AI In Court; Will AI As an Alternative To Judge Be a Viable Solution?

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Background

Artificial intelligence has crept its way into many fields - one field with the potential to use artificial intelligence effectively is the courtroom. In some courts, artificial intelligence is already being used to assess the risk of various crimes.

Our Focus

Surveys of general counsels (Figure 1) show that they can imagine uses for AI in various aspects of the court process. We will focus on whether knowledge management, that is using AI to manage case information and make informed decisions, is good or not.

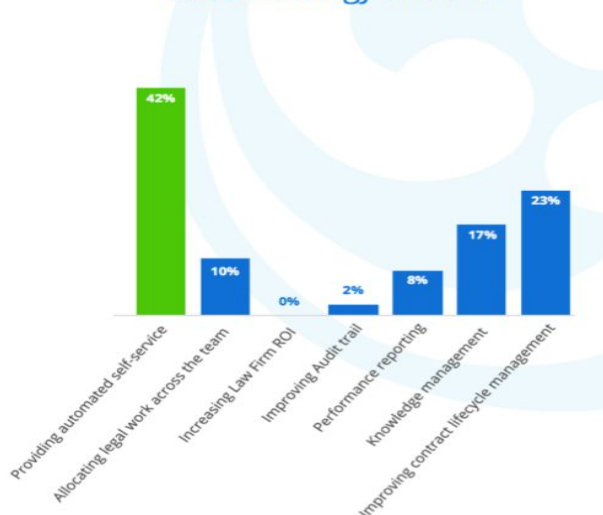### What challenge would you most like technology to solve?

Figure 1. Surveys of general counsels that indicate what their belief in the potential of AI in the justice system

Section 1. *The objectivity of machines may be exactly what we need in the courtroom.*

Several studies (Figure 2) have shown that judgements are influenced by factors like physical appearance, which have no actual relevance in terms of the law - a robot would not consider these factors, making it more objective and consistent with the law.

However, others might argue that the objectivity of the courtroom is what allows our judicial system to remain humane, otherwise causing someone who would be considered morally right to be criminally charged due to the semantics of the law.

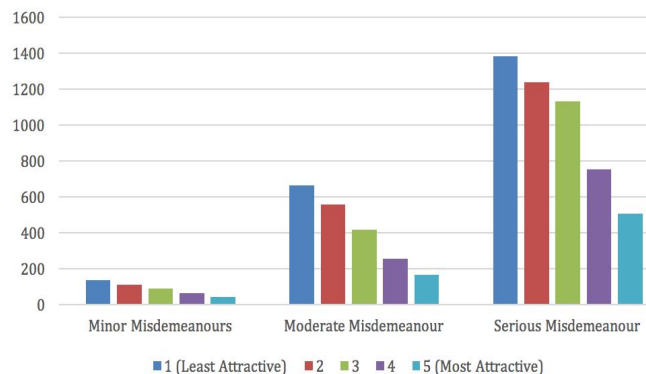### Attractiveness & Fines/Bail Amounts

■ 1 (Least Attractive) ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 (Most Attractive)

Figure 1. Subjectivity of the human judges: human judges' decisions are impacted by the appearance of the defendant

Section 2. *The world with only AI judges might not be the brave new world.*

AI depends largely on our training data, which means if we use data from existing court cases, the biases we already have in our justice system will only be amplified.

Also, the mistake made by the AI in court has a more severe impact on people than the errors made by the AI algorithms on Facebook or Amazon giving the wrong recommendation to people.

Section 3. *AI has the potential to magnify the efficiency of the courtroom.*

AI brings efficiency in terms of reducing judgment times and streamlining judicial processes. AI can be used as a supporting tool, not necessarily taking over the majority of the judicial process. In this manner, the efficiency described in this section can be used while still avoiding some problems mentioned in previous sections.
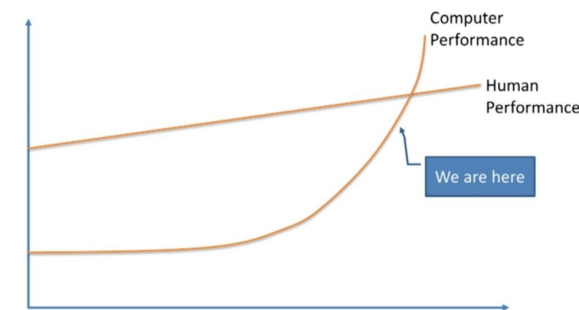

Figure 2. Our current status on improving computer performances

Conclusion

We advocate for government funding of research into AI as a tool for knowledge management - this can combine the benefits identified in terms of objectivity and efficiency, while avoiding the aforementioned disadvantages.

Notable References

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