

The Tickler



A Monthly Publication of Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals

October 2023

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Looks like Fall is here. I hope it sticks around a while. I love this time of year. There are so many wonderful photo opportunities with the changing colors of the trees.

Our speaker this month is Alex Velto, Esq. He will talk about artificial intelligence. We all know this is a big topic in the news lately so it should be a very interesting discussion.

Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines that can think like humans. It can do things that are considered "smart." AI technology can process large amounts of data in ways, unlike humans. The goal for AI is to be able to do things such as recognize patterns, make decisions, and judge like humans. (SAS Institute)

Hope to see you there.

—Maria Nelson, PLS, DCLP President



DCLP LIVE!!

No Reservation Needed

Via ZOOM Thursday

October 4, 2023 at 12 p.m.

No charge for guests.

Meeting ID: 922 280 3023

Passcode: 412889

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Douglas-Carson Legal Professionals

Welcomes

Alex Velto, Esq.

On the topic of

Artificial Intelligence



Alex Velto is an associate with Hutchison & Steffen, practicing primarily in the firm's Litigation and Labor & Employment practice groups. He joined the firm after completing a clerkship with the Honorable James W. Hardesty at the Nevada Supreme Court.

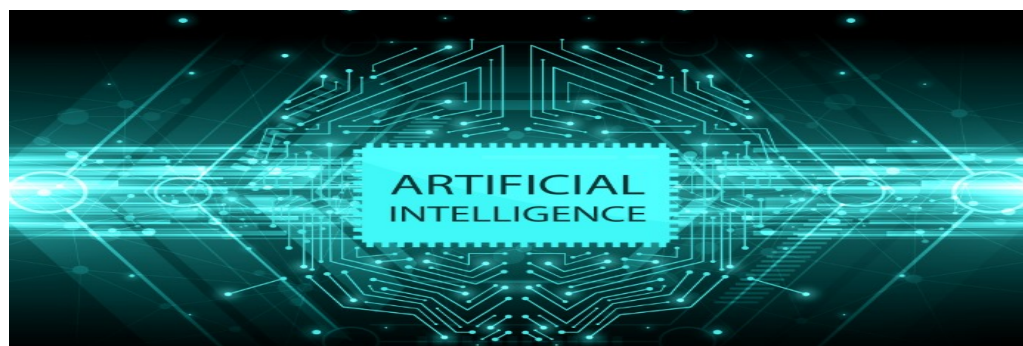
Alex obtained his Juris Doctorate from the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with highest pro bono honors, received a Dean's Award, and was one of five students named to the National Order of the Scribes by the American Society of Legal Writers.

As a law student, Alex interned with U.S. District Judge James C. Mahan, worked as a Legislative Policy Extern to Governor Brian Sandoval, and was a summer associate for a prominent California law firm.

On campus, he was a member of the Nevada Law Journal, Society of Advocates, and a student attorney in the Appellate Clinic where he worked on appeals before the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Nevada Supreme Court. Alex also served as president of the Public Interest Law Association where he helped organize a student-run auction that raised over \$20,000 for public interest scholarships.

Prior to law school, Alex was an All-American college debater and four-time qualifier to the National Debate Tournament, holding the record for most wins in UNLV Debate history. He was active in student government and organized Vegas GiveCamp, a non-profit event helping build websites and providing consulting seminars for non-profits in Las Vegas.

In his spare time, Alex enjoys basketball, trying new restaurants, and traveling.



DCLP presents
Cognitive Fitness



William Shakespeare is credited with the invention or introduction of **over 1,700** words that are still used in English today. Here are some of them:

- Bandit** (Henry VI, Part 2 - 1594)
- Critic** (Love's Labour Lost - 1598)
- Dauntless** (Henry VI, Part 3 - 1616)
- Dwindle** (Henry IV, Part 1 - 1598)
- Elbow** (as a verb) (King Lear -1608)
- Green-Eyed** (to describe jealousy) (The Merchant of Venice - 1600)
- Lackluster** (As You Like It - 1616)
- Lonely** (Coriolanus - 1616)
- Skim-milk** (Henry IV, Part 1 - 1598)
- Swagger** (Midsummer Night's Dream -1600)

Shakespeare must also have loved the prefix *un-* because he created or gave new meaning to more than 300 words that begin with it. Here are just a few:

- Unaware** (Venus & Adonis - 1593)
- Uncomfortable** (Romeo & Juliet - 1599)
- Undress** (Taming of the Shrew - 1616)
- Unearthly** (A Winter's Tale - 1616)
- Unreal** (Macbeth - 1623)

Source: Grammarly.com

AI WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



Circle the words below in the puzzle above. Words may be forwards, backwards, diagonal, horizontal or vertical. The answer to this puzzle will appear in the November issue of The Tickler.

