Frontiers in Business, Economics and Management
ISSN: 2766-824X | Vol. 23, No. 2, 2026

Exploring The Perceptions of Legal Professionals on The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Contract Drafting

Jinying You *, Rudina S. Abarientos

University of Baguio, General Luna Road, Baguio City, 2600, Philippines

Abstract: To investigate legal practitioners' acceptance, application effectiveness, and substitution potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in contract drafting, this study employs quantitative research methods centered on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), integrated with theories such as legal tech convergence. A questionnaire survey was conducted among 50 junior lawyers, mid-level lawyers, and paralegals in Beijing with over three instances of AI tool usage experience. Data statistics and analysis were completed using analytical tools. Results indicate no significant differences in overall AI tool acceptance across different legal positions. While practitioners generally embrace AI tools and acknowledge their ease of use, trust in these tools remains notably lower than perceived usability. AI tools demonstrated distinct advantages in enhancing contract drafting efficiency and reducing paper consumption. However, they exhibited notable shortcomings in clause accuracy and scenario applicability. Generated contracts still require manual review, and respondents believed AI-generated contracts cannot be directly used. Respondents generally agreed that current AI tools cannot fully replace traditional manual drafting methods, as lawyers' professional judgment in risk identification and clause customization remains irreplaceable. Regression analysis confirmed the significant positive impact of perceived usability on perceived usefulness, with substitution attitudes positively correlated with usage attitudes. This research provides data support for optimizing legal tech products, formulating industry policies, and transforming lawyers' work models. It also highlights limitations such as sample size constraints and geographic concentration, suggesting future studies should expand their scope and incorporate qualitative research to enhance the universality of conclusion.

Keywords: Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Contract Drafting, Legal Practitioners, Irreplaceability.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, with the rapid development of science and technology, Wang and Zhao(2021) found that digital transformation has become the core driving force to promote the development of all walks of life, and cutting-edge technologies such as big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technologies have been widely used, which not only greatly improves the production efficiency and quality of service, but also provides a new way of thinking and paths for the transformation and upgrading of traditional industries. The legal industry, as an important support for social governance and economic development, is also facing the urgent needs and broad prospects of digital transformation. The application of artificial intelligence technology in the legal field has gradually expanded from the initial legal information retrieval and case analysis to more complex and core legal services such as contract review, legal document generation and compliance detection. Among them, contract drafting, as one of the most basic and critical links in legal work, has an important leading and demonstrative role in the digital transformation of the entire legal industry with the enhancement of its intelligence level.

As the most basic and core legal document in commercial activities, the drafting process of a contract not only relates to the distribution of rights and obligations of the parties to a transaction, but also directly affects the control of legal risks and the realization of compliance level. Ma and Zhao (2023) also noted that a rigorous and perfect contract can effectively prevent and reduce the occurrence of disputes and guarantee the smooth progress of transactions, while a contract with omissions or defects may cause serious legal risks and losses. Traditional contract drafting usually relies on the accumulated experience and specialized knowledge of lawyers. Lawyers need to understand the background of the transaction, the needs of the parties, relevant laws and regulations and industry practices, and then use legal language and logic to accurately and clearly express the rights and obligations of the parties, the transaction process, risk prevention and control measures in the contract text. This process is not only time-consuming, but also requires a high level of professionalism and expressive ability of lawyers. In the face of some complex, large-scale transaction projects, the contract drafting work often need to consume a lot of time and energy of lawyers, and even need to be completed by a number of lawyers, the efficiency bottleneck is particularly prominent.

The integration of artificial intelligence technology with the legal industry has brought new changes to the traditional contract drafting process. Through natural language processing (NLP), machine learning (ML) and knowledge mapping technologies, AI contract tools can realize automatic generation of clauses, intelligent recommendation of templates, identification of risk points and compliance review and other functions, thus significantly improving the efficiency and accuracy of contract drafting.AI contract tools can quickly generate standard clauses, intelligently recommend preferred clauses in a particular context based on the database, and automatically complete the initial version of the contract writing process. The initial version of the contract writing, this process greatly shortens the contract drafting time, reduces the repetitive labor of lawyers, so that they can devote more energy to the study and resolution of complex legal issues. For example, for some common standard contract types, such as sale and purchase contracts, lease

contracts, service contracts, etc., the AI system can generate a draft contract with complete structure and standardized terms in a short period of time, and the lawyers only need to review and modify the contract on this basis to complete the contract drafting work. The AI contract tools usually have a huge database of laws and regulations and a library of contract templates, and they can be updated in real time and supplemented with the latest The AI tools usually have a large database of laws and regulations and a library of contract templates, which can be updated and supplemented with the latest changes in laws and regulations and industry standards in real time, providing a strong guarantee for the accuracy of contract terms. At the same time, the AI system can also analyze and summarize a large number of historical contract cases through machine learning algorithms, identify common risk points and problematic clauses, so as to remind the lawyers to pay attention to and avoid similar problems in the contract drafting process. In addition, the AI tool is also able to semantically analyze and logically verify the contract text, check the consistency and completeness of the contract terms, and ensure the accuracy and rigor of the contract content. The use of AI contract tools can also effectively reduce the labor cost and time cost of contract drafting, AI contract tools reduce the reliance on paper documents, fit the requirements of the concept of green office and sustainable development, and reduce office costs.

