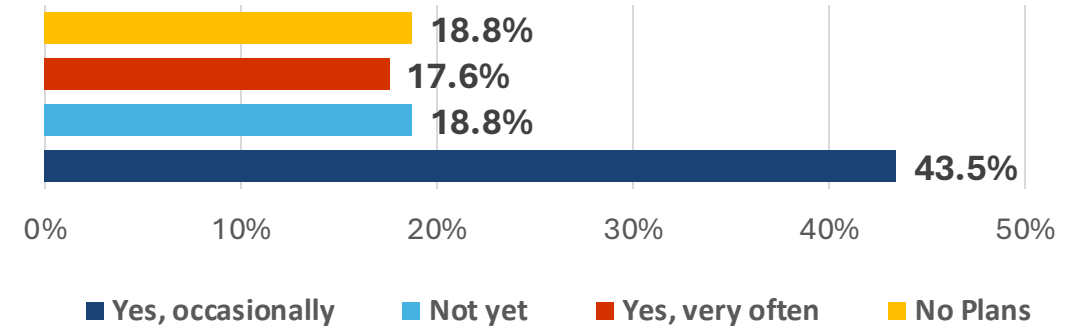
AI is Delivering Real Value

As noted earlier, there is continuous pressure on most legal professionals to increase their billable hours. For that reason, it's not surprising that AI adoption in the legal profession is accelerating, with 61.1% of survey respondents already incorporating AI tools into their work routines.

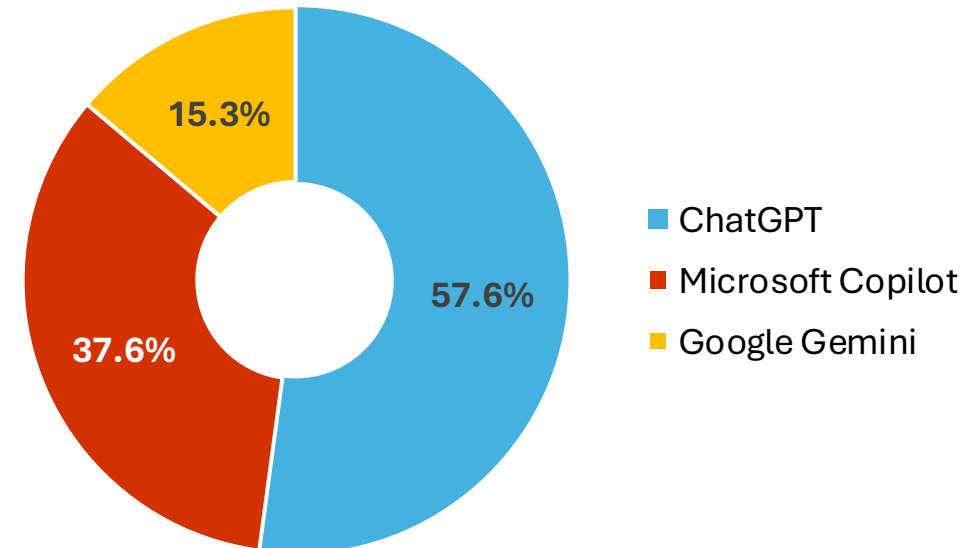
This adoption breaks down into 43.5% using AI occasionally and 17.6% using it very often, indicating that the technology has achieved significant penetration across the legal market. Worth noting, 18.8% of respondents reported “no plans” or “not yet” for AI adoption.

In terms of preferred AI tools, 57.6% of firms rely on ChatGPT and 37.6% prefer Microsoft Copilot (which is also seamlessly integrated into its Office 365 productivity tools). Google Gemini came in third at 15.3%.

Do you use AI tools with your law firm?



Which AI tools do you use most often?