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| ARTIFICIAL | REACTIVE | COMPANION |
| INTELLIGENCE | MEMORY | PLATFORM |
| ROBOTICS | MIND | TECHNOLOGY |
| MACHINE | SIRI | DATA |
| LEARNING | ALEXA | SCIENCE |
| THEORY | PERCEPTION | APPLICATION |
| COMPUTER | REASON | PYTHON |
| NEURAL | ASSISTANT | JARVIS |
| NETWORK | ADVISOR | LIMITED |

Are you enjoying these puzzles?
What kind is your favorite? Please
let The Tickler know by emailing:
[NALSDclp@gmail.com](mailto:NALSdclp@gmail.com)



Water Law Quiz

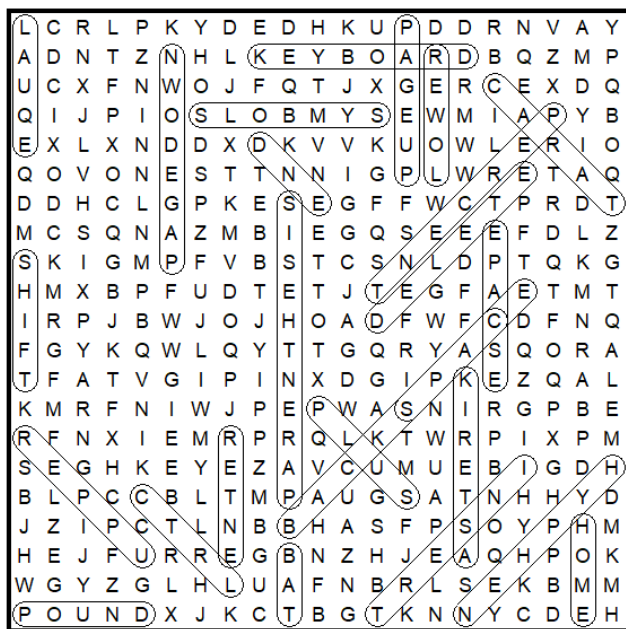
Submitted by Mary Baldecchi, Emeritus PP, PLS

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate answer from the choices at right.

- A. Two doctrines in water rights followed by various states in dealing with surface water _____ and _____.
- B. The _____ doctrine is common in humid states.
- C. The _____ doctrine is prevalent in arid states.
- D. Water rights are _____ rights in all states.
- E. Water that is located underground is called _____.

1. Weather conditions
2. Real property
3. Groundwater
4. Appropriation
5. Water availability
6. Riparian

Solution to September 2023 Word Search Puzzle



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW

The ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct require lawyers to maintain technological competency, including as to “the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology.” In other words, if there is technology that would make an attorney a better advocate for their client, the attorney should be versed in its application and use it efficiently. Such technologies exist in the form of artificial intelligence.

AI and machine learning have created ways to save attorneys time and increase the level of accuracy of various legal tasks.

Perception vs. Reality

Because of popular media, there are lots of perceptions as to the nature of artificial intelligence. Many of these perceptions have to do with programs that gain sentience and set forth their nefarious agendas.

The reality of artificial intelligence is much less colorful, but much more useful. In its simplest form, AI is a technology that can mimic human characteristics in order to perform tasks previously only possible for humans. The main crux of AI is data recognition and extrapolation. Put another way, AI can be programmed to notice things and make recommendations based on the data provided to it.

Pattern recognition makes AI perfectly suited for tasks in the legal space. Moreover, applications using AI can make recommendations based on data to help steer a firm in a more profitable direction.

For example, when deciding what course of action to follow in a particular matter, an attorney will have accumulated skills, knowledge, and experience gained over their career, and the expertise of co-workers and mentors for

assistance. Attorneys often spend hours upon hours researching similar matters of the past. However, computers using AI and machine learning can draw from all relevant data on a matter in less time than it took to read this sentence.

[Harvard Law](#) drives this point home by stating:

[because AI can access more of the relevant data, it can be better than lawyers at predicting the outcomes of legal disputes and proceedings, and thus helping clients make decisions. For example, a London law firm used data on the outcomes of 600 cases over 12 months to create a model for the viability of personal injury cases. Indeed, trained on 200 years of Supreme Court records, an AI is already better than many human experts at predicting SCOTUS decisions.

The beauty of implementing artificial intelligence is not that it can do things that humans cannot, but that it can do what humans can do exponentially quicker and with less likelihood of error.

