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Future Professional Skills for Criminal Justice Professionals in the Times of AI

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Some skills in this industry are extremely replicable by AI. For example, AI-driven software like Lexis+ AI and Westlaw Edge can quickly do legal research, search precedents, and summarize extensive case files (Susskind, 2019). Moreover, routine document drafting, regular case updates, and forecasting legal outcomes by predictive modeling are being done more and more by AI systems, which are capable of monitoring legal trends more quickly and better than people (Goodman, 2020). These abilities imply that AI can effectively duplicate uniform tasks based on organized legal data.

However, not all legal competences and affinity for that competence can be automated. Critical legal thinking, ethical reasoning, and the ability to communicate with a client empathically require human judgment and emotional intelligence (American Bar Association, 2020). For example, when deciding whether a plea is ethically and strategically viable or sound, it involves taking into account human factors like a defendant's mental state, possible long-term implications for that individual, and the ramifications that the case might have on others in the community. AI struggles to fully engage with context, moral responsibility, or fairness in those scenarios which is one reason ethical reasoning is an important leaning. I use these skills in my professional practice and my academic work when I engage in reflective judgment in case-based discussions, draw in ethical perspectives while weighing multiple interests, and adaptive equitable process when creating assessments, while interpreting and responding to a legal issue.

In addition, the ability to adapt and continue learning is a valued disposition that will never be greater than AI. The pace of change with legal technologies and alternatives to

traditional practices are such that practitioners will have to maintain a constant cycle of skills development and integration of new tools and workflows. Even trust and empathy in client relationships are always a human quality. In consultancy or advocacy legal matters, clients rely on ethical foundations, confidentiality, and emotional comfort—things that are impossible for technology to authentically replicate. In fully aligning with the new technology, I hope to create a blended learning experience in expertise in the legal field, in terms of digital literacy.

This means, to pursue certifications on legal tech software, to be exposed to AI-enabled legal research tools, to keep current with the latest literature through academic journals such as *Artificial Intelligence and Law*, and to continue to pursue professional development training in ethics, cultural competency in law, and legal reasoning to aggregate the less tangible skills and expertise as human. Finally, I do not think the future of criminal justice career will not supplant humans, but rather will emphasize human capacity to do law without justice, ethics and humanity. I would like to position myself as a future legal professional in criminal justice by implementing my technical capacity while thinking about moral reasoning.

References

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