In recent years, a number of domestic and foreign legal technology companies have launched AI contract drafting tools, which are widely used in law firms, corporate legal departments and even government agencies in the contract processing process. For example, China's "ZhiheAI", 'AIphaGPT' and "WeikeAI" platforms help users efficiently and conveniently complete contract-related work by providing online contract drafting, reviewing, signing and management services. These platforms usually have a rich library of contract templates that cover a wide range of industries and types of contract templates, and users can select the appropriate template for editing and use according to their needs. The platform can also conduct real-time compliance checking, scanning the contract text in real time, checking whether the terms of the contract comply with the requirements of relevant laws and regulations, and reminding the user to modify the non-compliant terms in a timely manner. In addition, some platforms also support online collaborative editing of contracts by multiple people, realizing the seamless integration of the processes of contract drafting, reviewing, modifying and finalizing, and improving the efficiency of teamwork.

Some well-known foreign legal technology companies such as LegalZoom, Rocket Lawyer, Kira Systems, etc., have also launched their distinctive AI contract tools, which not only provide basic contract drafting and reviewing services, but also involve more high-end and complex legal service areas such as contract risk assessment, negotiation strategy advice, contract fulfillment monitoring, etc., which have pushed the development and innovation of the entire legal technology industry.

Sreelatha and Choudhary (2023) pointed that although AI contract tools have demonstrated significant advantages in improving contract drafting efficiency and reducing costs, Yu and Chen (2021) found that legal practitioners' trust in them is still insufficient, and the widespread application of AI technology in legal practice faces many challenges. First, the decision-making process of AI systems usually lacks transparency, and it is difficult for users to understand the logical basis for the results they generate. In contract drafting, lawyers need to know clearly the source, basis and potential risks of each clause in order to make accurate judgments on the legality and reasonableness of the contract. However, the complexity and opacity of AI algorithms make it impossible for lawyers to fully grasp the generation logic of their recommended terms, which may lead to a decrease in the lawyers' trust in AI tools, which in turn affects the effectiveness of the application of AI tools in practice. Secondly, when the contract generated by the AI contract tool has problems, such as illegal terms, omission of important content, and disputes, the attribution of responsibility becomes complicated and difficult to define. Since the AI system is not a legal subject, the consequences of its behavior ultimately need to be borne by the lawyers or law firms using the AI tool. However, in the current lack of clear legal provisions and industry standards, it is difficult for lawyers to accurately assess the potential risks associated with the use of AI tools, which undoubtedly increases the professional risks and psychological burden of lawyers. In addition, although AI technology has made significant progress in natural language processing, it still has certain limitations in understanding complex legal concepts, fuzzy linguistic expressions, and specialized terminology in specific industry contexts. Contract drafting needs to match the customer's specific transaction needs, and the content of the terms may need to be set flexibly according to the specific situation, adding special clauses to meet the needs of business transactions, while the AI system may not be able to accurately grasp these special needs, resulting in potential risks or loopholes in the contract terms.

In summary, AI technology has become a practical tool in the contract drafting process, and it has significant advantages in terms of improving efficiency, reducing costs and enhancing accuracy. However, the acceptance and trust of legal practitioners in AI tools still needs to be improved, and the wide application of AI technology in legal practice still faces many challenges. At this stage, what is the application of AI technology in the process of contract drafting? What is the evaluation of AI technology by legal practitioners? Will contract drafting be replaced by AI technology? These questions are not only related to the product development direction and market strategy of legal technology enterprises, but also directly affect the business model transformation of law firms and the career development path of lawyers. Since the application of AI technology in the field of contract drafting has only been widely promoted in recent years, there are fewer studies in this area, and most of them are based on qualitative research, lacking systematic theoretical and practical research support.

Therefore, it is of great practical significance and theoretical value to carry out in-depth research on the application status quo of AI contract drafting tools, user attitudes and their substitution potential. Through scientific and systematic research methods, comprehensively and objectively assessing the performance of AI technology in contract drafting, analyzing the acceptance and trust of legal practitioners in AI tools, and exploring whether AI technology can replace the traditional manual drafting mode, we can provide policy makers with data-supported policy basis for the development of legal technology industry, and provide quantitative references to optimize the products and services of legal technology enterprises and law firms. At the same

time, it enriches the quantitative research results in the intersection of artificial intelligence and jurisprudence, and promotes the intelligent and sustainable development of the legal industry.

1.1. Literature Review

Wang and Zhang (2022) found that driven by the wave of digital transformation and the global sustainable development goals, artificial intelligence technology is profoundly reshaping the service model and operational process of the legal industry, and contract drafting, as a core link of legal practice with both high frequency and professionalism, has become a key scenario for the penetration and landing of artificial intelligence technology.

