

Certified
AI Specialist
Legal

AISL

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AISL

Body of Knowledge and Exam Blueprint

DRAFT

Effective date: TBD



THE AISL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

MIN.	MAX.	Domain I – Introduction to AI in the Legal Profession	
TBD	TBD	Domain I – Introduction to AI in the Legal Profession introduces the foundational concepts legal professionals need to understand before using or overseeing AI in legal work. It covers how legal-specific AI models operate and how they differ from general-purpose models.	
		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
I.A	Understand how legal-specific AI models work		Understand the difference between legal-specific tools and general-purpose models; understand how different models produce different answers.
			Understand the differences among generative AI, agentic AI, and predictive AI and the specific risks associated with their use.
			Understand the difference between open and closed AI models.
			Understand the difference between informational systems and advisory systems.
			Know the ways retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) and natural language processing (NLP) work.
			Understand the different deployment models (cloud-hosted; on-premises; API-based).
			Understand how data is used to train the models.
I.B	Understand the risks of using AI for legal tasks and the consequences for legal professional duties		Understand bias and discrimination risks and how they manifest differently depending on the way lawyers use generative AI.
			Understand the risks to intellectual property and other sensitive data.
			Understand explainability risks and the difficulties of validating the reasoning of AI models.
			Understand the use and risks of evidence processed or generated by AI tools, when it may be acceptable (e.g., transcriptions, translations, redactions, format conversions) and when it poses major risks (e.g., manipulated or outright fake evidence).
			Understand the different forms of hallucinations (e.g., wholly fabricated cases vs. misapplication of legal propositions vs. missing key precedent in lieu of other materials).
			Understand how confidentiality and privilege are impacted by the use of AI tools.
			Understand human-side AI risks like automation bias, the different manifestations and risks of shadow AI and cognitive lock-in; understand the risks associated with vibe coding by lawyers and legal staff.
			Understand unique risks and challenges posed by agentic AI tools including UPL risks.



THE AISL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

MIN. MAX.		Domain II – Understanding how AI models can be deployed in legal workflows	
TBD	TBD	Domain II – Understanding how AI models can be deployed in legal workflows focuses on the ways AI models can assist with research, contracting, e-discovery, litigation support, predictive analysis and judicial work. The domain emphasizes both productivity opportunities and the need to understand workflow-specific risks.	
		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
II.A	Understand how AI models can augment legal research and document review		Understand how RAG allows for more targeted and relevant searches, including docket searches.
			Understand how AI models can detect key themes and fact patterns.
II.B	Understand how AI models can assist during the contracting lifecycle		Understand how AI models can assist first draft generation, templating, and red-lining.
			Understand how AI models can assist due diligence by flagging risky clauses, and identifying financial or legal inconsistencies across contracts.
			Understand how AI models can assist with the negotiation process.
II.C	Understand how AI models can assist during the e-discovery process		Understand how AI models can sort through ESI to perform early document triage and categorization.
			Understand how AI models can find hidden patterns in vast data sets.
			Understand how AI models can draft standardized privilege logs with contextual justification.
II.D	Understand how AI models can support litigation		Understand how AI model templating and formatting can match specific courts and jurisdictions.
			Understand how AI models can enable case, statute and precedent analysis to facilitate drafting of pleadings, arguments and counter claims.
			Understand how AI can help with witness preparation and deposition preparation and create AI-generated victim impact statements.
II.E	Understand how AI models can assist with predictive analysis		Understand how AI tools trained on past case law, judicial behavior and jurisdictional data can forecast the likelihood of success or settlement in litigation or arbitration.
			Understand how AI tools can perform jurisdictional automated monitoring to detect potential regulatory breaches or non-compliance.
			Understand how AI is used for jury selection.



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COMPETENCIES

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

II.F	Understand how judges use AI	Understand how judges use AI for legal research and verification of lawyer submissions.
		Understand how judges use AI to summarize complex deposition testimony, trial transcripts and voluminous e-discovery records.
		Understand how judges are using AI to draft legal judgments.



THE AISL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

MIN. MAX.		Domain III — Establishing oversight and monitoring in legal workflows	
TBD	TBD	Domain III — Establishing oversight and monitoring in legal workflows focuses on practical controls that help legal organizations use AI effectively, efficiently and responsibly.	
		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
III.A	Implement AI governance architecture and user roles		Create an AI governance strategy and establish business cases for different uses of AI tools.
			Create AI contracts with clients that define what AI is and what it will be used for.
			Implement a decision-making structure, including an ethics board, a legal operations team and an AI innovation partner.
			Ensure cross-functional collaboration among legal, risk, and innovation teams; manage consequences for human supervision as workflows become increasingly automated.
			Understand the role legal engineers play in firms and in house teams.
			Assess competency needs and employee training for user roles.
			Confirm that the quality, structure and accessibility of data is ready for AI reasoning.
			Develop acceptable use policies, approved tools lists and AI restricted lists; construct deliberate AI portfolio diversification.
III.B	Manage data sovereignty implications		Ensure the AI inventory includes what they do, who has access, which data it accesses and the risk level of the tool.
			Understand how model tiering creates efficiency and improves output. Match the model tier to the complexity of the task.
			Determine the necessary data types and assess anonymization or de-identification requirements for confidential information.
			Classify data according to risk profile to determine which data or matters carry the most exposure if controls fail.
			Understand how context windows determine model capability.
			Determine if output will be used for legal advice, court filing, client communication, or internal analysis.