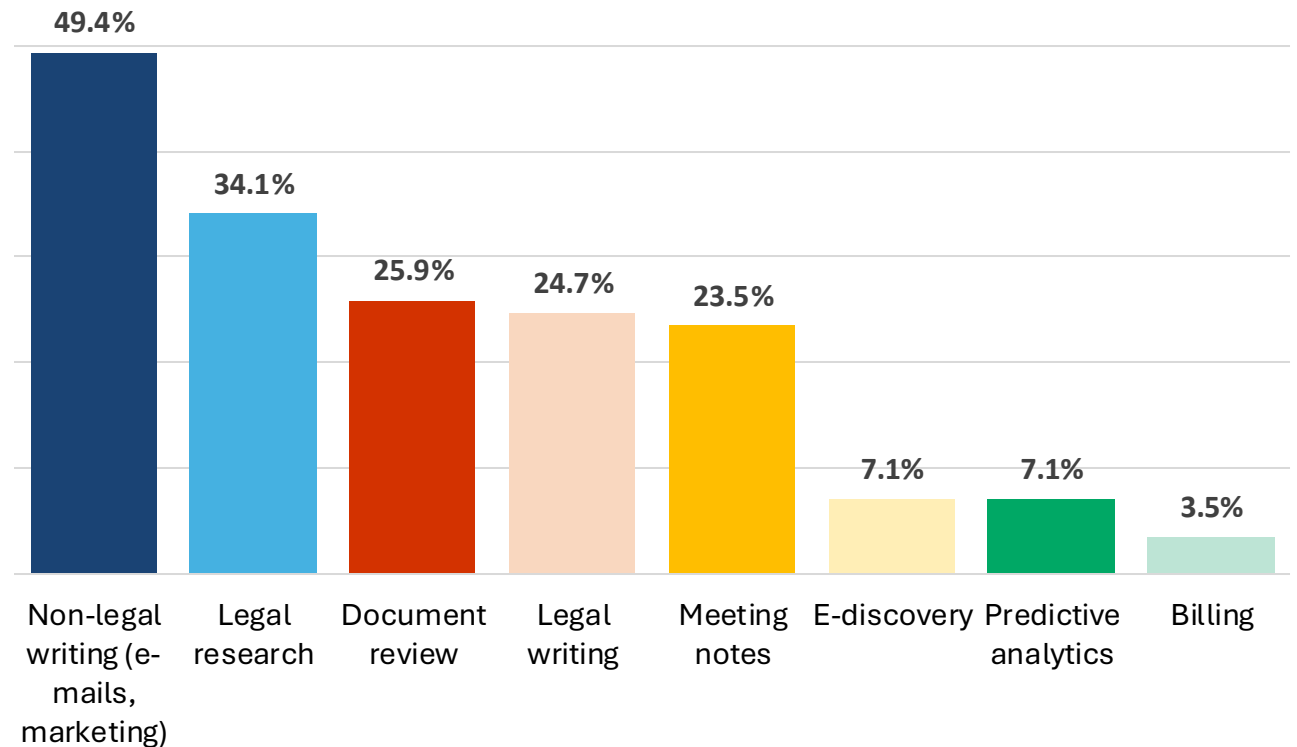


AI is Delivering Real Value

The AI use case data reveals that legal professionals are primarily leveraging AI for communication and administrative tasks rather than core legal functions. Non-legal writing—including emails and marketing—tops the list at 49.4%, confirming that AI's greatest current utility lies in streamlining routine business communications rather than substantive legal work. Legal research follows at 34.1%, representing the most common application of AI to actual legal practice. Document review (25.9%) and legal writing (24.7%) show moderate adoption, while meeting notes (23.5%) rounds out the top five use cases.

Most striking is that only 3.5% use AI for billing—an administrative function that could benefit substantially from automation. This distribution pattern reinforces earlier findings that AI is primarily being deployed for efficiency gains in non-billable, communicative tasks rather than being integrated into core legal workflows or strategic decision-making.

How do you use AI tools most often?



