



AI Survey

Expanded Use and the Legal
Industry's Response

March 2025

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Background

Law360 Pulse’s second annual AI Survey explores the role of AI, and particularly generative AI, in the work of U.S. law firms. Lawyers at firms of all sizes answered questions about their own usage of the emerging technology, their sentiments regarding AI’s adoption in the legal industry, the tools they have used, and their firms’ policies on AI. The AI Survey is part of a series of reports that aim to expand the data-driven insights available as part of Law360 Pulse, a news service focused on the business of law.

Methodology

Law360 Pulse conducted the survey from Nov. 6, 2024, to Jan. 13, 2025. Of the 390 lawyers who participated, 28% were associates, 25% were equity partners, 9% were nonequity partners; and the remaining 37% were staff attorneys, of counsel or solo practitioners, or held some other title. Sixty-three percent of respondents identified as male, 29% as female, 2% as nonbinary, and 6% preferred not to say. Lastly, 62% of respondents were under the age of 60, 35% were 60 years old or older, and 3% preferred not to say. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding or the ability of participants to select multiple responses. Participation was anonymous – unless anonymity was expressly waived. All respondent data is kept strictly confidential.

Introduction

By Xavier Chauvris and Jack Collens

Law360 Pulse

With new generative AI tools emerging rapidly in the last year and adoption of AI becoming more common, firms and lawyers alike are struggling to adapt. More than half of lawyers at private firms in the U.S. now use generative AI for some purpose at work, according to the 2025 Law360 Pulse AI Survey, while last year, less than a third of attorneys reported using AI in their work.

In the past year, dozens of new tools have hit the market aimed at increasing efficiency in administrative tasks in the workplace, expediting research, and more. In the ultracompetitive legal industry, firms feel pressure to incorporate the technology into their workflows so as to pass savings on to clients or increase their own profits.

Lawyers report using generative AI most commonly for legal research, document summary, client correspondence and document creation, while many attorneys remain strongly opposed to using it in patent drafting, billing, client intake and compliance.

A quarter of those responding to the survey are “power” users, turning to the technology at least three times per week. Roughly another quarter are infrequent users, and a little less than half don’t use AI. These groups differ in their sentiments about AI in general and how important knowledge of AI tools will become for lawyers in the next five years.

Nearly 70% of all respondents had a positive or neutral view of generative AI in the legal industry.

Firm size also matters when it comes to AI’s role and prominence in legal work. Larger firms are able to devote more resources to developing internal AI tools and contracting with third-party providers, as well as offer more training and even hire AI-dedicated personnel.

Nearly 70% of all respondents had a positive or neutral view of generative AI in the legal industry. Among those who are currently using the technology, 77% say the tools have made their work easier.

Serious reservations remain, however, regarding the reliability of AI-generated content. Many respondents expressed negative views of AI’s tendency to pass on incorrect information (so-called hallucinations), AI’s potential to increase malpractice claims, and the chance that AI will prevent young lawyers from gaining experience with basic legal tasks.

Lawyers were also concerned about AI’s imperfect grasp of legal ethics and its ability to maintain client confidentiality, as well as the loss of institutional knowledge and the difficulty in keeping up with the rapidly changing technology.

1. Lawyers' Use of Generative AI

Over the past year, more attorneys have adopted the use of AI in their practices. In the 2024 Law360 Pulse AI survey, 35% of respondents said they were currently using generative AI for at least one purpose. This year, that figure increased by nearly 20 percentage points, to 54%.

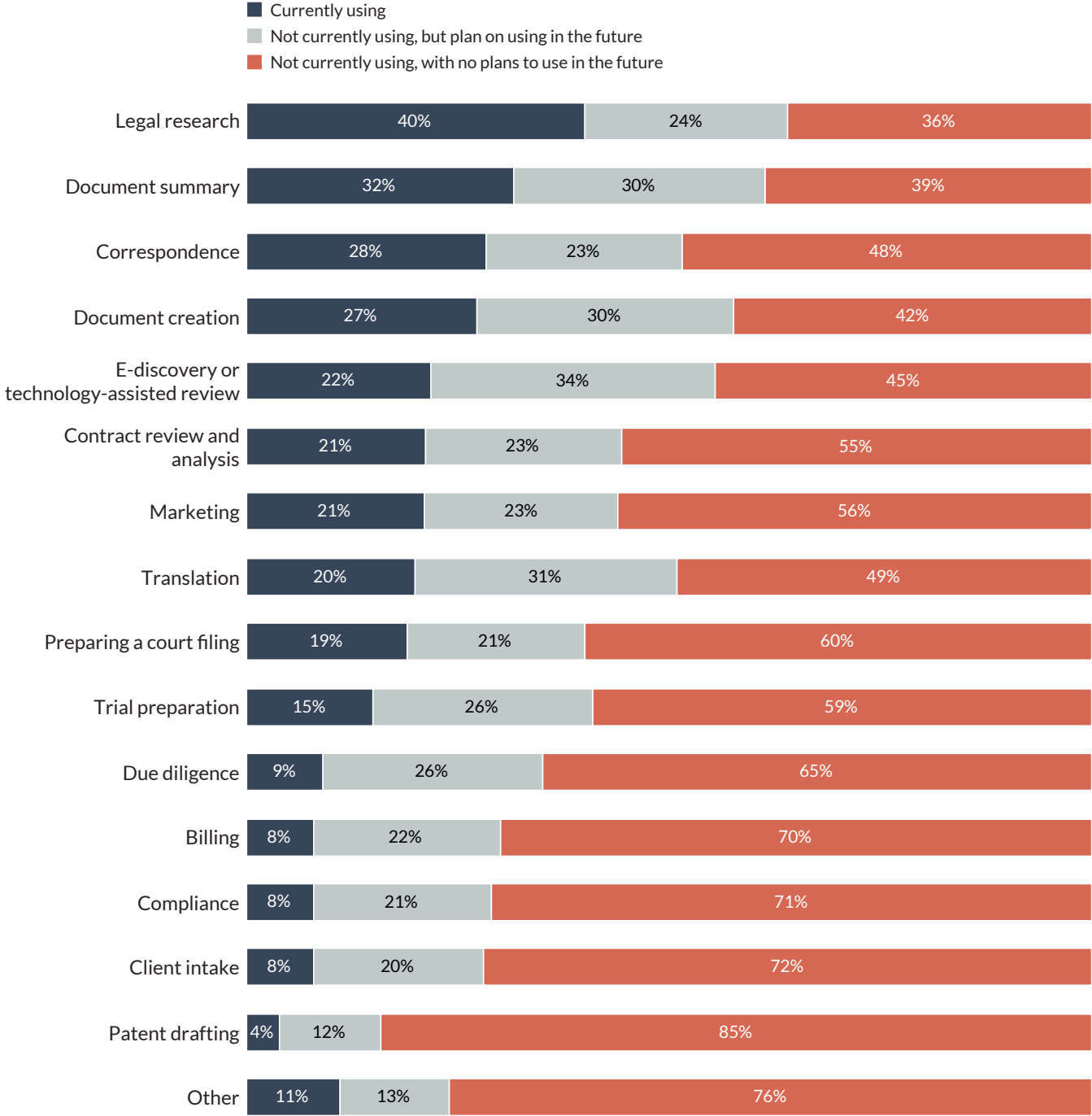
Attorneys reported using generative AI for a number of tasks. Among all survey respondents, legal research was the most common area of application, with 40% saying they currently use generative AI for that purpose. More than a quarter of respondents also report using it for document summary – 32% – correspondence – 28% – and document creation – 27%.

