

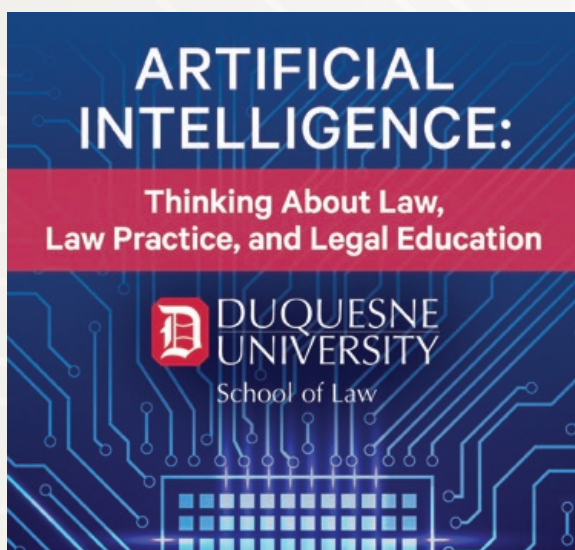
Conference Focuses on Interplay of Law and Artificial Intelligence

Jennifer Rignani, Director of Communications

Science fiction often depicts artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of human-looking robots with perilous intentions toward humanity. While the ideas behind the April School of Law Conference, *Artificial Intelligence: Thinking About Law, Law Practice and Legal Education*, weren't propelled by paranoia over evil cyborgs, it did feature presentations that acutely demonstrated that AI permeates our lives. Educators, technologists, policy makers and legal professionals joined minds to discuss the multifaceted implications on our lives.

Everything from a thermostat that adapts the room temperature for a fluctuating summer day to the smart device that selects music at our command, artificial intelligence is the new norm. Headline-grabbing AI developments like self-driving cars and health pathology detectors may trend more rapidly on our Twitter feeds, but simple devices that have disrupted (for better and worse) our lives like legal case management and legal research software are paramount to understand. In the practical application of the law, special algorithms can use the data of past crimes to predict when and where crimes might occur in the future. Some states are moving toward algorithms to set bail.

The two-day conference, hosted by Professor Jan M. Levine, director of legal research and writing and an expert in the field of legal writing and research, and Professor Wesley M. Oliver, associate dean for faculty scholarship and director of the Criminal Justice program, was conceived after both saw the



need for law school graduates to understand how intelligent systems can enhance and streamline work and how their careers will be impacted. Reed Smith LLP was the presenting sponsor.

Duquesne University Provost David Dausey was on board from the start. Throughout his career he's been an early adopter of ideas around teaching cybersecurity and data privacy. "Not all faculty and staff have grown up with tech, and their approach is fundamentally different than the students, I remember being trained on how to use email. What it doesn't change is that we need to foreshadow the world for these students. It's

our job to see what the future markets are going to be. In law, the intersectionality of tech and legal practice is inevitable," said Dausey. Levine agreed, adding, "Artificial intelligence and technology will likely soon call for greater government oversight, result in new laws and trigger litigation. We have to prepare students for this."

Ashley M. London, Associate Director of bar studies and assistant professor of legal skills, and co-presenter with Professor James B. Schreiber of "Considerations Surrounding the Data Science World We Are In," says we need to take consideration of AI back a step, even. "AI isn't actually 'intelligent' on its own—it gets intelligence from *us*. It is only as good as the data we put in. As what we impute to it, including our humanity and biases," said London.

“We have to keep ethics at the forefront as we develop AI. Law students need to know how to use it and to understand the complex components that go into this still truly human enterprise.”

— Ashley M. London, associate director of bar studies and assistant professor of legal skills

Artificial intelligence has long disrupted the way we live and work; the impact on society is the stuff of pop culture legend.