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III.C	Conduct comprehensive vendor assessment	Consider pros and cons of commercial products vs. proprietary (in-house) solutions.	
		Ensure the tool can work within the organization’s data security, cost and workflow constraints.	
		Ensure the vendor model prevents jailbreaking, maintains model integrity, prevents data and prompt leakage, and minimizes bias, hallucination and misinformation.	
		Ensure vendor tools can link AI to verifiable sources, create audit trails and explain outputs.	
		Ensure that the AI outputs are explainable for clients, courts and regulators.	
		Ensure vendor contracts account for agentic AI capacity.	
		Ensure model is monitored for drift, data staleness and updates.	
III.D	Ensure AI workflows are monitored to encourage effective, efficient and responsible use	Perform human verification of AI-generated content. For example: create citations for legal propositions, mark uncertain outputs, validate sources, record material AI use and distinguish internal brainstorming from externally delivered work product.	
		Implement reviewer escalation rules.	
		Set up and deploy systematic random sampling, elusion testing for quality assurance, and know how to use AI platform features to mitigate hallucination risk.	
		Understand what actions agentic AI can take without real-time approval and implement human checkpoints.	
		Ensure there are audit trails that document what data was accessed, what it produced and what the legal professional did with the output.	
		Document AI use in matters where risk, confidentiality or court disclosure obligations apply.	



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III.E		Develop efficient prompting, instructional guardrails and user access to ensure financial responsibility and output quality	Create a meta prompt to reduce hallucinations and ensure uniform outputs.
			Create a prompt library to highlight best practices.
			Create “persistent instructions,” cross conversation memory and memory logs.
			Run outputs through alternate models for review.
			Account for token-based pricing when determining user access, and understand the cost difference between input and output tokens.
			Understand how concise prompting helps to limit token consumption.
			Break legal workflows into smaller steps, designating simple tasks to cheaper, open-source models while saving expensive frontier models for complex reasoning.



THE AISL BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

MIN. MAX.		Domain IV — Ensuring AI use complies with ethical, contractual, statutory and regulatory requirements	
TBD	TBD	Domain IV — Ensuring AI use complies with ethical, contractual, statutory and regulatory requirements focuses on the universal aspects of professional responsibility in the English-speaking global legal field.	
COMPETENCIES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
IV.A	Understand and adhere to ethical requirements during AI workflow	Understand how Unites States ABA Formal Opinion 512 (and jurisdiction-specific guidance) applies existing professional duties to generative AI; understand and adhere to the duty of competence.	
		Follow professional obligations under the U.K. Bar Council and the U.K. SRA Code of Conduct, SRA Standards and Regulations, and SRA Principles (including guidance on effective supervision (update 6/12/26)).	
		Understand AU guidance from The Law Society of NSW, the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia and the Victorian Legal Services Board on safeguarding consumers of legal services; understand ethical guidance from state and territorial legal societies.	
		Understand the New Zealand Law Society's Generative AI Guidance for Lawyers.	
		Understand the Canadian Bar Association's Ethics of Artificial Intelligence for the Legal Practitioner.	
		Know and adhere to communication and transparency requirements. For example, update engagement letters with concise disclaimers regarding the appropriate and proportionate use of AI; set contractual terms for different tiers of AI solutions; identify GAI outputs; obtain client consent for generative work.	
		Determine the disclosure or certification requirements for generative AI use, especially for client-facing or public-facing outputs. Know specific cases where these were required.	
		Adhere to confidentiality and privilege requirements when using AI.	
		Understand how ABA rules 5.1 and 5.3 apply to the use of AI as a legal assistant.	
		Ensure duty of candor when using AI.	
		Understand how ABA rule 3.3 applies to court filings citing AI generated authority.	



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		COMPETENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
IV.B	Understand and adhere to statutory and regulatory requirements during AI workflow		Understand how Rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence subjects AI and machine-generated trial evidence to the same reliability standards applied to expert testimony.
			Understand remediation requirements in the event hallucinated evidence is submitted to a court.
			Know compliance requirements for AI use in regulated industries and business sectors.
			Understand legal requirements for personal data entered into AI legal models, including the EU AI act's requirements for high-risk systems and U.S. state laws.
IV.C	Understand how AI use by lawyers affects fees, billing and insurance		Understand the ethical issues related to billing for AI-assisted work; Understand what constitutes reasonableness.
			Understand alternative pricing models for billable hours.
			Understand issues around professional indemnity insurance and liability.