Also, a substantial share of lawyers seemed generally open to using generative AI for many purposes. Although no single purpose was cited as a current use case by a majority of respondents, more than 20% report planning to use generative AI in the future for nearly all use cases in the survey, except patent drafting.

That said, many lawyers were skeptical about generative AI's utility in several areas. Most had no intention of using generative AI for a host of purposes, from contract review and analysis – 55% – to client intake – 72%. Eighty-five percent of all respondents have no plans to use AI for patent drafting; even among intellectual property lawyers, 57% are resistant to using it for patent drafting.



Do you currently use or plan to use a generative AI tool for any of the following purposes?

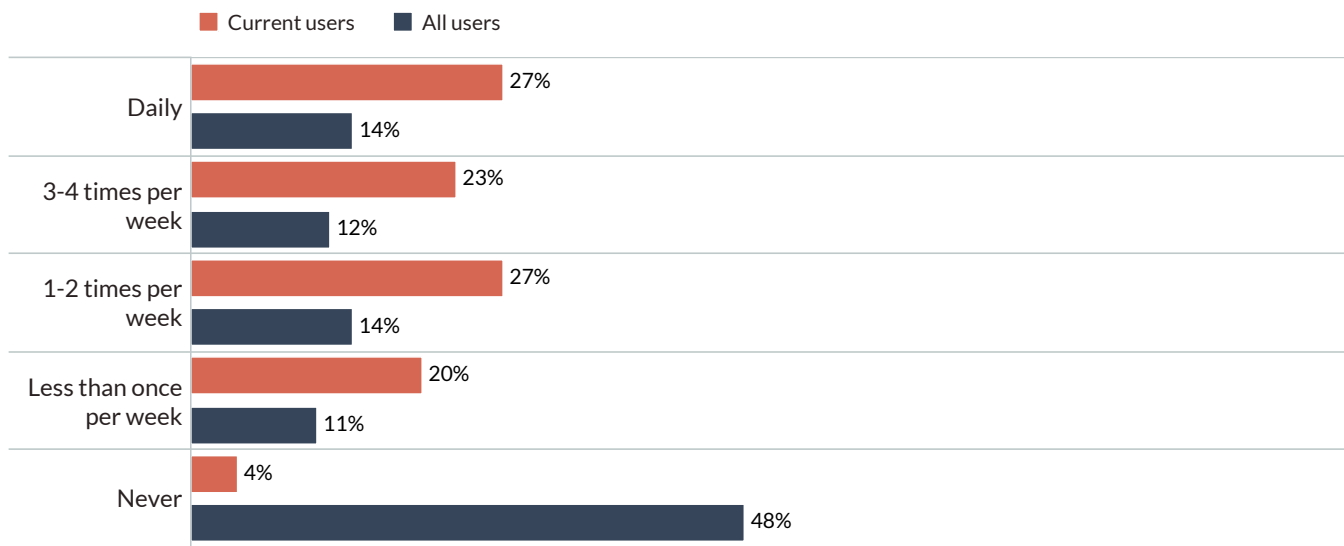


Usage varied little across firm size and job title. In terms of demographics, men generally reported higher usage rates than women, and respondents under 60 were more likely to use generative AI for most purposes than those 60 or over, but not by much.

Among those who report currently using AI for one or more of the above purposes,

more than three-quarters – 76%– use it at least once per week. Forty-nine percent are “frequent” users, meaning they use it three or more times per week. Forty-six percent are “infrequent” users, using it less than once per week or only one to two times per week. The remaining 4% of respondents reported current use of generative AI but subsequently said they never use it at work.

In a typical week, how often do you use generative AI in your job?

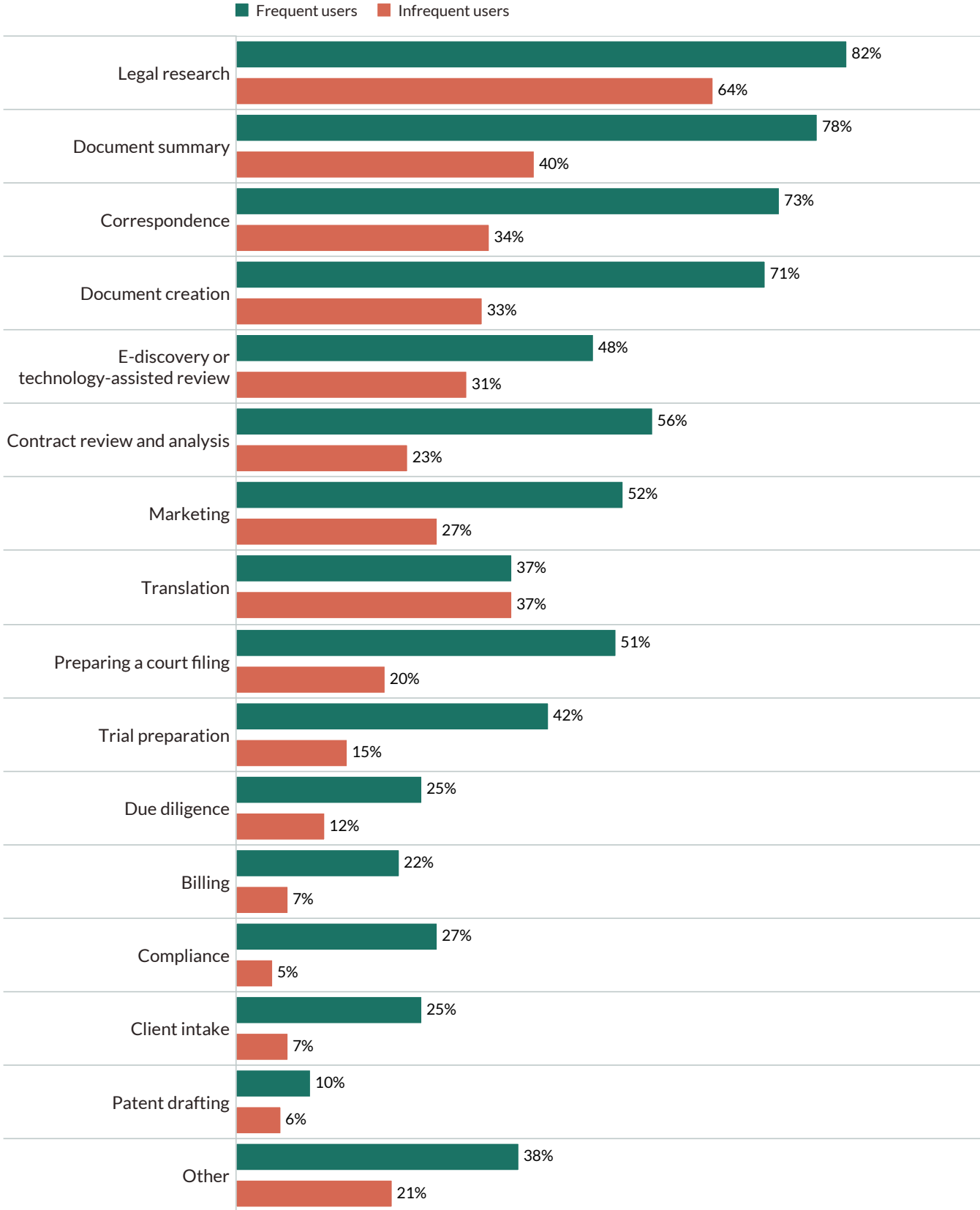


Expanding to the full list of respondents, not just those who say they currently use AI, nearly half of respondents – 48% – do not currently use or report never using generative AI. Another quarter use it infrequently (two times per week or fewer) and 27% are frequent users, saying they use AI at least three times per week.