Current Examples

Artificial Intelligence has already made its way into various aspects of attorney work, such as legal research, contract review, and using analytics to predict litigation outcomes.

One major example of the effectiveness of AI on the legal profession is in the field of [e-discovery](#). Instead of painstakingly going through each and every document produced or to be produced in discovery by hand, applications can be used to seek out pertinent information without getting bogged down by white noise.

Continued on Page 6

AI and the Law (Cont'd)

Not only is this a faster method, but it can also catch things a human may inadvertently overlook. As noted in a recent [Bloomberg Law](#) report:

[AI] helps legal researchers unearth documents that they could not have found previously and more easily identify similarities between court opinions... AI can minimize the number of errors or missed documents that a user might face.

Instead of searching or even with the wisdom bestowed by experience, AI allows attorneys to quickly and accurately gather and organize information contained in thousands of documents, court rulings, or other data sources using specific parameters.

Beyond applications in the discovery process, these parameters could be the ruling habits of a judge, the tactics of a specific law firm, or the prior legal tendencies of a company. Using this information AI can suggest a litigation roadmap, replete with data-driven cost estimates for various aspects of the case.

The best part is that the humans using the application don't necessarily even need to know exactly what they are looking for. That means attorneys could find nuggets they might not have considered.

To understand just how much faster AI can sift through large quantities of data, consider a recent *New York Times* report on an attorney from Florida who wanted to test the research skills of artificial intelligence against his own. It took him hours to find a case precisely analogous to the one he was working on. The Ross Intelligence software he competed against found the same case all but instantaneously.

Data Quality

As noted in a recent article in the [American Bar Association](#), "today, many law firms have digital client files as the primary client file, and every law firm has at least some digital client records, including email, billing and word processing files."

However, a recent article in the [ABA Journal](#) highlights the concern that many advanced technology projects "can be hindered by the quality of data and lack of oversight." Similarly, Law.com's [Erin Hichman](#) notes that "most AI initiatives are not 'plug & play,' or perfectly functional right out of the box," and that "as a result, firms need to plan effectively for the development and launch of AI platforms."

Applications using AI certainly need quality data to function optimally.

However, the data needed by the application may already be in a firm's documents, email, call records, and billing data. Especially as to law firm records that are already painstakingly maintained, corrected, and updated on a regular basis — such as billing data — the accuracy and integrity of this data will almost always already be paramount.

Moreover, AI is capable of effectively doing its own data quality control. For example, artificial intelligence applications are often already used for detecting data anomalies, assimilating data from diverse systems, automatically capturing and updating data, predicting the future status of a transaction, and eliminating duplicative data.

The automated organization and interpretation of not just documents and court rulings, but also internal business data already maintained within law firms, will help keep firms more efficient and better informed. In addition, by using AI for data quality control, law firms can avoid being inundated by superfluous information, and apply only what is useful.

Conclusion

Getting a firm grasp on AI now, while it's in its relative early days, will give a law firm the leg up when its implementation becomes the norm.

Source: <https://effortlesslegal.com/blog/artificial-intelligence-and-law-firms/>

Addendum to The Secret Life of Keys

Members asked a few questions at the end of last month's program on the Secret Life of Keys for which I didn't have a ready answer.

A discussion of the slash was included in the presentation but I had not mentioned the backward slash (backslash) at all. Nevertheless, an eagle-eyed member spotted both the slash and backslash on an image of a QWERTY keyboard (top two rows, upper right on the picture below) and inquired as to why that symbol was included on the keyboard when other keys were left out due to the limited amount of keys available (e.g., the number 1 or the exclamation point.).



The use of the backslash can be traced back to the 1930s when it was called the diagonal key. The backslash came into regular use during the 1960s in ASCII computer programming language. It became even more well recognized in the 1980s when it was included in Microsoft Disk Operating System (MS-DOS) filename programming.

The next question regarded the caret (also known as the circumflex) which is the inverted "v" symbol above the number 6 on the QWERTY keyboard. This symbol ^ is known as a proofreading mark to indicate where a punctuation mark, word, or phrase should be inserted into a document.

The caret is also a mathematical symbol signifying exponentiation to raise one number by the power of another. For example, 5^2 or 5 raised to the power of 2.

Carets can also be used in chats, e.g., someone may type several carets in chat (e.g., ^^, ^^, or ^^^^^) to tell others to read the above line or what someone said above is true.

—Dee Beardsley, Emeritus PP, PLS

Old Typewriters are New Again

There has been a resurgence of interest in typewriters, driven in part by nostalgia and a desire for a more tactile and hands-on writing experience. Many people find that the physical act of typing on a typewriter can be more satisfying than typing on a computer keyboard. Additionally, typewriters have a unique aesthetic appeal, with many people finding the sound and feel of a typewriter to be pleasing.