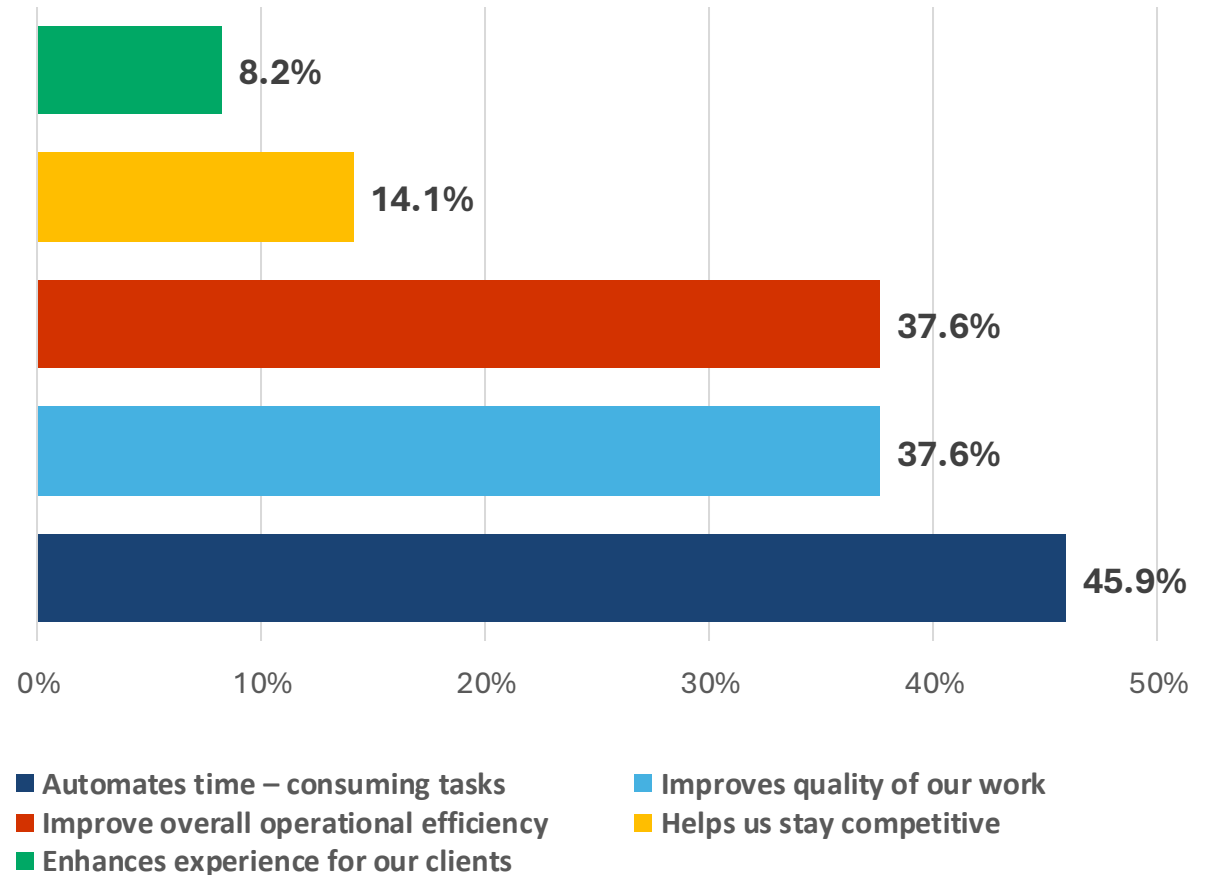
AI is Delivering Real Value

Legal professionals who have embraced AI report substantial benefits from their implementation. The primary advantage cited is the automation of time-consuming tasks, mentioned by 45.9% of AI users. Equal numbers of users report improvements in overall operational efficiency and work quality, each cited by 37.6% of respondents.

This pairing indicates that AI doesn't just speed things up for law firms, it also improves outputs and makes operations run more smoothly. The convergence of these three benefits paints a picture of AI as a multifaceted productivity tool rather than a single-purpose solution.

Perhaps most surprisingly, just 8.2% report enhanced client experiences as a benefit. The data suggests firms are missing an opportunity to extend AI's value beyond operational efficiency into areas that could directly improve client satisfaction and service delivery.

What specific benefits have you experienced with AI technology?