These frequent users certainly seem like

“power” users: A majority reported currently using generative AI for legal research, document summary, correspondence, document creation, contract review and analysis, marketing, and preparing a court filing. In contrast, more casual users were less likely to use generative AI across a broad range of use cases. Legal research was the only purpose for which a majority of infrequent users relied on the technology.

Do you currently use or plan to use a generative AI tool for any of the following purposes?

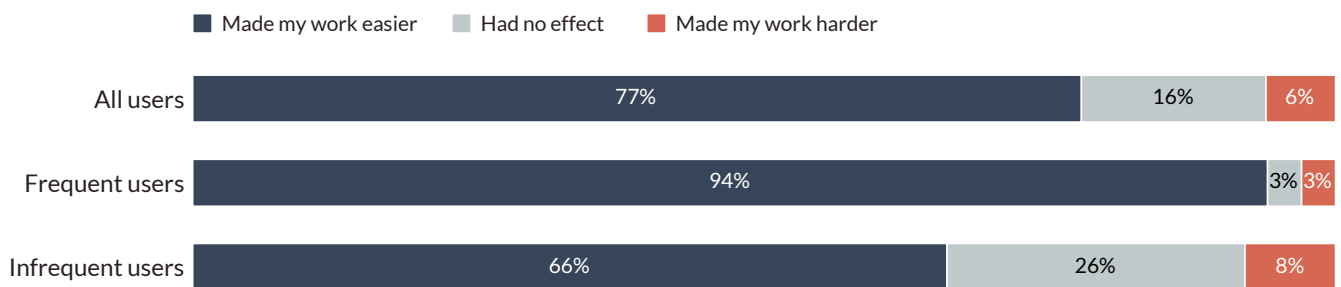


2. Sentiments Toward AI

Does experience with generative AI lead to more positive attitudes toward its use in the legal industry? Looking at those who currently use the technology, the survey asked whether their own use made their work easier, harder, or had no effect. Overall, more than three-quarters of users said it made their work

easier, with those who use the tools more frequently reporting benefits most often. Roughly two-thirds of infrequent users said it made their work easier, compared with 94% of frequent users. More than a quarter of infrequent users — 26% — said it had no effect on the difficulty of their jobs.

Has your own use of generative AI for any purpose made your work easier, harder, or had no effect?



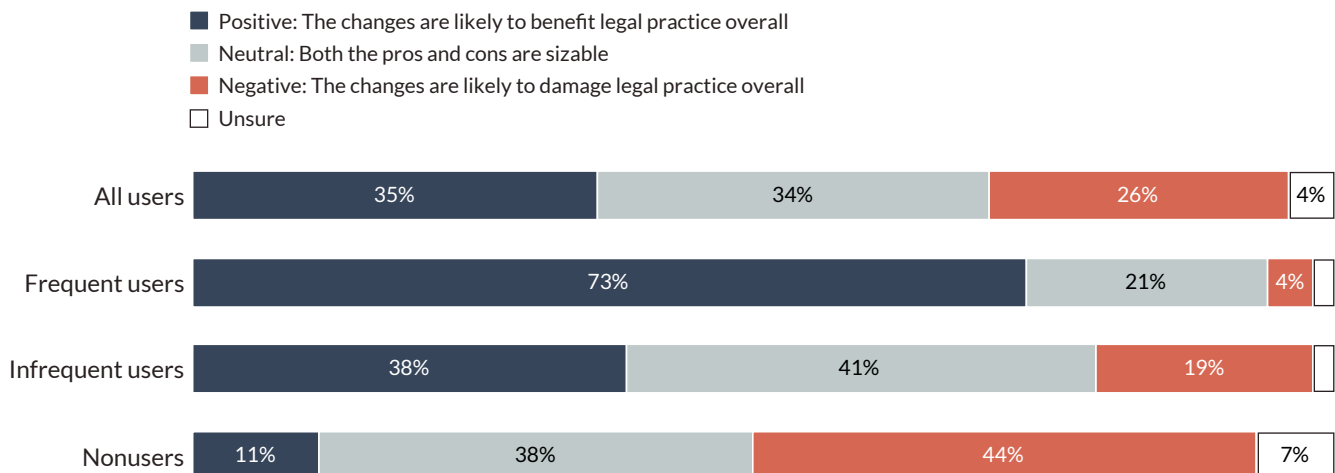
Looking at the full sample of respondents, including nonusers, just over a quarter — 26% — took a negative overall outlook regarding AI’s use in the legal industry. More than a third reported a positive outlook, at 35%, while 34% were ambivalent.

Unsurprisingly, frequent users take the

most positive outlook, at 73%. Infrequent users are more mixed in their appraisal of AI’s adoption by the legal industry, with similar shares reporting positive — 38% — and neutral — 41% — outlooks. This pattern is almost reversed for nonusers, with 44% of these respondents taking a negative view, 38% taking a neutral stance and only 11% reporting a rosier outlook.