Icertis (2025)found that in recent years, the academia and the industry have launched multi-dimensional exploration around the application of AI in the field of contract drafting, forming a research pattern intertwined with technical performance evaluation, user acceptance mechanism, legal risk management and industry value reconstruction.

The theoretical framework of this research is mainly based on Technology Acceptance Model (Chen & Liu,2020) and Legal Technology Integration Theory, and at the same time combines with the sustainable development theory (Williams,2023) and the compliance governance theory (Zhang & Zhou, 2023) to construct a multi-dimensional analytical perspective for research and analysis, this is also committed by Chen & Liu, (2022) and Li, (2021).

Katz and Bommarito (2022) found that the application of AI technology in contract drafting brings multiple explicit advantages, it can greatly improve work efficiency, as AI tools are able to quickly generate standard clauses, intelligently recommend preferred clauses for specific contexts based on databases, and automatically complete the writing of the initial version of the contract, and the empirical study by Sirion (2025) found that this efficiency enhancement not only reduces the consumption of time, but also directly reduces the cost of manpower and the consumption of paper resources, which is in line with the need for the efficient use of resources for sustainable development.

Sun and Li(2023) found that the TAM model is used to explain legal practitioners' acceptance of AI tools, focusing on perceived usefulness versus perceived ease of use. This is also recognized by the European Commission (EC, 2022). Ghosh and Liao (2023) believe that legal technology integration theory emphasizes the interaction between technology and the legal system, and explores the applicability of AI in the field of contract drafting. Sustainability theory can provide value orientation for the social and environmental benefits of AI technology in the legal industry, and Smith & Jones (2019) also commit that compliance governance theory can analyze the compliance risks and governance paths of AI systems from the legal, ethical and institutional levels (Savelka & Ashley, 2021).

By combining the above theories, an analytical framework covering technology application, user acceptance, AI substitutability, and value realization was constructed to comprehensively assess the application effect and development potential of AI in the contract drafting process.

1.2. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

This study adopts the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as its core theoretical foundation, integrated with legal technology convergence theory. In the specific framework design, a multidimensional analytical framework of "technology application - User Acceptance - AI Substitutability - Value Realization" to systematically evaluate the application effectiveness and developmental potential of artificial intelligence in contract drafting. This framework analyzes the core strengths and existing shortcomings of AI tools in contract drafting, providing robust theoretical and empirical support for optimizing legal tech products, formulating industry policies, and transforming lawyers' working models.

1.2.1. Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

Davis (1986) proposal the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) theory, serves as the core theoretical foundation of this paper, focusing on two key variables: perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. As a classic theory for analyzing technology user acceptance behavior, this model effectively quantifies legal practitioners' evaluations of AI tools' practical utility in enhancing efficiency, reducing repetitive tasks, and controlling costs. It also captures their intuitive feedback on user experience aspects such as operational convenience, interface friendliness, and learning costs, providing core theoretical support for predicting users' sustained usage intentions.

1.2.2. Theory of Legal-Tech Integration

Remus & Levy (2015) pointed that the theory of legal-tech integration serves as an auxiliary framework for examining the interactive and adaptive relationship between technology and legal practice. This theory emphasizes that AI applications in contract drafting are not merely tool overlays but require deep integration with legal systems, industry conventions, and professional ethics. Only when AI-generated clauses comply with legal norms, align with transactional needs, and adhere to professional service logic can they gain legal practitioners' trust and widespread adoption. This provides a critical theoretical lens for analyzing technological boundaries and variations in user trust.

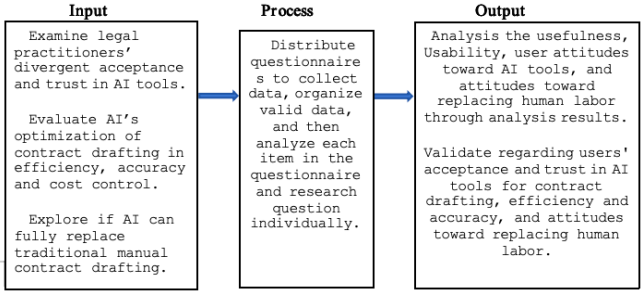

Figure 1. Research Schematic Diagram

Artificial Intelligence is becoming more and more closely integrated with the legal industry, but there is still a lack of quantitative evidence on the acceptance of AI drafting tools in the legal industry in Beijing, and research in this area is needed to investigate the acceptance of AI tools among the lawyer community. Through the study, it is hoped to confirm whether AI tools can significantly improve drafting efficiency and reduce labor costs, whether there are still shortcomings in terms of the accuracy of contract terms, whether manual review is required, and whether manual labor can be gradually replaced in contract drafting.

For Government- on the one hand, delineate the boundary of "human-machine co-responsibility" for regulators, so as to promote the healthy development of legal technology.

