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LATIN AMERICAN LAW REVIEW

Invites the academic community to submit articles on the special issue:

The Future of the Legal Profession in the Digital Age: Global South perspectives

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I.   DESCRIPTION

The adoption of artificial intelligence and digital technologies is transforming the legal profession, legal education, and the governance frameworks that underpin the rule of law. From AI-powered legal research and predictive analytics to algorithmic decision-making in courts and regulatory bodies, the intersection of law and technology raises pressing questions about access to justice, the quality and ethics of legal services, and the very nature of legal reasoning.

Much of the existing scholarship on law and technology has been produced within, and primarily addresses, the realities of the Global North. The dominant frameworks for understanding AI governance, legal tech regulation, and digital transformation in legal education have been shaped by the institutional, economic, and socio-political conditions of Europe and the Anglo-Saxon world. These perspectives, while valuable, often fail to account for the distinct challenges and

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opportunities facing legal systems in the Global South, including differential access to technology, the persistence of structural inequalities in justice systems, and the regulatory environments shaped by distinct constitutional and legal traditions.

In recent years, a growing body of work has begun to interrogate how digital technologies are reshaping legal landscapes beyond the traditional centres of legal scholarship. Scholars from Latin America, Africa, and Asia have offered critical perspectives on AI governance, decolonial approaches to technology regulation, and the specific implications of digital transformation for legal education and practice in developing economies. This emerging literature enriches global debates by foregrounding questions of equity, power asymmetries, and the geopolitical dimensions of technological change.

Yet significant gaps remain. The implications of AI for the legal profession — including its effects on legal practice, the training of future lawyers, access to justice, data protection, intellectual property, and regulatory design—demand sustained and contextualised analysis. Understanding how AI tools interact with existing legal cultures, institutional capacities, and market structures requires both theoretical innovation and empirical inquiry. Moreover, the relationship between global regulatory trends and local responses in the region merits careful comparative study.

For this special issue, Latin American Law Review (LAR) invites original research articles that help fill these gaps by exploring the interaction between law and technology in the future of the legal profession, with particular attention to the Global South Context. Submissions should engage with one or more of the following thematic areas:

1. **AI and Legal Practice**: The impact of artificial intelligence on courts, legal services, and access to justice, including the deployment of AI-driven legal tools, algorithmic adjudication, and the potential of AI legal advice to bridge or widen justice gaps. **Examples of questions**: What changes when legal work becomes productized via platforms and model-as-a-service tools? What are the professional responsibility implications (confidentiality, competence, supervision, unauthorized practice)? How do courts and legal

aid systems in resource-constrained settings procure, audit, and govern AI tools?

2. **Transforming Legal Education for the AI Era**: Pedagogical innovations in legal education responding to digital transformation, including competency-based learning, AI literacy, the integration of large language models in legal training, assessment redesign, and the ethical challenges of AI use in academic settings. **Examples of questions**: How should law schools redesign curricula and assessment methods when students can generate competent legal drafts via large language models? What does "AI literacy" mean as a professional competency for lawyers and judges, and how should it be taught — as a standalone course, a transversal skill, or an embedded practice across the curriculum? What institutional frameworks can safeguard critical legal reasoning skills (close reading, argumentation, normative judgment) while integrating AI tools into pedagogy? How do resource asymmetries across law schools in the Global South shape the feasibility and equity of AI-enhanced legal education?

3. **Governing AI – Regulation, Markets, and Global Power**: Regulatory frameworks for AI governance at the national, regional, and global levels; the governance of AI platforms and model-as-a-service architectures; the intersection of AI regulation with data protection, antitrust, intellectual property and copyright; and the geopolitical dimensions of AI governance, including comparative analyses across jurisdictions. **Examples of questions**: How do emerging national and regional AI regulatory regimes interact with existing legal regimes on data protection, antitrust, and intellectual property? How do copyright exceptions and limitations apply across the AI lifecycle — from training data ingestion to output generation — and what structural weaknesses exist in current legal frameworks? What are the geopolitical implications of concentrated AI infrastructure, and how do they shape regulatory autonomy in Global South jurisdictions?

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4. **Decolonial, Comparative, and Global South Perspectives**: Critical approaches to law and technology that foreground the experiences and epistemologies of the Global South; decolonial inquiries into data governance, privacy, and human rights; the evolution of legal research in the digital age across diverse jurisdictions; and the implications of AI for business sustainability, supply chains, and human rights. **Examples of questions**: What epistemological assumptions embedded in dominant AI governance frameworks are rendered visible when examined from decolonial perspectives? How do data governance and privacy regimes in the Global South reproduce, contest, or reconfigure colonial patterns of knowledge extraction? What does it mean to "decolonise" legal technology when the technical infrastructure — training data, model architectures, compute resources — is overwhelmingly produced in the Global North? How are African, Asian, and Latin American legal research traditions being reshaped by AI tools, and what risks and opportunities does this pose for local epistemic communities?

5. **The Rule of Law in the Age of AI**: Broader conceptual and normative questions about the compatibility of algorithmic governance with the rule of law, the implications of AI-driven distrust for democratic institutions, and the design of institutional frameworks that safeguard critical legal skills while preparing AI-literate practitioners. **Examples of questions**: Under what conditions does algorithmic decision-making in public administration satisfy the core requirements of the rule of law? How does AI-driven distrust erode public confidence in democratic institutions and legal processes? How should the legal profession define the boundary between tasks that can be delegated to AI and those that require irreducible human legal competence?

We particularly welcome work grounded in Global South experiences, whether doctrinal, empirical, socio-legal, or comparative, that shows how digital legal tools operate under conditions of institutional constraint and inequality. We welcome

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doctrinal, comparative, socio-legal, empirical, and interdisciplinary contributions, including qualitative case studies, quantitative analyses, and design-oriented policy proposals. Articles may focus on a single jurisdiction or adopt a cross-country comparative approach.

II.   EDITORIAL RULES

Submitted articles must not be under review or have editorial commitments with any other publication. It is essential that articles submitted for evaluation strictly comply with the editorial rules established by Latin American Law Review.

Questions about this call for papers may be directed to the guest editors at juagutie@uniandes.edu.co; m.l.florez.rojas@rug.nl; effoduh@torontomu.ca or to the general editorial office at lar@uniandes.edu.co. Manuscripts must be submitted through the article reception platform.