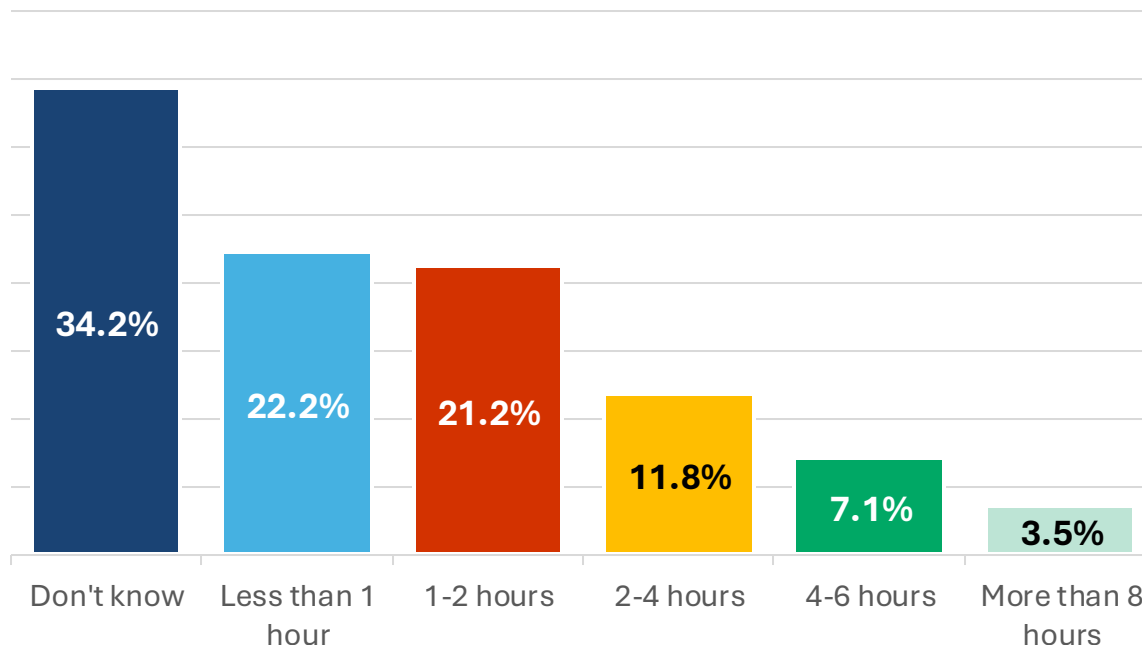
AI is Delivering Real Value

The time savings data reveals both tangible impact and a concerning knowledge gap. The distribution shows meaningful time recovery: 21.2% of AI users save 1-2 hours weekly, 11.8% save 2-4 hours, and 7.1% save 4-6 hours. At the high end, 3.5% report saving more than 8 hours per week—essentially reclaiming a full workday. Collectively, 43.6% of AI users save at least one hour per week.

Based on industry estimates, the average billable hourly rate charged by lawyers across the US is \$313. That number obviously varies by size of firm, practice area, experience, and more. However, assuming the average lawyer saves just 1 hour per week by leveraging AI technology, that equates to a potential savings of more than \$16,000 annually in wasted, non-billable time.

Worth noting, 34.2% of AI users simply don't know how much time they're saving—the single largest response category. This points to a critical gap in how firms implement and evaluate AI tools. Without measuring time savings, firms cannot assess ROI, optimize strategies, or make informed decisions about expanding adoption.

How much time does AI save you each week on non-billable tasks?



Concerns About AI

While the survey data indicates that AI is delivering measurable value, the data also exposes a critical weakness in how most law firms are managing AI adoption. The majority are allowing it to happen without strategic direction. A striking 51.8% of AI-using firms have provided no guidance or support whatsoever, meaning more than half of legal professionals using AI are essentially operating without guardrails, best practices, or institutional oversight.

Among firms providing some level of support, the approach is fragmented. Only 32.9% have established policies on how AI can be used, 18.8% have offered training on best practices, and just 14.1% have implemented processes to review sensitive AI-generated content.

The low percentage with content review processes is particularly concerning given the high-stakes nature of legal work, where AI-generated errors could have serious professional consequences. This data suggests that while AI adoption rates are impressive, the maturity of implementation lags far behind.

If you use AI, which of the following has your firm provided?