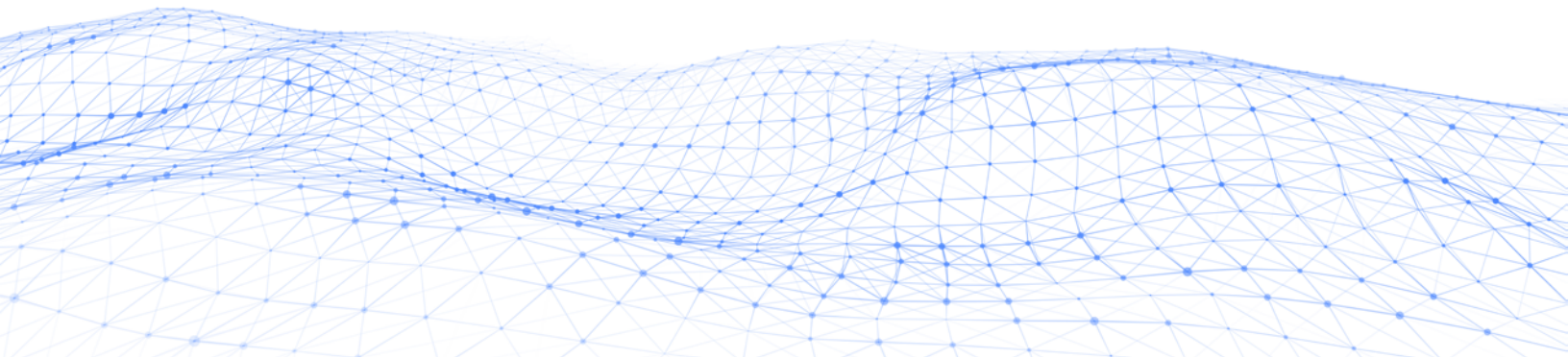
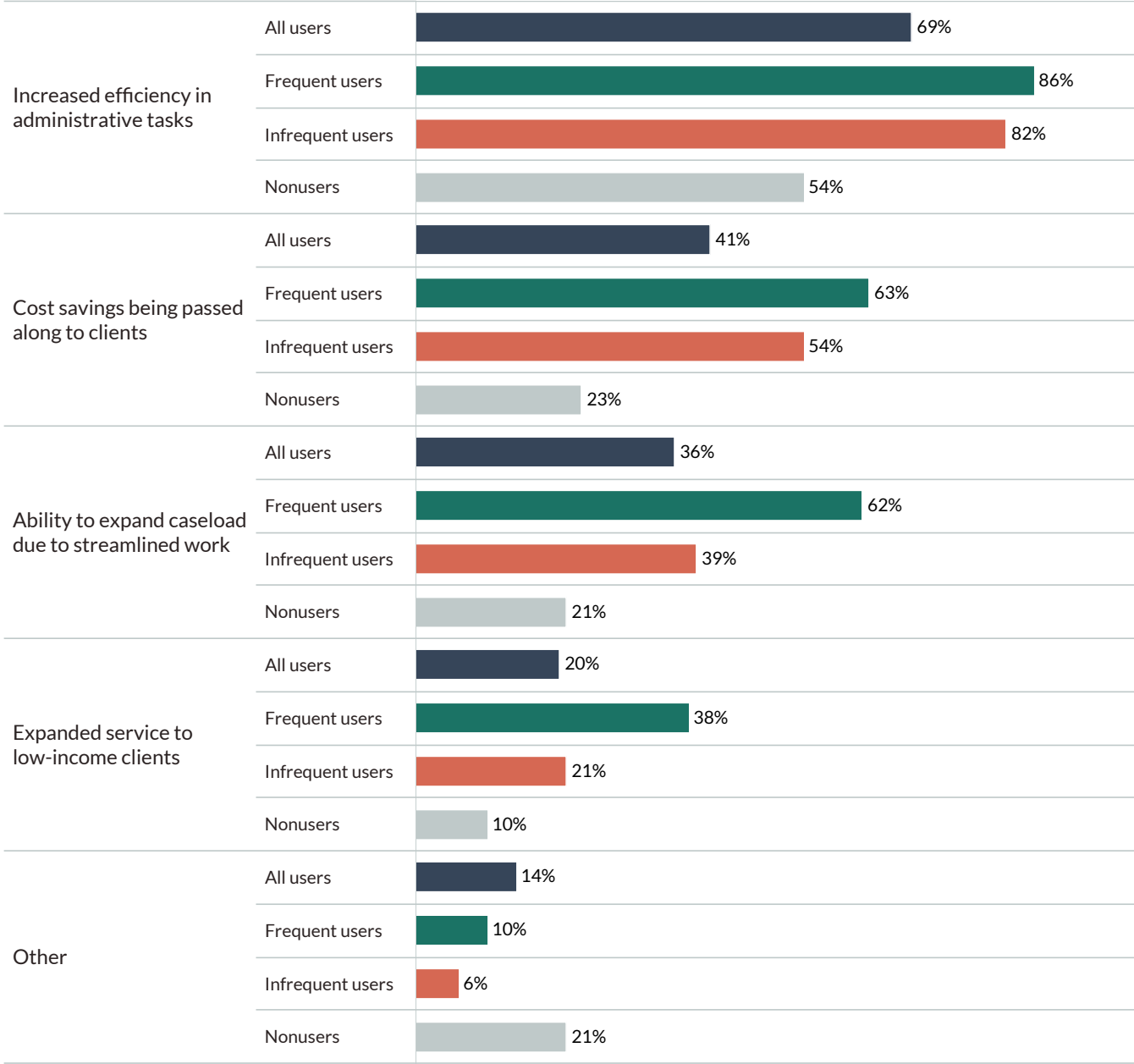
Which of the following best captures your sentiment toward AI adoption in the legal industry?



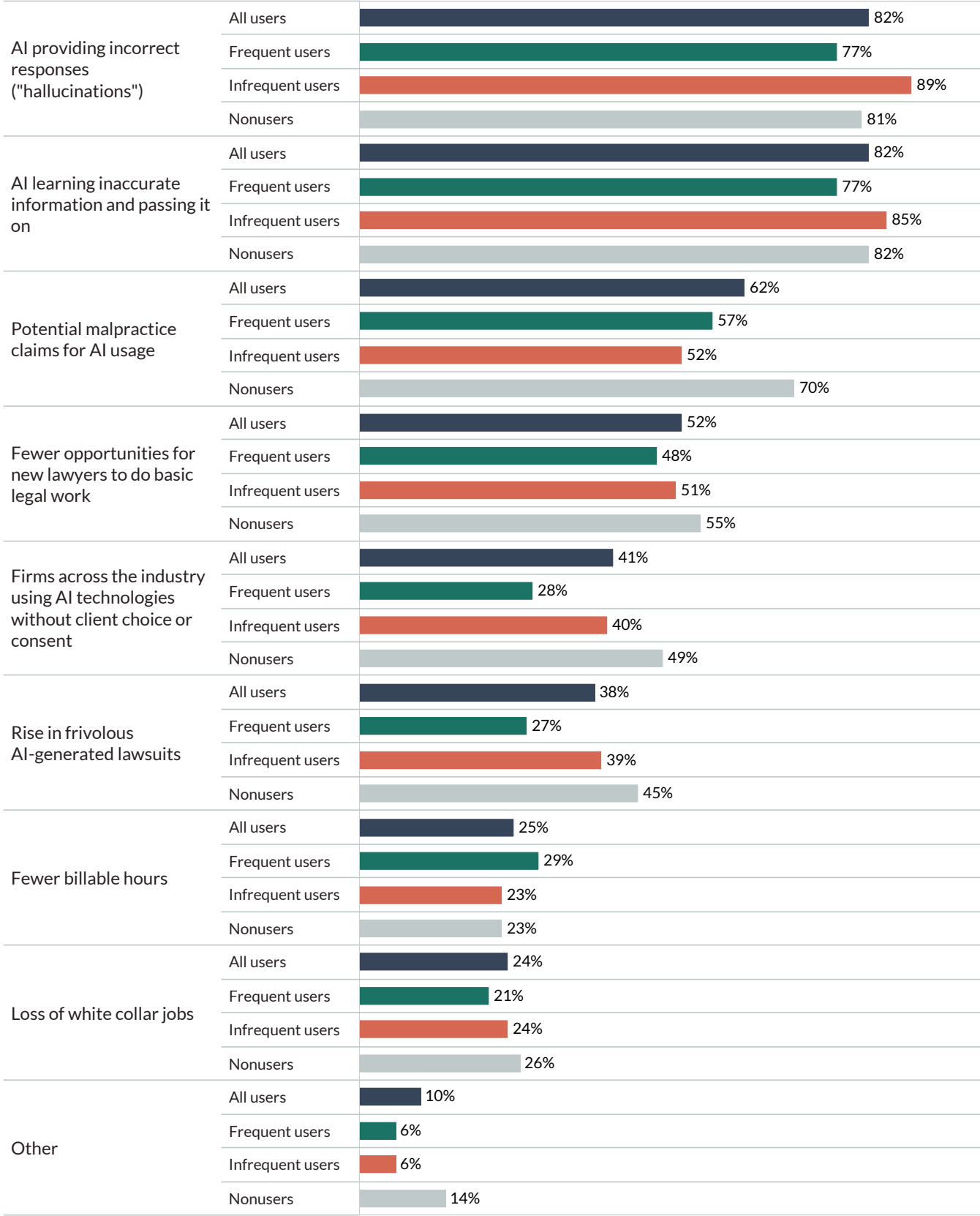
The survey also asked attorneys for specific positive and negative effects they anticipate generative AI having on the legal industry. Most lawyers seemed to think that AI would increase the efficiency of administrative tasks; 69% of all respondents said this would be the case. This perception was shared by more than 80% of those who are currently using AI, whether frequently or infrequently, and by 54% of nonusers.

