The Law Firm of Tomorrow: 7 Tech Trends Shaping the Legal Profession

From AI-powered chatbots to cloud computing, there's no shortage of new tech to expand the capabilities of busy law firms and relieve the heavy burden of tasks that fall on legal professionals at all levels.

But because of the consequences of compliance missteps, attorneys are naturally concerned that taking a chance on a new software could open them up to potential violations. And even without compliance risks in mind, adopting a new technology can take a lot of time and effort.

Moving ahead without answering questions like…

- Is it safe to take advantage of new tech trends?
- How will it help my team and my clients?
- Are these products really all they're cracked up to be?

… can cause hesitation.

That's where a little due diligence can come in handy. In this article, we explore six of the latest innovations in legal tech and the very practical ways they can benefit your firm.

1. Cloud-based time and billing

During the COVID-19 pandemic, cloud-based technology was a business-saver for law firms that needed to keep things running smoothly while working from home. But while most of us have returned to the office to one degree or another, cloud-based software remains an invaluable tool in the toolkit of any lawyer.

By utilizing a cloud-based solution for time and billing processes, busy legal professionals can manage matters, communicate with clients, track time on the go, and access billing information from anywhere with an internet connection.

Just as cloud-based tools increase productivity, they also improve law firm security. Cloud-based tools offer a high degree of security against cyber threats—including 256-bit encryption, password protection, and more—while reducing the burden on your IT staff (and IT budget).

2. Mobile apps

Legal work on the go? There's an app for that.

With no shortage of apps designed to do everything from getting food to your door to managing the thermostat in your home, it was only a matter of time before the tech world developed specialized apps for legal professionals.

Legal-specific mobile apps offer a range of features, from document management to case tracking and time tracking. These apps empower lawyers to work efficiently from their smartphones and tablets, enhancing productivity and improving client service.

While having a mobile app for your work is great, it won't be an effective tool if it's not easy to use. Be sure to choose a tool that's user-friendly with an intuitive interface.

The Ultimate Guide to Automating Your Legal Billing and Payments

To stay competitive in today's legal landscape, law firms must embrace the power of technology, especially when it comes to billing and payments.

The best way to improve your law firm's cash flow while also increasing client convenience is 'Automation'.

Download our free guide to improve your legal billing and payment process today!

Get your free guide

3. Automation

The daily work involved in running a law firm can involve a lot of repetitive tasks across every area of operation, from matter management to billing. These tasks are vital to a firm's success, but they can be tedious and take away from high-value client work.

Automation increasingly possesses the ability to relieve the burden of these tasks. Many new legal software solutions provide automation features—but don't assume that all automation is equally beneficial.

Instead of automating anything and everything, select what to automate by conducting an audit of your law firm's ongoing activities. Identify where you experience bottlenecks, errors, and delays. You can use this information to create a short list of potential tasks to automate—and also see the greatest ROI.

4. Client collaboration

In our fast-paced world, convenience is key to providing an optimal client experience, and one of the best ways to do that is by investing in tools that support client collaboration like client portals and secure file-sharing and eSignature.

Client portals: allow law firms to share documents, messages, and updates with clients all from one convenient platform with a click of a button. This technology makes it easy for you to communicate with clients and makes it convenient for them to track the progress of their matters.

Secure file-sharing and eSignatures: help your firm by eliminating the need to chase down clients for files and signatures. All your clients need is an internet connection, and they can send you what you need with the click of a button.

5. Data encryption and automatic backups

Data breaches and cyberattacks can have severe consequences, including lost business and legal liabilities. From staying compliant with local regulations to protecting your data and your reputation, strong security is of the utmost importance for any law firm.

By adopting strong security measures like 256-bit SSL data encryption and automatic backups, you can ensure that sensitive information remains secure even if it falls into the wrong hands, and you never have to worry about lost data because it's always waiting for you on the cloud. Look for a state-of-the-art data center that's PCI DSS compliant and maintains SSAE-16 compliance.

6. Data-driven decision making

When it comes to making the right decisions for how to shape the future of your law firm, having the right data is critical. One tech trend that's becoming indispensable to the modern lawyer is the data dashboard.

With the right dashboard, legal professionals can gain a visual overview of key performance indicators (KPIs), case progress, and financial matters. These tools can help you identify trends, allocate resources more effectively, and make data-driven decisions that will lead your firm in the right direction.

7. AI integrations

While AI might just feel like a buzzword to most people, it's already revolutionizing the legal industry. One of the best and easiest to implement is process automation.

AI-powered tools can automate time-consuming tasks like document review, legal research, and contract analysis, which frees up time for busy legal professionals to focus on more high-value tasks and generate more billable hours.

The right legal software can take the heavy lifting off your plate so you can focus on what matters most: your clients.

Make your firm the face of the future with TimeSolv

Legal professionals don't have the time to sit around learning the ins and outs of new software to get the most out of it.

It’s essential to find a comprehensive software solution that provides all the tools you need to get the job done and doesn’t take months to understand and implement.

If you’re looking for a solution that can increase your efficiency, make things more convenient for your clients, and automate tedious processes that keep you from being able to engage in more high-value work, TimeSolv has the tech you need to make it happen.

Start your free trial now and see how TimeSolv can take your tech to the next level.