— Professor Jan M. Levine, director of legal research and writing

London's legal ethics perspective and Schreiber's data analytics vantage presented two important halves of the whole picture of the algorithms that drive so much of our tech. Said London, "We have to keep ethics at the forefront as we develop AI. Law students need to know how to use it and to understand the complex components that go into this still truly human enterprise."



Ashley London

In the competitive world of law, competencies are critical. As AI either puts humans out of work or opens up opportunities to learn new ways to work, educators and legal practitioners must stay ahead of the horizon. Levine said, "With this in mind, reconfiguring how we approach teaching is essential." It's also no secret that the law, like other areas of study and practice, are lagging behind the staggering velocity of technology development.

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Aggressive AI taking over human existence is a common theme.

One of literature's first instances of connecting the threat of a brainy machine to the corporate bottom line was earlier than we might think. Levine vividly recalls, discovering the tale as a boy. The invention of an autonomous vehicle appears in "The Living Machine," a short story by David H. Keller published in 1935. Keller, a prolific and fantastical writer, touched some nerves with his work. Levine said, "As the story goes, the oil industry didn't like the idea of these cars and started to poison them because they were disrupting their profit. I remember this story as a kid. Fast-forward to being a professor. I had a student who was doing a paper on autonomous vehicles and regulation in Pennsylvania. I thought about this story and found that indeed it was the first idea of a car that would drive itself."



Jan Levine

Highlights from the Conference

Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Corporate Legal Departments
Oliver Round, Seema Phekoo, Kyle Johnson (BNY Mellon); Scott Curtis (Deloitte LLP)

Algorithmic Justice: A New Proposal Toward the Identification and Reduction of Discriminatory Bias in Artificial Intelligence Systems
Emile Loza de Siles (Technology and Cybersecurity Law Group)

Educating Federal Judges on AI
Timothy Lau (Federal Judicial Center)

Artificial Intelligence as a Path to Closing the Justice Gap
Professor Kate Norton (Duquesne Law)

Practice-Ready Millennials: Technology Training for Efficient and Effective Communication
Professors Dionne E. Anthon, Anna P. Hemingway, Amanda Sholtis (Widener University)

Considerations Surrounding the Data Science World We Are In
Professors James B. Schreiber (Duquesne University) and Ashley London (Duquesne Law)

"Alexa, Write a Memo": The Promise and Challenges of AI and Legal Writing
Professor Teresa Godwin Phelps (American University) and Richard B. Phelps (Broadcast Media)





L-R: Presenters Timothy Lau, Patrick Juola, James Schreiber, Emile Loza de Siles, Tabrez Ebrahim

A flood of submissions to present at the conference came from all over the world on law practice, policy and legal education. Selecting topics and presenters was nearly complex enough to require an algorithm, but ultimately, the professors went the most timely and practical route. Presenters from law and law practice and legal education hailed from: Duquesne University, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, Indian Society of International Law, California Western University, Martian Technologies, Lexis Nexis, Federal Judicial Center, Marquette University, BNY Mellon, Deloitte LLP, Gramener, Inc., Widener Law Commonwealth, Texas Tech University, University of Missouri, LegalSifter, University of St. Thomas, University of New Hampshire, American University, Georgetown University and Mylan.

The law needs to be thoughtful and careful about protecting people from adverse effects of technology while also accepting and benefitting from the efficiencies and insights it can offer. While the intersection of the law and technology has predominantly manifested itself in automation to date, how it will continue to morph and affect continues to fuel our intellectual debate and scholarship. London reminded us, “We have to constantly consider the complex work of AI. As it evolves, will it do so without serious effects to humanity?”



Future and current Law Review editors Danielle Mrdjnovich and Taylor Wantz at the conference. The Law Review will dedicate space for the conference in its upcoming symposium issue.

The Duquesne Law Review plans to dedicate space in its Winter 2019 symposium issue to publishing papers from this conference. For more information on what was presented at the conference, visit <https://www.law.duq.edu/events/artificial-intelligence-conference-april-26-27th-2019>.

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