For Lawyers- instead of examining the substitutability of the law, it is better to consider how to make AI tools become

efficient assistants, reduce the sense of professional threat, and allow lawyers to complete the transaction under the premise of maintaining professional judgment in a more cost-effective and environmentally friendly way, way to complete the transaction, and ultimately realize the double enhancement of business income and professional satisfaction.

Future Researcher- the identified gaps will be the basis of review on existing studies on AI in control review and drafting.

This study will also achieve Sustainable Development Goals SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) AI automates and optimizes control review and drafting processes, allowing professionals to focus on complex, high-value tasks, which boosts overall workplace productivity. In addition, AI technology effectively reduces the use of paper by facilitating the digitization of information and process optimization, which not only reduces office costs to a certain extent, but also contributes to environmental protection.

1.3. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

To explore whether there are differences in the acceptance and trust of legal practitioners towards AI tools.

To assess the optimization effect of AI technology in terms of efficiency, accuracy and cost control in the contract drafting process.

To explore whether AI technology can completely replace the traditional manual drafting mode.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Design

This study adopts quantitative research design, with questionnaire as the core data collection tool, to systematically assess the application effect and user acceptance of AI technology in legal contract drafting. The study is based on the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) as the theoretical foundation, and is structured around key variables, such as “usefulness”, “Usability”, “Attitudes and Behavioral intentions”, “AI substitutability”, etc., to collect legal practitioners' opinions about AI. The study is based on the Technology Acceptance Model and collect the experiences and evaluations of legal practitioners on the use of AI tools, tool use experience and evaluation. Through sample data analysis, we quantify the efficiency, accuracy and user satisfaction of AI tools in contract drafting, provide data support for the optimization of legal technology products and policy formulation.

2.2. Population and locale of the Study

This research project aims to collect 50 valid samples through random sampling, with respondents completing questionnaires via the Wenjuanxing mini-program. All participants are junior or mid-level attorneys, paralegals, or legal assistants who have passed the bar exam or hold professional qualifications. All respondents must have drafted contracts using AI tools at least three times. The survey excludes senior lawyers, individuals without legal qualifications, and legal practitioners without contract drafting or review experience. Senior lawyers, due to their extensive experience, typically engage less in contract drafting and focus primarily on review work. Legal practitioners who have not passed the bar exam or lack contract drafting experience fall outside the scope of this study. Therefore, this study excludes senior attorneys, non-legal professionals, and legal practitioners without contract drafting or review experience. The participation criteria and exclusion standards were clearly stated when sending the questionnaire, and the survey area was limited to Beijing, China.

2.3. Data Gathering Tools

The questionnaire is entered into the system through the WeChat app “Questionnaire Star”, which generates the access link and QR code, and the respondent clicks on submit after filling out the questionnaire, which will be automatically stored in the app for subsequent screening and analysis of the data. The questionnaire is consisted of four main sections as follows:

The first section is Usefulness, including whether the AI tool improves efficiency, accuracy, and reduces costs. The second section is Usability, including whether it is easy to operate, whether the interface is friendly, and learning cost. The third section is Attitude and behavioral intention, including whether it is willing to continue to use, whether it is willing to recommend. The fourth section is AI substitutability, including whether they agree with it, whether they are worried about being replaced, etc.,.

A four point Likert scale was used in section 1 to 4, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). 1 score is strongly disagree, means strongly disagree with a completely negative attitude; 2 scores is disagree, means generally disagree with holding a bland attitude; 3 scores is moderately agree, means generally agree with holding a bland attitude; 4 scores is strongly agree, means strongly agree with a completely positive attitude.

After the initial design was completed, a pre-test (50 people) was conducted to make sure that the questionnaire design, distribution procedure, and retrieval procedure worked properly before conducting a formal questionnaire study.

Conduct reliability and validity analyses on the statistical data from Q7 to Q25 to determine whether the data exhibits internal consistency and is suitable for research purposes.

2.4. Data Gathering Procedures

The first is the preparation for ethical compliance. The research program is reported to the law firm, and the content, scope and purpose of the research are clarified, and the research is started after passing the review. Before answering the questions, we set the option of informed consent, clearly informing the respondents of the purpose of the research, the possibility of anonymous participation, and that the results of the research are limited to academic research and will not be used commercially, etc. Respondents are required to check the box of “I have been informed of and agree to the research” before entering the question and answer page.

Secondly, the target population of this research was mainly concentrated in law firms in Beijing, and the QR code and link of the small program were released through a number of workgroups within the law firms, with a simple reminder of the scope of the participants, the content and purpose of the research, and the time for answering the questions, etc. The sampling method used was random sampling. The sampling method was randomized, and when the questionnaire was sent, it was stated that the scope of participants was junior lawyers, intermediate lawyers and paralegals, and a time limit was set for answering the questions (not less than 90 seconds).

Finally, After the questionnaire collection concluded, invalid responses were excluded, yielding 50 valid questionnaires. Based on the survey data from these 50 legal practitioners, statistical analysis of the results was conducted using Excel, followed by further analysis with SPSS software.

