



Access to Justice

Workshop
upon invitation only

June 26 and 27, 2025
UNIL, IDHEAP, Room 003

Legal complexity and high litigation costs remainsignificantbarrierstoaccessjustice across various jurisdictions. In response, both scholars and private entities have turned to automation, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), to assist individuals with legal reasoning and procedural guidance. However, the development, benchmarking, and deployment of AI-driven legal tools require interdisciplinary collaboration to ensure relevance, accuracy, and accessibility.

Thisworkshopaimstocriticallyexaminehow AI-drivenlegalsystemsareshapingaccess to justice by directly addressing barriers to legal knowledge and representation. True access to justice requires access to the law itself, yet many individuals—especially those from underrepresented communities such as migrants or individuals with lower socioeconomic status—struggle to navigate complex legal processes due to cost, time, and expertise constraints. AI-driven

legal tools, including those developed by initiatives such as OpenJustice, offer new possibilities to bridge this gap by providing tailored legal guidance and assistance to a variety of legal processes. Drawing from international initiatives and rich expertise of experts from various fields, we will discuss best practices in designing responsible and accessible legal AI systems. The session will also delve into the critical role of benchmarking in ensuring the effectiveness and trustworthiness of these systems.

Ourworkshopgoalsarealongthedesignand validation phases of legal AI systems. First, we want to learn from various international initiatives on AI-driven legal automation, focusing on domain-specific adaptations and challenges in different legal contexts. Second, we aim to explore methodologies for evaluating the effectiveness and fairness of legal AI systems, addressing issues such as multilingualism, data accessibility, and proprietary constraints.

Workshop program

Day 1

- 13:00–13:30 **Welcome**
Overview of the workshop goals and agenda
- 13:30–15:00 **Designing legal AI for better access to law**
Presentations on key initiatives and legal AI applications by participants
- 15:00–15:30 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30–17:00 **Hands-on activity on designing legal AI**
Challenges presented and worked on in smaller groups
- 17:00–17:30 **Day wrap up**
Group discussion of some learnings of Day 1 and outline of Day 2
- 19:00–21:00 **Dinner**
Location to be announced

Day 2

- 09:00–10:30 **Benchmarking legal AI**
Presentations of participants on validation approaches
- 10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00–12:30 **Hands-on activity on benchmarking legal AI**
Challenges presented and worked on in smaller groups
- 12:30–14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00–15:30 **Research agenda setting**
Group discussion on workshop learnings and outlook
- 15:30–16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00–17:00 **Public panel discussion: AI and its reshaping of legal accessibility**
Discussion with participants on themes covered throughout the workshop

Day 3

- 09:00–18:00 **Public legal hackathon**

Invited participants & organizers (in alphabetical order)

Elliott Ash, ETH
Rohan Bhambhonia, Queens University
Daniel Brunner, Swiss Supreme Court
Maëva Cherpillod, Caritas Schweiz
Samuel Dahan, Queens University
Gijs van Dijck, Maastricht University
Vlada Druta, UNIL
Duncan Faigrieve, Dauphine
Clement Guitton, University of St. Gallen
Florence Guillaume, University of Neuchâtel
Margaret Hagan, Stanford
Konrad Kollnig, Maastricht University
Mandy Li, Harvard A2J Lab
David Liang, Queens University

Megan Ma, Stanford CodeX
Simon Mayer, University of St. Gallen
Jakob Merane, ETH/UNIL
Claudia Miserez, Caritas Schweiz
Cat Moon, Vanderbilt Law School
Manuela Paolini e Silva, UNIL
Martin Petrin, Western Law
Lord Philip Sale, UK Supreme Court
Yash Shrestha, UNIL
Jed Stiglitz, Cornell
Aurelia Tamò-Larrieux, UNIL
Hannes Westermann, Maastricht University
Mark Williams, Vanderbilt Law School