A majority of lawyers who are currently using AI, both frequently and infrequently, also felt that cost savings would be passed on to clients. This was the next most commonly cited positive effect. Although cited by fewer than half of all survey respondents – 41% – cost savings were nevertheless embraced by more than half of current AI users, with 63% of frequent users and 54% of infrequent users making this effect their No. 2 choice on the list.

Which of the following do you envision as positive effects of law firms' adoption of generative AI?



Which of the following do you envision as negative effects of law firms' adoption of generative AI?





Early career attorneys were the most inclined to see AI's impact on their income and job security in a negative light. Thirty-eight percent of associates pointed to fewer billable hours as a negative effect, compared with 19% of partners. And 34% saw the potential loss of white collar jobs as a negative consequence of AI, compared with 13% of partners.

Women expressed slightly different views of AI's negative impacts than men: 64% of women see fewer opportunities for new lawyers to do basic legal work as a negative outcome of AI, compared with only 49% of men.

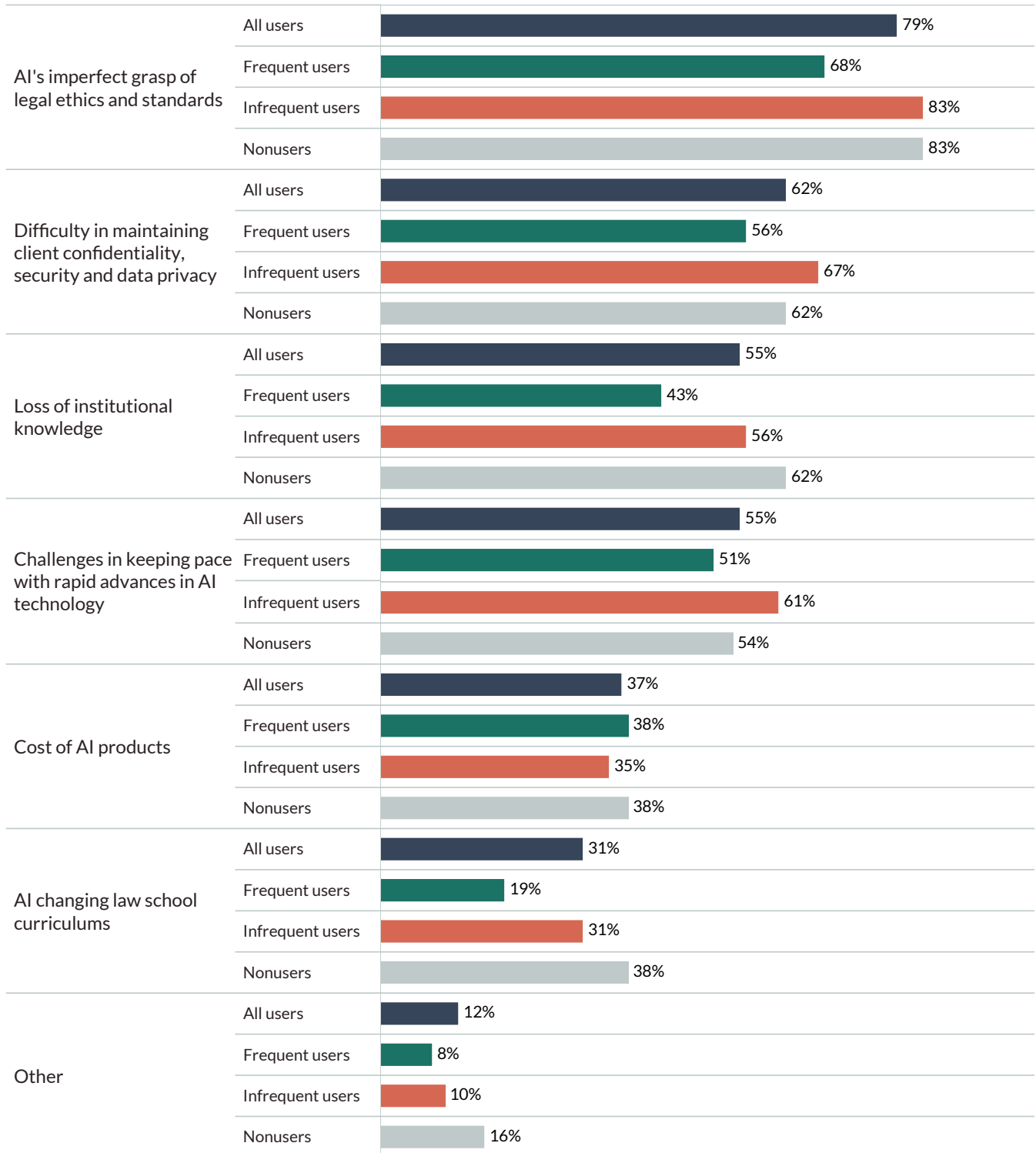
Lastly, among the negative effects, reduced billable hours were of most concern to lawyers at midsize firms, with 43% choosing this option, compared with 20% for those at smaller firms and 33% for those at the largest firms; lawyers at midsize firms may be more attuned to their

billable hours requirements.

When asked to choose among broader concerns about the use of generative AI and its impact on their profession and industry, lawyers were most ill at ease with AI's imperfect grasp of legal ethics. More than three-quarters of respondents – 79% – identified it as a major concern. More than half were also concerned about client confidentiality and privacy, loss of institutional knowledge, and challenges in keeping pace with rapid technological advances.

These were also the top concerns regardless of how frequently lawyers used the technology, though only 43% of frequent users said they were concerned with the loss of institutional knowledge. More than a third of all respondents were concerned with the cost of AI products. Respondents were not as worried about changing law school curriculums as a result of AI.

Which of the following concern you regarding the adoption of generative AI?