2.5. Treatment of Data

First, invalid questionnaires such as those completed in excessively short time frames or with highly consistent responses were excluded, missing and outlier values were examined, resulting in the selection of 50 valid questionnaires. The results from questionnaires meeting the study criteria were entered into an Excel spreadsheet, and responses were categorized based on their scores according to the questionnaire scoring rubric.

The data was standardized by deleting the questionnaires that might involve specific personal information, using numerical numbering of the respondents only, and storing and backing up the collected data.

After compiling the valid data information described above, the next step involves analyzing and processing the data. Based on the results, we will evaluate the actual experience of the legal community when using AI contract tools, including operational convenience, efficiency, and accuracy; willingness to continue using the tool; and assessments of whether AI will replace manual drafting work. The scores obtained for Research Questions 1-3 will be validated against the Lister scale standards (Table 1).

Table 1. Lister Scale

SCORE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
1	1.00-1.75	Strongly Disagree	Hold a completely negative attitude towards indicator.
2	1.76-2.50	Disagree	Hold a generally mildly negative attitude toward this indicator.
3	2.51-3.25	Moderately agree	Generally agreeing but still with reservation
4	3.26-4.00	Strongly Agree	Accepting the idea with a completely positive attitude

2.5.1. Reliability Validation

Prior to formal data collection, the questionnaire distribution and data collection process were tested to ensure the acquisition of valid data samples. Initially, 50 test samples were collected. Following successful validation, formal data collection commenced. For the research-designed questionnaire scales, Cronbach's α coefficient was used to assess internal consistency reliability. SPSS software conducted reliability analysis on both pre-survey and formal survey data. Results indicated that the overall Cronbach's α coefficient for the scales and each dimension was ≥0.75, achieving a good level of reliability. This demonstrates that the measurement tools possess reliable consistency. Simultaneously, the sampling method, sample size calculation basis, and questionnaire distribution channels were clearly defined. Unified data cleaning standards were established to standardize the handling of outliers and missing values, ensuring the reliability of data collection. After completing the data analysis, AI tools Tencent Yuanbao and Doubao were used to cross-check and validate the results, ensuring the accuracy of the analysis.

2.6. Ethical Considerations

On the first page of the questionnaire, it is stated that the purpose of the study, the use of the data, the anonymity and the principle of voluntary participation are stated.

Participants are required to check the box of "I have given my informed consent to participate" before they can enter the questionnaire to answer the questions.

This study strictly adhered to the code of academic ethics during data collection and processing, which included:

Informed consent: all participants were required to read and agree to the study instructions before completing the questionnaire;

Guarantee of anonymity: the questionnaire did not involve identifiable information such as name and contact information, and all data existed only in the form of numbers;

Confidentiality of data: the data will only be used for academic research and will not be disclosed to third parties or used for commercial purposes;

Voluntary participation: participants can withdraw at any time without giving reasons;

Ethical review: the study protocol has been agreed by the management committee of the organization.

3. Results and Discussion

Statistical analysis results on legal professionals' acceptance and trust in AI tools are as follows:

The first part of the Questionnaire Usefulness data analysis (Table 2) shows that Q1's mean=2.740 falls within the Moderately agree range, SD=0.441, moderate degree of dispersion, indicating respondents acknowledge AI's role in enhancing efficiency but do not hold an absolute stance. The mean for Q2 is 2.080, falling within the Disagree range, SD=0.402, moderate degree of dispersion, indicating respondents harbor skepticism about the accuracy of AI-generated clauses. The mean for Q3 is 1.280, falling within the Strongly Disagree range, SD=0.206, low dispersion, indicating respondents believe AI-generated contracts require significant manual revision. The mean for Q4 is 1.960, falling within the Disagree range, SD=0.529, moderate degree of dispersion, this indicates respondents believe AI drafting does not reduce labor costs, as subsequent review expenses may partially offset savings from AI-generated content. The mean for Q5 is 3.54, falling within the Strongly Agree range, SD=0.253, this indicates respondents broadly recognize AI's environmental value in reducing paper consumption.

Table 2 shows that Q5 has the highest mean score (M=3.54, SD=0.253), indicating that the environmental value brought by AI digitalization is intuitive and widely recognized. Due to work habits, traditional manual document drafting often involves paper documents, whereas AI tools eliminate this need—the most readily acknowledged advantage of AI tools. Q3 has the lowest mean score (M=1.28,SD=0.206), this question addresses a core legal professional concern: legal

documents demand accuracy and rigor. The survey results reveal that while respondents generally accept AI as an auxiliary tool, contracts drafted by AI tools still require manual revision. Trust in AI remains skeptical.

The overall mean for this section is 2.320, falling within the disagree range, SD=0.366, this indicates that respondents hold a cautious stance toward the practical value of AI tools in legal contract scenarios. While acknowledging AI's role in enhancing efficiency and environmental sustainability, they express significant doubts about the accuracy, usability, and cost-effectiveness of its outputs. This suggests that current legal AI tools still require continuous improvement in technical precision to better gain acceptance and trust from professional users.