We've received policies on how AI can be used

32.9%

We've received training on AI best practices

18.8%

We have a process to review sensitive AI generated content

14.1%

No strategic guidance or support has been provided

51.8%

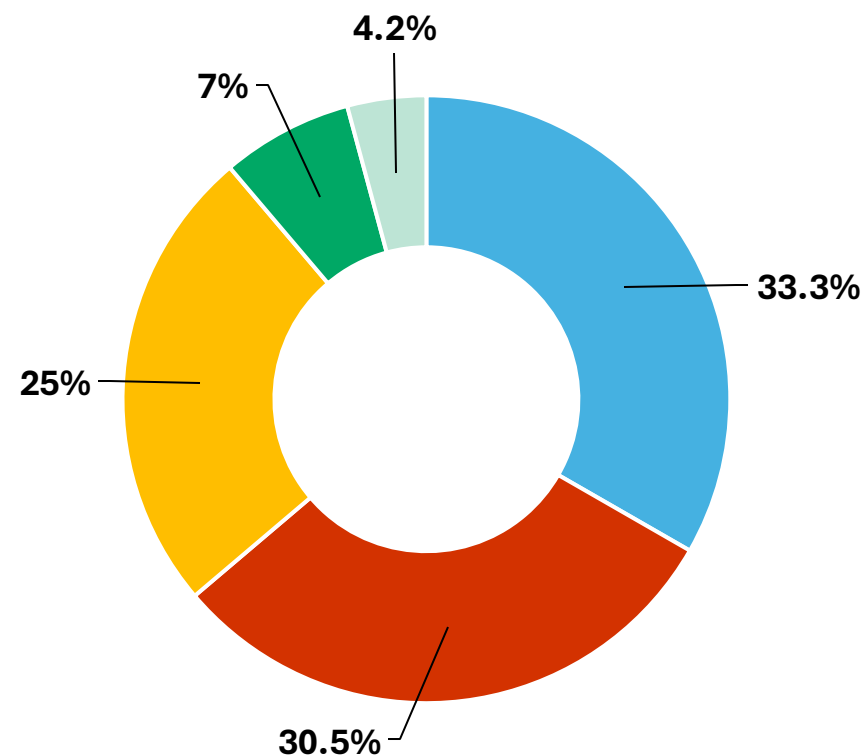
Concerns About AI

Although AI is clearly demonstrating high value potential, some firms are not yet convinced. Among the firms that have not adopted AI or remain hesitant about its implementation, the barriers reveal a mix of legitimate technical concerns and knowledge gaps that could be addressed through targeted education and improved tool design.

Security risks emerge as the most significant concern, cited by 33.3% of non-adopters, reflecting the legal profession's appropriate caution regarding client confidentiality and data protection in cloud-based AI systems. Close behind, 30.5% express distrust in AI accuracy, a concern that speaks to the high-stakes nature of legal work where errors can have serious professional and client consequences.

Perhaps most addressable is the 25% who acknowledge they don't know how to maximize AI's value, suggesting that many firms remain on the sidelines not due to opposition but due to lack of guidance and training.

If your firm does not use AI, why not?



- Security risks
- Don't trust its accuracy
- Don't know how to maximize its value
- Doesn't work with our existing tools
- Against our firm's policy

The Microsoft X Factor

The 2025 Legal Technology and AI Adoption Survey reveals a profession in flux—one that recognizes the potential of digital transformation yet continues to struggle under the weight of fragmented software systems, excessive workloads, and operational inefficiency. Despite remarkable gains in AI experimentation and automation, most law firms remain hampered by the complexity of juggling too many disconnected tools. The data paints a picture of innovation without cohesion—where technology adoption has accelerated, but integration has not.

The numbers are telling. More than 55% of firms use 5-10 different applications to manage daily operations, and nearly 90% rely on a mix of general productivity and legal-specific software. Yet only 2.4% of respondents have achieved a truly integrated environment, and satisfaction with software interoperability is split evenly—41.2% satisfied and 41.2% dissatisfied. These figures expose a clear fault line: law firms are investing in technology but not realizing its full value because their systems don't talk to each other.