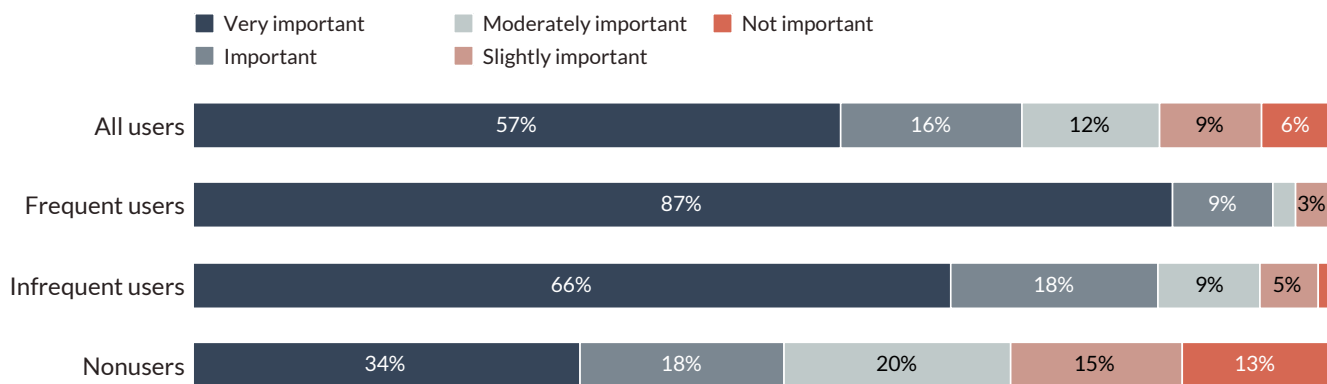
Finally, firm resources may affect lawyers' concerns over costs: 41% of lawyers at small firms were concerned about the costs of AI products, compared with 37% of those at midsize firms and only 31% at the largest firms.

Regardless of their sentiments, lawyers recognize the importance of the technology to their careers: 72% of all respondents said

it will be important or very important for lawyers to familiarize themselves with AI tools in the next five years.

There is some variation, however, by type of user. While 52% of nonusers said it will be important or very important for lawyers to be more familiar with these tools in five years, 85% of infrequent users and 95% of frequent users said the same.

How important do you think it will be for lawyers to become more familiar with AI tools in the next five years?



3. Firms' Approaches to AI

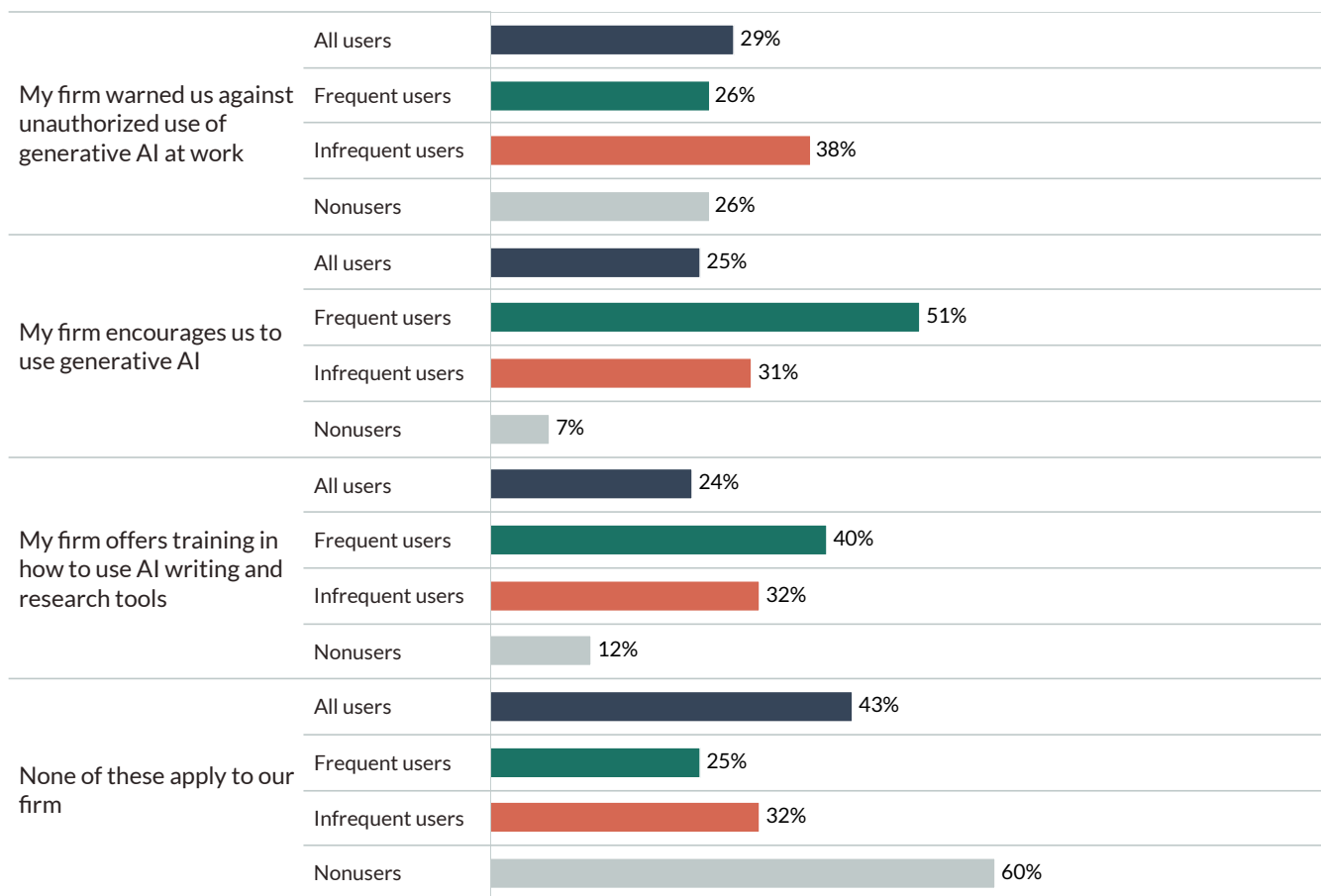
While some lawyers choose to use generative AI on their own, many often do so in an environment established by their firms. A majority of respondents – 57% – said their firms had given some kind of guidance regarding the use of AI in the workplace. Twenty-nine percent said their firms warned them against its unauthorized use, while 25% said their firms encouraged them to use generative AI. However, even with a proliferation of guidance, only 24% of all surveyed lawyers said their firm offered training in using AI.

Firms' AI policies may have an impact, with those offering training and encouraging the

use of AI tools seeing a higher rate of adoption of the technology. Among frequent users, a majority – 51% – said their firms encourage using generative AI and 40% said their firm offers training in its use. Less than a third of infrequent users and fewer than 15% of nonusers said their firms offered the same.