Table 2. Part 1 Usefulness Statistics

Indicators	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Q1. The use of AI tools will significantly improve drafting efficiency.	2.740	0.441	Moderately agree.
Q2. There is a high accuracy of contract terms generated by AI tools.	2.080	0.402	Disagree.
Q3.An AI tool generates contracts that can be used directly afterwards.	1.280	0.206	Strongly disagree.
Q4.AI tools reduce labor costs.	1.960	0.529	Disagree.
Q5.AI tools reduce paper consumption.	3.54	0.253	Strongly agree.
Mean	2.320	0.366	Disagree.

Survey Questionnaire Part 2 Usability statistics (Table 3) show that the mean score for Q6 is 3.820, falling within the strongly agree range, SD=0.151, low dispersion, this indicates respondents generally perceive AI tools as having low learning barriers and quick mastery. The mean score for Q7 is 3.860, also at the strongly agree level, SD=0.123, low dispersion, suggesting respondents widely agree that AI tools feature intuitive interface designs and clear operational pathways, thereby reducing cognitive load during use. The mean score for Q8 was 2.940, falling within the moderately agree range, SD=0.547, moderate dispersion, this reflects respondents' acknowledgment that AI accelerates contract drafting speed, though they perceive the efficiency gains as not particularly significant. The mean score for Q9 was 3.860, falling within the strongly agree range, SD=0.123, low dispersion, this aligns with the previous two results, collectively confirming the strong usability performance of AI tools. The mean score for Q10 was 3.620, indicating strong agreement, SD=0.240, low dispersion, this suggests respondents generally accept AI as an auxiliary tool for contract drafting and recognize its supportive value.

As shown in Table 3, both Q7 and Q9 recorded the highest mean scores of 3.860 in the Usability section, SD=0.123, this reflects current legal AI tools' emphasis on user experience in product design. Through streamlined interfaces and intuitive operations, they significantly lower user barriers, enabling quick adoption without complex training. Respondents generally found the tools easy to get started with, convenient to use, and highly operable. The mean for Q8 is 2.940, the lowest in this section, SD=0.547, this indicates that while the tools are easy to use, respondents' recognition of efficiency gains in contract drafting is limited, the relatively large variance value indicates that respondents' views on this issue differ significantly, this may stem from the fact that AI-generated content often requires substantial manual revision, resulting in less pronounced overall efficiency improvements.

The overall average score for this section is 3.620, falling within the strongly agree range, SD=0.237, this indicates that respondents highly endorse the usability of AI contract drafting tools, providing positive feedback on learning difficulty, interface friendliness, and ease of use. They also broadly accept its positioning as an auxiliary tool. However, recognition remains relatively low regarding the core aspect of perceived efficiency gains. This suggests the tools require further optimization to enhance the accuracy of generated content, thereby reducing subsequent manual editing costs and achieving genuine improvements in overall workflow efficiency.

Table 3. Part 2 Usability Statistics

Indicators	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Q6. Learning to use AI tools is easy.	3.820	0.151	Strongly agree.
Q7. AI tools interface is clear and easy to navigate.	3.860	0.123	Strongly agree.
Q8. AI tool makes quick work of contract drafting tasks.	2.940	0.547	Moderately agree.
Q9. AI tools are convenient and easy to use.	3.860	0.123	Strongly agree.
Q10. AI tools can be used as contract drafting assistants.	3.620	0.240	Strongly agree.
Mean	3.62	0.237	Strongly agree.

Survey Questionnaire Section 3 Using Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions Statistical data (Table 4) shows that the mean for Q11 is 3.520, falling within the Strongly Agree range. With a standard deviation (SD) of 0.255, this relatively

low value indicates high consensus among respondents regarding this attitude. It reflects strong user recognition of the practical value of AI contract drafting tools and demonstrates significant confidence in their future usage. The mean for Q12 is 2.580, falling within the Moderately agree range, with SD=0.657. This represents the highest dispersion among all items, indicating significant variation in respondents' willingness to recommend. While respondents demonstrate some willingness to recommend, overall enthusiasm is low, and recognition of the tool has not yet reached the level of proactive promotion. Q13's mean of 3.180 falls within the Moderately agree range (SD=0.396), showing moderate dispersion. This indicates respondents have expectations for performance optimization and some willingness to learn, though this desire is not particularly strong. The mean for Q14 is 1.900, falling within the Disagree range, with SD=0.541 and moderate dispersion. This reflects that users generally do not believe the AI tools they currently use can directly enhance their personal workplace competitiveness. This may be a key concern hindering deeper user engagement and recommendations. Q15's mean of 3.260 falls within the Strongly Agree range, with SD=0.523 and moderate dispersion. This indicates users' high willingness to pay for the tool's value-added services, indirectly confirming their recognition of the tool's value.

