Optimising Legal Teams for AI

How to make AI work in legal operations



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Your legal team is probably already working with AI.

People

Teams are adopting without guardrails

When oversight, judgment and accountability for output are informal, quality and compliance risks increase. Do teams understand where AI fits, when to use it, and where human judgment remains critical?

Process

Processes weren't built for AI

Are use cases and contracting workflows clear enough for AI to support them in a standardised fashion? Workflows with manual handoffs, unclear ownership or governance and inconsistent steps can't be automated cleanly. AI accelerates this friction.

Documents

Agreements aren't machine-readable

Are templates, clauses and playbooks simple and consistent enough to be used reliably? Contracts drafted for humans with ambiguous language and non-standard structures are invisible to AI. The data quality problem starts here.

> *"Many legal teams are not structurally ready to support AI adoption across their contracting portfolio."*

The Readiness Gap.

AI ambition is moving faster than most legal operations teams were built to support - that's not a criticism, it's just how growth works.

Successful organisations expand fast, across business lines and jurisdictions. Contract portfolios diversify, volumes balloon, demand spikes without warning. At the same time, legal, procurement and sales are being asked to do more with less while still managing risk. That tension is structural rather than a failure of planning.

The friction points we see in contracting environments are almost always signs of a successful one that's been moving quickly. We've yet to work with a long-running, global contracting function that doesn't have some version of this story.

The best AI strategy starts with operations that already run well. **Optimisation builds the foundations for sustainable, safe growth** and makes AI adoption straightforward when you're ready.

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Legal Sits at the Centre of AI Accountability

While IT manages the foundational layer, automation and background processes of AI at workplace level, Legal operates at the application layer. This is where AI touches the customer and creates a unique, dual pressure.

Speed pressure

Many legal teams are being asked how AI can improve contracting, reduce manual work and make legal service delivery more scalable, often including where it touches the client.

Risk pressure

In the process of experimentation AI tools often expose the gaps that already exist: inconsistent templates, unclear processes, varying contract data, fragmented playbooks and uncertainty about how lawyers should use the technology safely.

> ***Before AI can create meaningful value, legal teams need the right foundations in place.***

Do you have a clear optimisation strategy?

- Is your contracting strategy clear and consistent?
- Are your templates consistent?
- Is the correct, trusted data being gathered and used from your contracts?
- Are review responsibilities and paths clear?
- Are playbooks drafted in a format that can easily be ported into AI tools?
- Are your contracting positions reasonable to begin with?
- Is your workflow clearly defined?
- Do your key processes make clear where the technology acts and where a human stays accountable?

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The Five Foundations of Optimisation

Direction

Clear priorities help legal teams focus AI effort where it can create practical value. This means identifying the right use cases, understanding current gaps, and defining what success should look like.



Processes

AI needs contracting workflows that are clear, consistent and structured. Mapping steps, handoffs, approvals and exceptions helps remove confusion before automation is introduced.



Documents

Templates, clauses, playbooks and fallback positions need to be organised in a way AI can read, reuse and support. Better documents create better outputs.



Data

Contract data must be accurate, accessible and trusted. When obligations, risks and key terms are structured properly, AI becomes more useful and easier to govern.



People

AI adoption depends on the people using it. Legal teams need literacy, guidance, confidence and clear controls so they know when AI helps, when to review, and when human judgment leads.



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A practical approach for legal teams **preparing for optimised contracting to support AI adoption**

The Radiant Law method: Assess, Optimise, Scale:

Decades of contracting, documentation and technology experience, distilled into a structured route from assessment to optimisation to scaled implementation.

This framework provides a structured, actionable pathway to optimisation, diagnosing where you are today and charting your next steps. You can start with a focused diagnostic or move into a deeper foundation-building and implementation programme.

We work where you are in your AI adoption journey.

Phase 1: AMBITION
Establish the baseline

Understand the current state and **identify the gaps blocking optimised contracting.** We look at:

- What contracting business outcomes should AI support? Review of current state, contracting processes, documents and data. What is clean and accurate enough for AI?
- Stakeholder interviews or workshops-who gets the work done, where do workflows break, slow down or depend on manual intervention and why?
- Contracting process audit-what exists and what is not documented?
- Prioritised recommendations–what agreements are in place, how ambiguous are they and are they structured for machine-readability?
- Practical playbook-focused on execution and repeatability.

Best for:
Legal teams that know AI is on the agenda but need clarity on where to start.

Phase 2: AGENCY
Build the foundations

Once the baseline is established, we strengthen the foundations. The focus is on optimisation, realising quick value and paving the way for future use cases.



Process simplification
Mapping workflows and identifying tasks AI can support or take over autonomously, and opportunities to remove process waste and friction.



Template and clause review
Helping you sharpen and better utilise existing templates and identifying opportunities for improvement.



Playbook improvement
For faster, more efficient, lower risk legal operations and effectiveness.



Contract data structure
Recommendations aimed at improving accuracy and consistency so outputs can be trusted.



Ownership, adoption and governance
Set the foundations for escalation and scalability, while reducing risk.



Practical enablement
Training for legal users, designed to support maintenance at scale.

Best for:
Legal teams that have identified priority gaps within their contracting processes and portfolio and need help turning recommendations into working improvements.

Explore enablement support

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Phase 3: ADVANTAGE
Expand with confidence

Once your foundations are in place we move into transformation by building a more scalable contracting model with optimised workflows, governance and continuous improvement. This ensures your data and processes are embedded into a healthy system, not layered on top of a broken one.



End-to-end contracting model review
Optimisation ensures your contracting operations are aligned to your strategy and business goals, balancing impact and risk.



Future-state process design
Unified process architecture for repeatable and reliable output. Testing before gradually scaling across teams, channels, and markets.



Document and playbook standardisation
Agreement and clause libraries reviewed, structured and process-ready, obligations, escalation, exception and override frameworks embedded.



Measurement framework
For transparent throughput outcomes you can take to the board.



Change management support
Smooth contracting starts with a great user experience. Your tools work. Your data makes sense. And your team? Trained and finally able to get back to doing what they do best: focusing on the more complex matters needing judgement and contracting that supports revenue growth while managing risk.

Best for:
Legal teams planning a material change to how contracting work is delivered.

Talk to us about transformation

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At Radiant Law, we help clients optimise contracting for AI adoption

We use the decades of legal, process and technology lived experience our lawyers possess to help legal teams develop a structured route from assessment to optimisation to scaled implementation.

You can start with a focused diagnostic or move into a deeper foundation-building and implementation programme. We work where you ARE.

Radiant works inside the reality of contracting work every day: high volume, business pressure, changing priorities, imperfect data, and legal teams who need practical improvements without creating new operational bottlenecks.

Because Radiant combines legal expertise, managed legal services and operational delivery, our focus is on making your foundations ready for AI, not producing another theoretical readiness report.



Don't just take it from us

See how we helped a global financial information provider utilising AI on a tight-deadline contract project.

Ready to optimise your contracting?

Let's Talk

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