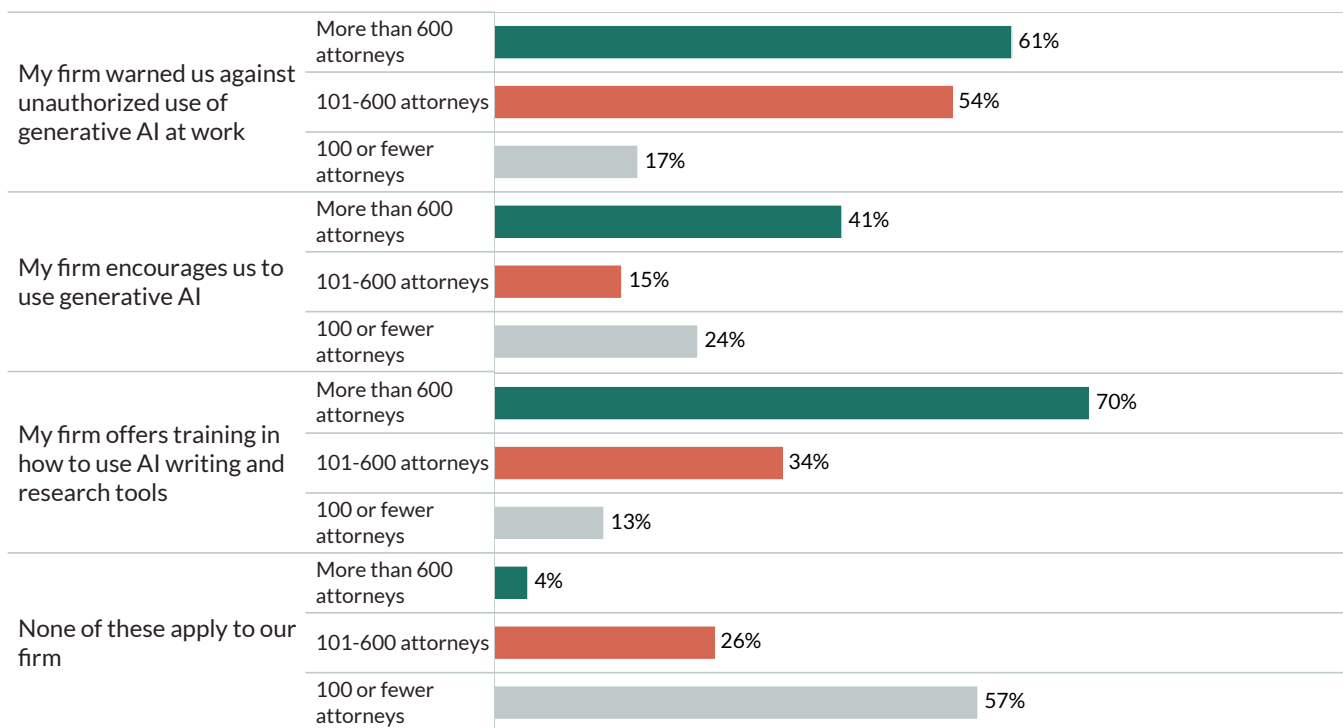
A key factor determining the presence of firm policies is firm size; firms with more resources and personnel were more likely to be reported as having some kind of AI policy. In fact, only 4% of respondents from firms with more than 600 attorneys said their firm had no AI policy, compared with 26% from midsize firms and 57% from firms with 100 or fewer attorneys.

How does your firm approach generative AI?





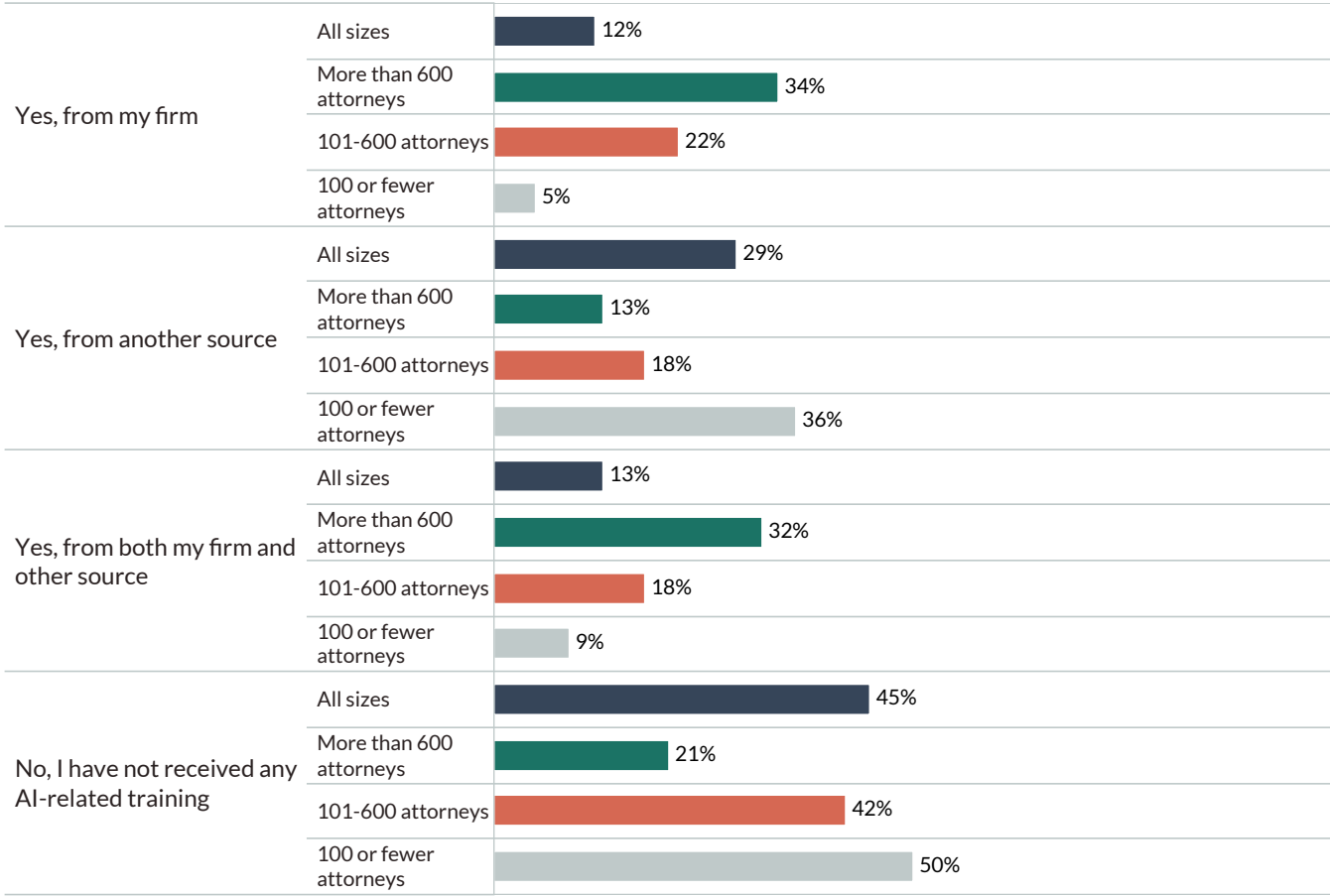
How does your firm approach generative AI?



Beyond general policies regarding AI, a firm’s approach to training also has an impact on adoption. Attorneys at the largest firms were more likely to report receiving any training on AI from their firms alone or in tandem with some other source. Roughly two-thirds of lawyers from firms with more than 600 attorneys reported they received some AI training from firms, compared with 40% from midsize firms and only 13% from small firms.

For those lawyers who participated in AI training, this difference seems to place a greater burden on small-firm attorneys to be entrepreneurial in their AI training; 36% of respondents from such firms reported seeking training outside their firms, compared with only 13% of those from large firms. Overall, only 25% of respondents said they had received training from their firms, either alone or in tandem with training from another source.

Have you received any training on generative AI tools, either from your firm or from another source?

