



Access to Justice

Workshop
upon invitation only

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

Legal complexity and high litigation costs remain significant barriers to access to justice 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.

This workshop aims to critically examine how AI-driven legal systems are reshaping access 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.

Our workshop goals are along the design and 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**
- 13:30–13:45** Daniel Brunner: ChatTF and the Swiss Justice Base Model
- 13:50–14:05** Martin Petrin: AI for Commercial Transactions
- 14:15–14:30** Hannes Westermann: Generative AI for Access to Justice
- 14:30–14:50** Debra Hevenstone: Hack4SocialGood and Techfugees
- 15:00–15:30** **Coffee Break**
- 15:30–17:00** **Hands-on activity on designing legal AI**
Challenges presented by organizers and worked on in smaller interdisciplinary teams
- 17:00–17:30** **Day wrap up**
Group discussion and conclusions of Day 1
- 18:00–20:30** **Dinner**
Le Café de Chavannes, Rte de la Maladière 40, 1022 Renens

Day 2

- 09:00–10:30** **Benchmarking legal AI**
- 09:00–09:15** Mandy Mobley Li: Evaluating the Impact of AI on Legal Services
- 09:20–09:35** Jed Stiglitz: Approaches to the Automated Verification of Legal Claims
- 09:45–10:00** Cat Moon & Mark Williams: the intersection of benchmarking + regulation of legal AI
- 10:05–10:20** Eliza Mik: Evaluating Reliability in the Absence of Ground Truths
- 10:30–11:00** **Coffee Break**
- 11:00–12:30** **Hands-on activity on benchmarking legal AI**
Challenges presented by organizers and worked on in smaller interdisciplinary teams
- 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**
Short inputs on main findings of the workshops from Eliza Mik, Hannes Westermann, Mandy Mobley Li, Samuel Dahan and more!

Invited participants & organizers

Ahmet Bilal Aytekin, University of Genoa
Alice Palmieri, UNIL
Aurelia Tamò-Larrieux, UNIL
Cat Moon, Vanderbilt Law School
Claudia Miserez, Caritas Schweiz
Clement Guitton, University of St. Gallen
Daniel Brunner, Swiss Supreme Court
Debra Hevenstone, Berner Fachhochschule
Eliza Mik, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hannes Westermann, Maastricht University
Jakob Merane, ETH/UNIL
Jed Stiglitz, Cornell
Johannes David, UNIL

Konrad Kollnig, Maastricht University
Luka Bekavac, University of St. Gallen
Mandy Li, Harvard A2J Lab
Manuela Paolini e Silva, UNIL
Mark Williams, Vanderbilt Law School
Martin Petrin, Western Law
Oleg Lavrovsky
Pierre-Loic Doulcet, Codex
Samuel Dahan, Queens University
Simon Mayer, University of St. Gallen
Vlada Druta, UNIL
Yash Shrestha, UNIL