But the data also reveals an obvious strategic solution – coalesce around Microsoft technology. This makes sense because 89.2% of firms already depend on Microsoft for their everyday productivity tools—Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, and now Copilot. This near-universal reliance represents the strongest possible foundation for solving the integration puzzle. Rather than introducing yet another isolated platform, firms can unify their workflows by aligning their legal technology strategy around the Microsoft ecosystem they already know and trust.

The Microsoft X Factor

Aligning with Microsoft addresses multiple challenges surfaced in this study:

- Resistance to change, cited by 52.9% of firms, can be mitigated when staff continue working within familiar Microsoft interfaces rather than adopting entirely new systems.
- Document management, the top improvement priority for 54.1% of respondents, can be streamlined through legal tech software that integrates with SharePoint and OneDrive and fully leverages Microsoft Word and Outlook.
- Workload stress, identified by 27.1% of professionals as their leading source of strain, can be reduced by consolidating repetitive administrative processes into Microsoft Copilot-enabled workflows that automate drafting, research, and scheduling.
- AI adoption, which has reached 61.1% of firms, can advance beyond isolated experiments into structured, firmwide usage when integrated directly into Microsoft 365, ensuring consistency, security, and transparency.
- The integration of legal applications within Microsoft's unified environment also provides the scalability and security that firms demand – especially those managing sensitive client data. With Microsoft's enterprise-grade cloud architecture, firms can confidently embrace AI-powered tools without compromising confidentiality or compliance, overcoming the top barriers to AI adoption reported in the survey: data security (24%) and accuracy concerns (22%).

The Microsoft X Factor

What emerges from this data is not merely a recommendation but a roadmap. The legal profession's next competitive frontier will be defined not by which firms adopt AI first, but by which firms integrate it best. Microsoft stands uniquely positioned as the connective infrastructure through which this integration can occur—linking productivity, collaboration, and intelligence into a cohesive, secure, and user-friendly experience.

By strategically consolidating their technology stack around Microsoft's ecosystem, law firms can:

- Simplify workflows and eliminate redundant platforms
- Strengthen collaboration across teams and departments
- Embed AI directly into the applications professionals already use
- Reduce the cognitive and operational overhead caused by fragmented systems
- Free legal professionals to focus on client work, innovation, and strategy

The next generation of digitally powered law firms will not be built through a patchwork of software, but through a unified platform approach. This integration strategy enables law firms to finally close the gap between technological promise and practical performance—and set a new standard for efficiency, security, and sustainable growth across the profession.



Conclusion – And the Next Chapter in Legal Tech

The 2025 AllRize Legal Industry Technology and AI Adoption Survey paints a vivid picture of a profession on the brink of transformative change. The legal industry is moving beyond incremental improvements, entering an era where technology (especially AI) will redefine how law firms operate, compete, and serve clients.

Survey data reveals that smaller firms are leveraging their agility to experiment with AI and integrated technology, gaining immediate operational benefits and positioning themselves as innovation leaders. Larger firms, while more cautious, have the resources to drive systematic change if they overcome organizational inertia and invest in strategic pilot programs. Across the board, the most significant gains are being realized not in direct client service, but in automating administrative and support functions—freeing legal professionals to focus on higher-value work.

Although persistent challenges remain – such as work-life imbalance, excessive workloads, and urgent client demands - these very pressures are fueling the drive toward digital transformation. The near-universal reliance on Microsoft productivity tools presents a unique opportunity for firms to consolidate their technology stack, streamline workflows, and reduce complexity by prioritizing solutions that integrate natively with familiar platforms.

Practice area analysis shows that technology adoption is not uniform; some specialties are embracing AI and alternative billing models, while others remain resistant, prioritizing tradition and client relationships. However, as AI-powered platforms mature and integration challenges are addressed, the pace of innovation is likely to accelerate.

The next chapter in legal tech will be defined by those firms that turn technology frustrations into opportunities for strategic planning, thoughtful experimentation, and faster revenue growth. By proactively addressing software integration, investing in AI-powered solutions, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, law firms can unlock compounding benefits in efficiency, client service, and staff satisfaction. The technology used in the legal profession is evolving rapidly, and those who embrace comprehensive technology strategies today will help shape what the modern law firm looks like in the decades to come.

