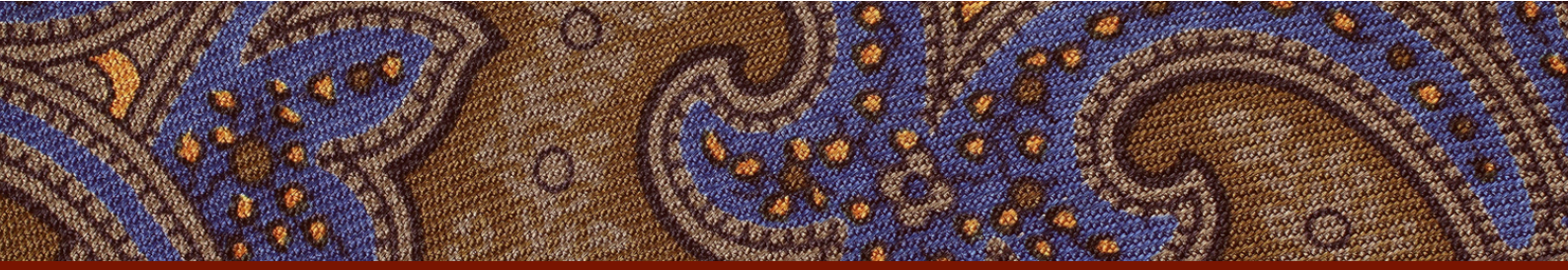


MAY 2026



Message from the Managing Partner



Mohamed Ridza Abdullah
Managing Partner

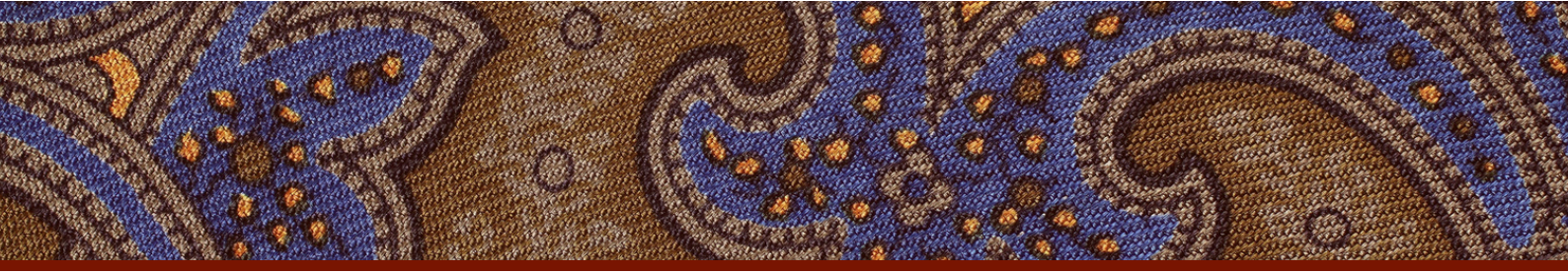
Dear Friends and Clients,

The last few weeks has been an interesting journey for me traveling between the continents of Africa and Europe. Morocco has been an enriching experience covering Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, Erfoud, Ouarzazate and Marrakech. I had the opportunity to meet the Malaysian Ambassador to Morocco who happens to be my junior in university. Apart from the economic opportunities, the diverse cultural and historical incidences spanning more than a thousand years were mind blowing.

Later in Lisbon, Portugal attending the LAWorld AGM, it was a pleasant social and professional event meeting old and new friends from all over the world. Personally, it was an honor to be given the responsibility in my election as Chair of LAWorld, growing from a 70 member firm across more than 100 cities around the globe. Navigating different time zones across different cultures in leading the organization is a challenge I look forward to apart from working with my fellow Executive Committee members.

For Firasat this month, our senior associate, Muhammad Akhlil writes on AI and the legal industry which incidentally was a topic he presented to the LAWorld delegates in Lisbon, Portugal.

Hope you enjoy the long weekend.



2026 LAWorld Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal



LAWorld New Executive Committee



LAWorld Lisbon AGM delegates



LAWorld World Cup Tournament

AI and the Legal Industry

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping industries across the globe and the legal sector is no exception. What began as experimental technology has now evolved into a practical tool embedded within many aspects of legal service delivery. From document review to contract drafting, AI is influencing how legal work is performed and delivered. However, while the impact of AI on legal practice is significant, it is equally important to understand its limits. Far from replacing lawyers, AI is best understood as a tool that enhances legal expertise, rather than substitutes it.

One of the most visible ways AI is influencing legal work is through enhanced efficiency and support in handling large volumes of information. Tasks such as reviewing extensive documents, distilling complex materials and preparing structured first drafts can now be supported by advanced tools, allowing legal teams to manage matters with greater consistency and focus.

For clients, this translates into tangible benefits. Legal teams are able to respond with greater clarity, maintain momentum on complex matters and deliver advice in a more structured and timely manner. AI is helping to align legal services more closely with business expectations, delivering outcomes that are not only robust, but also responsive and transparent.

Despite these advancements, the role of the lawyer remains central. AI does not possess judgment, experience, or an understanding of the broader commercial and strategic context in which legal advice is given. It cannot assess a client's objectives, risk appetite, or long-term priorities, nor can it anticipate the broader implications of legal decisions.

Legal advice involves interpreting nuance, balancing competing risks, negotiating outcomes and navigating complex commercial relationships. These are areas where human expertise is indispensable. While AI can assist by organising information or presenting options, it cannot replicate the insight and judgment that experienced lawyers bring to each matter.

Equally important is the issue of accountability. Legal professionals are bound by strict duties of care, confidentiality and professional responsibility. Any work product remains subject to rigorous review and oversight. The ultimate responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of legal advice rests firmly with the lawyer.

For this reason, the integration of AI into legal practice is being approached with careful governance. Law firms are implementing structured frameworks to ensure that AI is used responsibly, particularly in relation to data security, confidentiality and quality control. This includes the use of secure systems, clearly defined protocols and continuous oversight.

From a client perspective, AI is not replacing lawyers. Rather, it is enabling them to deliver greater value. By supporting more efficient processes, it allows legal professionals to focus more deeply on strategic advice, risk management and achieving optimal outcomes.

Looking ahead, AI will continue to develop and become more deeply integrated into legal workflows. Its role will expand, but its function will remain as merely a supporting tool within a lawyer-led process. The lawyer remains at the centre of that process, providing the insight, accountability and strategic direction that technology cannot replicate.

This article is written by:



Muhammad Akhlil Ridza
Senior Associate



We hope you enjoyed this article. Stay tuned for our next one! If you have any questions or need guidance, feel free to call us at +603-2092 4822 or email us at ridza@ridzalaw.com.my. We would be happy to assist.

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