Table 4 shows the highest score for Q11 (M=3.520, SD=0.255), indicating that respondents perceive contract drafting as a highly standardized and repetitive aspect of legal work. Users fully recognize the value of AI tools in enhancing efficiency and reducing basic errors, thus demonstrating a strong willingness to continue using them. Q14 recorded the lowest mean score (M=1.900, SD=0.541), suggesting respondents may perceive current AI tools as capable only of handling basic tasks, incapable of enhancing core professional competencies. Some even express concern that over-reliance on tools could diminish their personal irreplaceability, leading to skepticism about AI's role in boosting workplace competitiveness.

Table 4 shows an overall mean of 2.88, falling within the Moderately agree range. With an SD of 0.474 and moderate dispersion, this indicates respondents exhibit a moderately positive overall attitude toward using AI legal tools and willingness to adopt them, though not yet reaching high levels of endorsement. Respondents demonstrated strong willingness to continue using the tool's foundational features like contract drafting and to pay for unlocking premium functions. However, they expressed skepticism about the tool's ability to enhance workplace competitiveness and showed limited willingness to actively recommend it. This divergence reflects lingering doubts about the tool's deeper value proposition, which is the core reason for the overall score not being higher. This outcome reveals both the basic user trust established in the tool's core functionalities and the risk posed by insufficient perception of its deeper value.

Table 4. Part 3 Using attitudes and behavioral intentions Statistics

Indicators	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Q11.Willing to continue using AI tools to draft contracts in future work	3.520	0.255	Strongly agree.
Q12.Proactively recommend AI tools currently in use to colleagues or peers.	2.580	0.657	Moderately agree.
Q13.If performance is upgraded, I'm willing to spend time learning more features.	3.180	0.396	Moderately agree.
Q14.AI tools can help individuals become more competitive at work.	1.900	0.541	Disagree.
Q15.Willingness to pay to use AI tools to unlock more features	3.260	0.523	Strongly agree.
Mean	2.88	0.474	Moderately agree.

Part 4 AI Substitutability Statistical data (Table 5) shows that the mean for Q16 is 1.800, falling within the Disagree range, with SD=0.327, this indicates a relatively concentrated distribution of respondents' views, suggesting that respondents generally do not believe AI can fully replace humans in standard contract drafting scenarios and maintain a reserved stance toward AI's substitution capabilities. The mean for Q17 is 1.160, falling within the Strongly disagree range, SD=0.260, this high concentration of views reflects respondents' widespread extreme vigilance regarding the independence and security of AI-generated contracts, viewing manual review as an indispensable step. The mean for Q18 is 2.460, falling within the Disagree range with SD=0.825, this significant dispersion indicates that while most users do not perceive AI as a direct threat to their profession, there are notable differences in individual perceptions. Q19's mean of 2.980 falls within the Moderately agree range, SD=0.836, indicating some divergence in views, this reflects users' widespread recognition of lawyers' irreplaceable role in contract drafting, with the belief that AI tools cannot yet fully substitute for the professional value lawyers provide.

Table 5 shows that Q19 has the highest mean score (M=2.980, SD=0.836). Contract drafting involves not only text generation but also professional decisions such as legal risk assessment and balancing commercial interests. These tasks rely on lawyers' experience and professional judgment, which current AI struggles to fully replicate. Consequently, respondents clearly recognize lawyers' irreplaceability. This understanding helps position AI as an auxiliary tool rather than a substitute. Q17 recorded the lowest mean score (M=1.160, SD=0.260). The legal rigor, accuracy, and applicability of contracts directly impact commercial risks. Respondents expressed insufficient trust in AI's precision and reliability, fearing independently generated contracts may contain loopholes or errors. Consequently, they strongly believe AI-drafted contracts still require human review.

Table 5 shows an overall mean of 2.10, falling within the Disagree range. Combined with an SD of 0.562, this indicates that respondents generally reject the notion of AI replacing human lawyers in contract drafting scenarios. They are more inclined to view AI as an auxiliary tool and acknowledge the irreplaceable role of lawyers.

Table 5. Part 4 AI substitutability Statistics

Indicators	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Q16.Can replace humans in most standard contract drafting.	1.800	0.327	Disagree.
Q17.I'm completely comfortable letting the AI generate the contract independently without manual review.	1.160	0.260	Strongly disagree.
Q18.The application of artificial intelligence has made me feel threatened in my career.	2.460	0.825	Disagree.
Q19.The value of lawyers in contract drafting cannot be replaced by artificial intelligence.	2.980	0.836	Moderately agree.
Mean	2.10	0.562	Disagree.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusion

Analysis reveals that regarding legal practitioners' acceptance and trust in AI tools, respondents generally accept AI tools as auxiliary aids but express insufficient trust in their accuracy and efficiency, believing AI-generated contracts require human review.

Regarding the optimization effects of AI tools in contract drafting processes—specifically in efficiency, accuracy, and cost control—data indicates that AI-drafted contracts are not ready for direct use. Shortcomings persist in drafting efficiency and accuracy, necessitating ongoing functional updates. Since manual review and proofreading remain necessary post-drafting, these tools do not significantly reduce labor costs. However, they offer notable advantages in promoting green office practices.