Appendix A

5 Essential Recommendations for Law Firms

5 Essential Recommendations for Law Firms

1

Audit and Streamline Your Technology Stack

Regularly assess your firm's software tools and workflows. Prioritize solutions that integrate seamlessly with your existing Microsoft ecosystem to reduce complexity and improve efficiency.

2

Pilot AI for Administrative Tasks

Start with small-scale AI implementations focused on automating routine, non-billable work. Measure results and expand adoption based on proven benefits.

3

Invest in Change Management and Training

Proactively address resistance to new technology by involving staff in decision-making, providing training, and communicating the value of innovation.

4

Target Process Improvements Where They Matter Most

Focus technology upgrades on document management, case management, and billing—areas identified as top pain points in the survey.

5

Develop a Strategic Plan for Future Technology Adoption

Create a roadmap for ongoing technology and AI integration, tailored to your firm's size, practice areas, and operational goals. Stay informed about industry trends and adapt as needed.

Appendix B

Technology Adoption by Practice Area

Technology Adoption by Practice Area

Earlier in this document, we briefly summarized the survey data on practice areas. But a closer look reveals distinct technology adoption and operational patterns across different legal specialties, suggesting that practice areas can influence how law firms approach AI, billing models, and workflow management.



Estate Planning and Probate

Estate Planning and Probate practitioners demonstrate the most aggressive AI adoption rates, with the majority using AI very often compared to other practice areas. This pattern aligns with the document-heavy, template-driven nature of estate work, where AI can provide substantial efficiency gains in document preparation and routine legal writing. Estate Planning attorneys also show higher satisfaction with software integration, likely because their practice requirements are more standardized and compatible with existing document management systems.



Personal Injury and Litigation

Personal Injury and Litigation practices exhibit mixed AI adoption patterns, with some firms embracing AI very often while others remain resistant. Notably, Personal Injury firms using contingency billing models show higher AI adoption rates, possibly for predictive analytics and document review - functions that directly support case evaluation and risk assessment critical to contingency work.



Business and Corporate

Business and Corporate law practitioners show more conservative AI adoption, with most using AI only occasionally despite working longer hours and having higher billable time percentages. This cautious approach may reflect the highly customized nature of corporate work and concerns about confidentiality in sensitive business transactions. However, those corporate attorneys who do use AI report significant benefits in legal research and document review, particularly for due diligence processes.

Technology Adoption by Practice Area



Employment Law

Employment Law specialists demonstrate unique patterns, with above average use of AI for legal writing and research, but lower adoption of AI for client-facing applications. This suggests Employment lawyers view AI as a tool for internal efficiency rather than client service enhancement, possibly due to the sensitive nature of workplace disputes and regulatory compliance concerns.



Family Law

Family Law practitioners show the most resistance to AI adoption, with the highest percentage reporting no plans to implement AI tools. This resistance correlates with their preference for flat fee billing models and their emphasis on client relationships over efficiency metrics. When Family Law attorneys do adopt AI, they primarily use it for administrative tasks rather than substantive legal work, reflecting the highly personal and relationship-dependent nature of family legal matters.



Property and Tax Law

The practice area analysis also reveals that specialized fields like Intellectual Property and Tax Law show more sophisticated AI integration when they do adopt these tools, often using multiple AI platforms and reporting seamless integration with existing applications. These attorneys also demonstrate higher comfort with alternative billing models, suggesting that specialization correlates with both technological sophistication and billing innovation.

About AllRize

This research study was commissioned by AllRize, a privately held software company that provides digitally powered law firms with a comprehensive, AI-powered practice management system.

The AllRize SaaS platform is built natively on Microsoft Dynamics 365 technology, integrates seamlessly with Microsoft office productivity tools, and is hosted on Microsoft Azure. The platform includes separate modules for Marketing, CRM, Matter Management, Document Management, and Accounting.

These modules can be deployed one at a time, or together as a completely integrated system. Each module is powered by customized Generative or Agentic AI technology based on Microsoft Copilot. The result is a powerful practice management solution with a single UI that can help automate tasks, boost staff productivity, enhance client experience, and ultimately accelerate revenue growth.

Learn more at <https://allrize.ai/>.

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