Tom Hanks is not only a renowned actor but also an avid collector and enthusiast of typewriters. In fact, he is known for carrying a typewriter with him wherever he goes and often shares pictures of his typewritten notes on social media. In this news clip he is discussing his love-affair with the typewriter:

<https://youtu.be/v9ppR7rbLp8>

Hanks, who has also been involved in promoting the use of typewriters and preserving their legacy, remains a vocal advocate for typewriters in the digital age, emphasizing the importance of slowing down and taking the time to craft thoughtful messages. (In 2014, he even launched an app called [Hanx Writer](#), which simulates the experience of typing on a vintage typewriter on an iPad.)



The next Lunch Bunch meet up will be on Wednesday, October 18 at Mom and Pop's Diner, 224 S Carson Street in Carson City. If you can get away, please join us! No official business or program... Just an opportunity to socialize and catch up with our members.



Be sure to check for the special CLE code you will receive when renewing your membership in 2023.



Thank you for submitting your membership dues. Membership dues are an investment in the organization and your own member experience.

NALS is focused on providing you, our valued members, with educational resources and networking opportunities. Being a NALS member means that you're headed in the right direction to tap into the power of an already established community of successful professionals.

As a benefit of your membership, NALS provides numerous educational opportunities. We would like to gift you with a **FREE CLE Course**. To take advantage of this, use the promo code **Thanks24CLE** when signing up for a NALS educational course.



If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Member Services at 918-582-5188 or membership@nals.org.

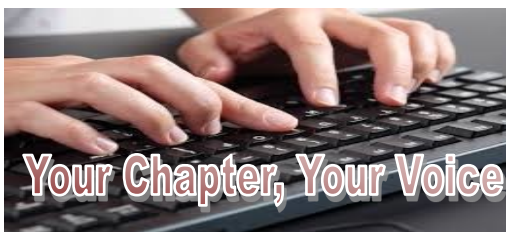
The NALS Board of Directors sends their best wishes and sincerest thanks for having chosen NALS as the organization to represent your interests.

- National Association for Legal Support Professionals

And



to use it!!



No birthdays this month
but we can still eat cake!



New to Zoom?

You can join DCLP's meetings as a participant without creating a Zoom account.

Windows or Mac

1. Open the **Zoom** desktop client.
2. **Join** a meeting using one of these methods: (a) Click **Join a Meeting** if you want to **join without** signing in, or (b) sign in to Zoom and then click **Join**.
3. Enter the **meeting** ID number and your display name. If you're signed in, you can change your display name. If you're not signed in, enter a display name.
4. Select if you would like to connect to audio and/or video and click **join**.

For other devices, visit:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>



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Requires NALS Membership or Subscription to Access



The NALS Legal Brief is a biweekly newsletter that delivers to you the trends, updates, and news from around the legal industry that is necessary to help you succeed in your career. Along with some association news, the NALS Legal Brief will give you a rundown of the current state of the legal support world by giving you a list of relevant industry-focused articles to educate and inform you.

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MEMBER RENEWALS



If you are unsure of your renewal date visit nals.org OR contact VP Sharon Coates, PP, CLP

**Don't Forget to Renew
Your Membership**



*Dance like no one is watching.
Email like it may one day be
read aloud in a deposition.*

NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession. Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and administration of justice
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment

Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

Canon 1. Members of this association shall maintain a high degree of competency and integrity through continuing education to better assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to provide quality legal services to the public.

Canon 2. Members of this association shall maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and shall contribute to the integrity of the association and the legal profession.

Canon 3. Members of this association shall avoid a conflict of interest pertaining to a client matter.

Canon 4. Members of this association shall preserve and protect the confidences and privileged communications of a client.

Canon 5. Members of this association shall exercise care in using independent professional judgment and in determining the extent to which a client may be assisted without the presence of a lawyer and shall not act in matters involving professional legal judgment.

Canon 6. Members of this association shall not solicit legal business on behalf of a lawyer.

Canon 7. Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform legal functions except under the direct supervision of a lawyer and shall not advertise or contract with members of the general public for the performance of paralegal functions.

Canon 8. Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform any of the duties restricted to lawyers or do things which lawyers themselves may not do and shall assist in preventing the unauthorized practice of law.

Canon 9. Members of this association not licensed to practice law shall not engage in the practice of law as defined by statutes or court decisions.

Canon 10. Members of this association shall do all other things incidental, necessary, or expedient to enhance professional responsibility and participation in the administration of justice and public service in cooperation with the legal profession.