Regarding whether AI technology can fully replace traditional manual drafting, the data shows the lowest substitution score for AI. Respondents unanimously agree that lawyers' professional judgment in risk identification and clause customization remains irreplaceable. Currently, AI functions only as an auxiliary tool, with practitioners preferring to view it as a supplement rather than a substitute.

4.2. Recommendations

The adoption of AI tools among legal professionals is growing due to their widespread application, yet trust in these tools remains insufficient. Service providers can enhance technical transparency by visualizing clause generation logic and legal basis through visualization features, while continuously updating AI performance. Industry associations and regulatory bodies can jointly establish usage guidelines and quality certification standards for AI contract tools to bolster practitioners' confidence in their use.

To optimize AI's efficiency, accuracy, and cost control in contract drafting, service providers should continuously refine tool performance. By integrating natural language processing with legal reasoning and logic, they can enhance the accuracy of AI-generated text. Improved accuracy will boost drafting efficiency, which in turn will lead to cost optimization.

The adoption and proliferation of AI tools aim to provide legal practitioners with more functional support. Law firms, industry associations, and regulatory bodies should promote a positive synergy between AI and traditional manual drafting. This approach emphasizes AI tools' auxiliary role—not as a replacement for human work—while strengthening clause customization capabilities. It safeguards the core position of lawyers' professional judgment, clarifies responsibility boundaries for AI-generated contracts, and establishes institutional safeguards for their collaborative development.

Acknowledgements

Time flies, and this research journey has been both challenging and rewarding. I am deeply grateful to all who supported me. My sincerest thanks go to my advisor, Professor Rudina S. Abarientos, for her invaluable guidance throughout this research—from conception to completion. Her insights and mentorship have been indispensable. I also thank the faculty and students at the University of Baguio, and the 60 legal practitioners whose contributions formed the foundation of this study. Finally, I appreciate the experts who reviewed this thesis. I will carry this gratitude forward.

References

[1] Sun, X., & Li, Q. (2023). User acceptance of intelligent contract review systems: An empirical study based on TAM. Management Review, 35(3), 78-88.

[2] Chen, H., & Liu, W. (2022). Research on automatic contract clause generation technology based on deep learning. Computer Applications and Software, 39(7), 89-95. Shanghai Scientific and Technological Press.

[3] Chen, L., & Liu, Y. (2020). Application of blockchain technology in electronic contract storage. Intellectual Property Press.

[4] Sreelatha A., & Choudhary G. (2023). Exploring the use of AI in legal decision making: Benefits and ethical implications. Woxsen University White Paper.

[5] European Commission. (2022). Regulating AI in legal tech: The EU Artificial Intelligence Act. Publications Office of the European Union.

[6] Ghosh, S., & Liao, Q. V. (2023). Reinforcement learning for automated contract negotiation. Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. AAAI Press.

[7] Katz, D. M., & Bommarito, M. J. (2022). The ethical challenges of AI in legal contract drafting. Stanford Law Review, 74(5), 1023-1050.

[8] Davis, F. D. (1986). A technology acceptance model for empirically testing new end-user information systems: theory and results (Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

[9] Li, N. (2021). Dilemmas and countermeasures of judicial recognition of AI contract tools. Technology and Law, 29(4), 45-52.

[10] Ma, X., & Zhao, M. (2023). Empirical research on multi-task learning in labor contract review. AI and Law Review, 12(1), 89-104.

[11] Sirion. (2025). AI contract management challenges: Data, ethics, and human oversight.

[12] Remus, D., & Levy, F. (2015). Can Robots Be Lawyers? Computers, Lawyers, and the Practice of Law. SSRN.

[13] Avelka, J., & Ashley, K. D. (2021). Artificial intelligence for contract clause extraction: A case study in NDA analysis. Artificial Intelligence and Law, 29(4), 567-589. Springer Nature.

[14] Smith, T., & Jones, R. (2019). Machine learning for risk allocation in commercial contracts. MIT Press.

[15] Wang, F., & Zhao, G. (2021). Practices and challenges of legal AI in contract management: A case study of the financial industry. Modern Law Science, 43(4), 156-165. Law Press.

[16] Wang, W., Zhang, L., & Li, J. (2022). Research on Chinese contract semantic understanding model based on knowledge graph. Journal of Computer Science, 45(3), 567-578.

[17] Zhang, Q., & Zhou, T. (2023). Compliance framework for AI contract drafting under the Civil Code. China Legal Science, 40(2), 112-125.

[18] Williams, R. (2020). Cost-benefit analysis of AI contract tools for SMEs. Journal of Legal Economics, 28(2), 34–50.

[19] Yu, H., & Chen, S. (2021). Legal tech and human oversight: Balancing automation and professional responsibility. Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics, 34(3), 521–548.

[20] Icertis. (2025). AI contract law: Legal insights for the next era of automation.