

*What makes something agentic or an “AI agent?” How do you design one that actually works? And what does it take to deploy one safely in legal and financial applications?*

The term “agentic AI” means different things to different people, creating confusion in procurement, design, and regulation. This book provides a clear framework for building and governing agents in high-stakes domains where precision matters.

We move systematically from theory to practice—**defining** what makes systems truly agentic, **designing** architectures that work reliably, and **governing** their deployment in regulated environments.

**Define.** Before you can build, buy, or evaluate an “agent,” you need a definition that holds up. Drawing on seven decades of scholarship, this book provides a framework that separates genuine agency from marketing claims—and gives you tools to test what a system can actually do.

**Design.** Clear definitions lead to sound architecture. The book translates agency into concrete design choices: how work reaches the system, how it perceives and acts, how it remembers and plans, when it escalates, and how it knows when to stop.

**Govern.** Good architecture makes oversight possible. In legal and financial settings, duties are non-delegable and supervision is not optional. The book shows how governance must change when systems can act with autonomy, and what controls make agentic systems deployable in regulated environments.

Written for legal practitioners, finance professionals, technology leaders, risk and compliance teams, and regulators who need clarity that will still matter as the technology evolves.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

The authors founded legal tech company LexPredict in 2014, exited in 2018, and today lead 273 Ventures.

**Michael J. Bommarito II, MSE, MA** — Serial entrepreneur, researcher, and adjunct professor with 25 years of industry experience.

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ISBN-13



979-8-99434-579-2



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IN LAW & FINANCE



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*Navigating a New Era of  
Autonomous Systems*

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