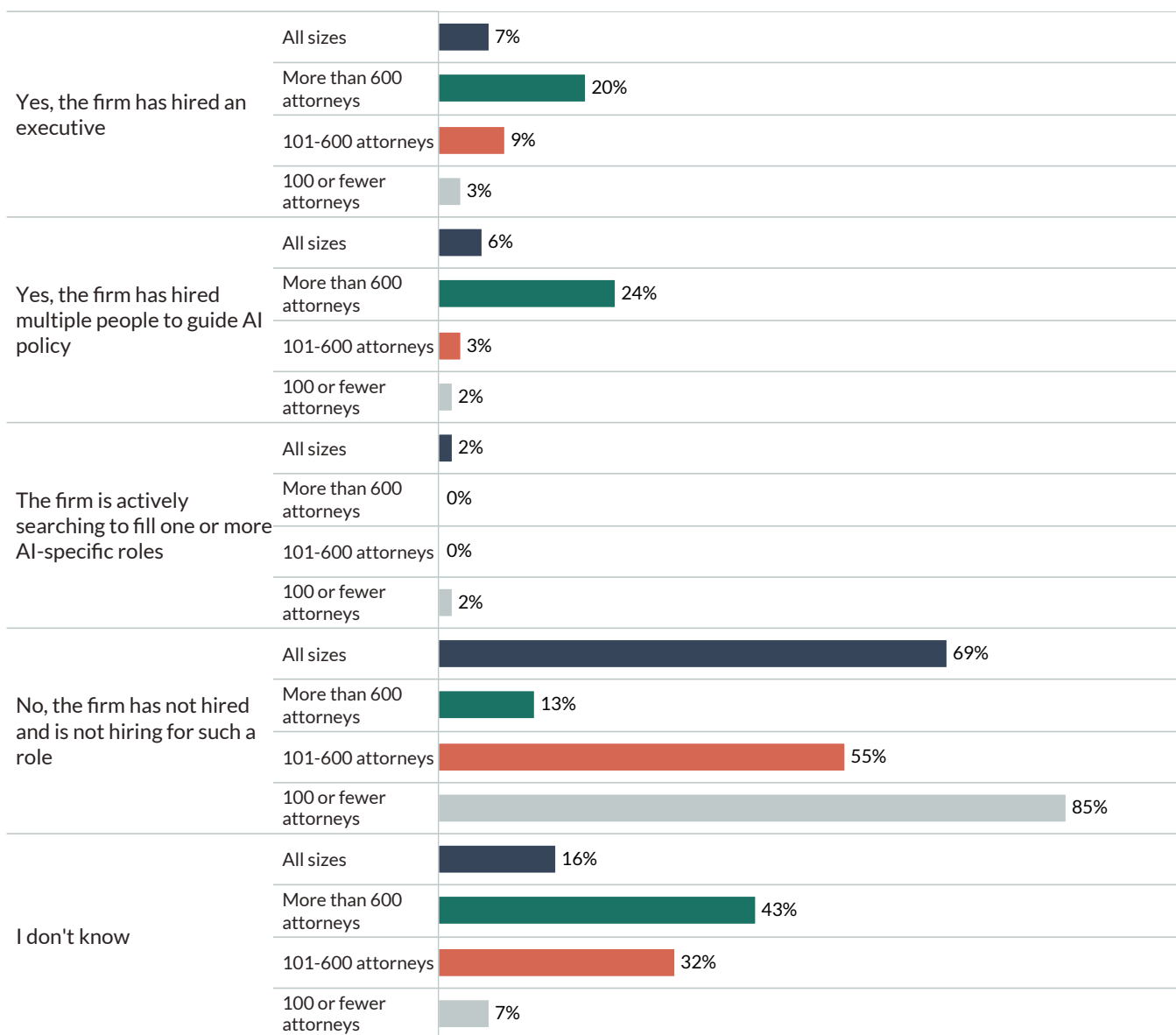


Finally, the legal industry – like most other industries – has seen the explosion of AI-specific positions, whether at the executive level or otherwise. When asked whether their firms had hired or were hiring for any such roles, 69% of all respondents said no. However, when broken down by firm size, large firms are clearly leading the pack, with 44% of

respondents from the largest firms saying their firms had hired for AI-specific roles, either at the executive level – 20% – or for multiple positions – 24%.

At midsize and smaller firms, majorities – 55% and 85%, respectively – said their firms had not hired or were not hiring for such roles.

Has your firm hired any AI-focused executives or personnel to guide the firm’s AI policy or use?



4. AI Tools

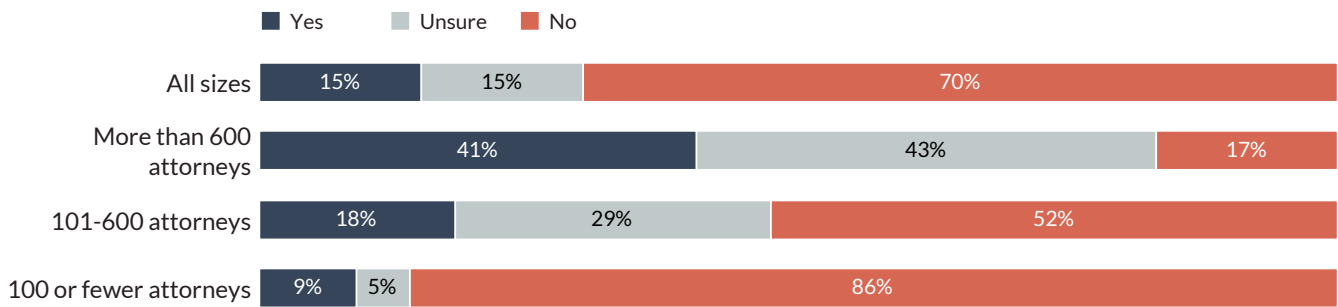
In the rapidly changing tech industry, new generative AI tools are available on a near weekly basis. Additionally, some law firms have begun to develop internal AI tools for the use of their staff.

The use of internally developed AI tools is more common at larger firms. While attorneys from larger firms were less aware of their firms' development of a proprietary AI tool, a majority of those who were aware – 41% – said the firms were developing a tool. Overall, a small minority of attorneys from midsize and

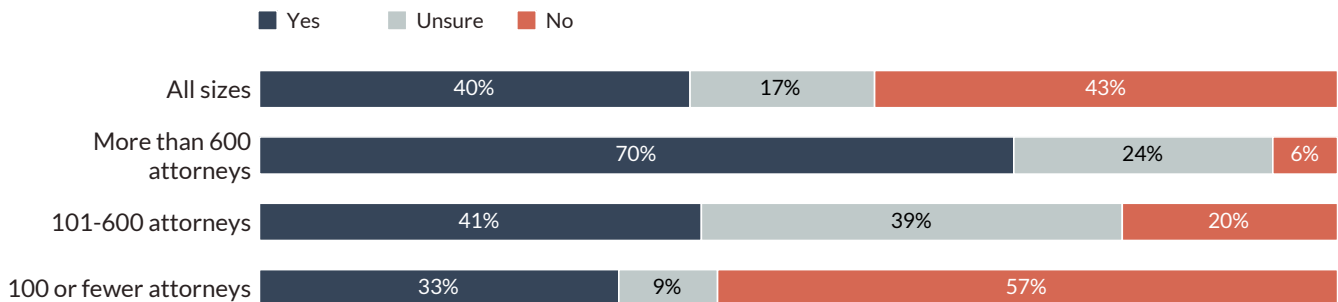
small firms said their firms had worked toward developing their own generative AI tools, at 18% and 9%, respectively.

When it comes to contracting with an external AI provider, however, the results are more mixed. More than two-thirds of attorneys from larger firms – 70% – said their firms had such a provider, compared with only 41% of those from midsize firms and a third of those from small firms. A majority of those from small firms said their firms had no such contract.

Is your law firm developing its own internally built generative AI tool?



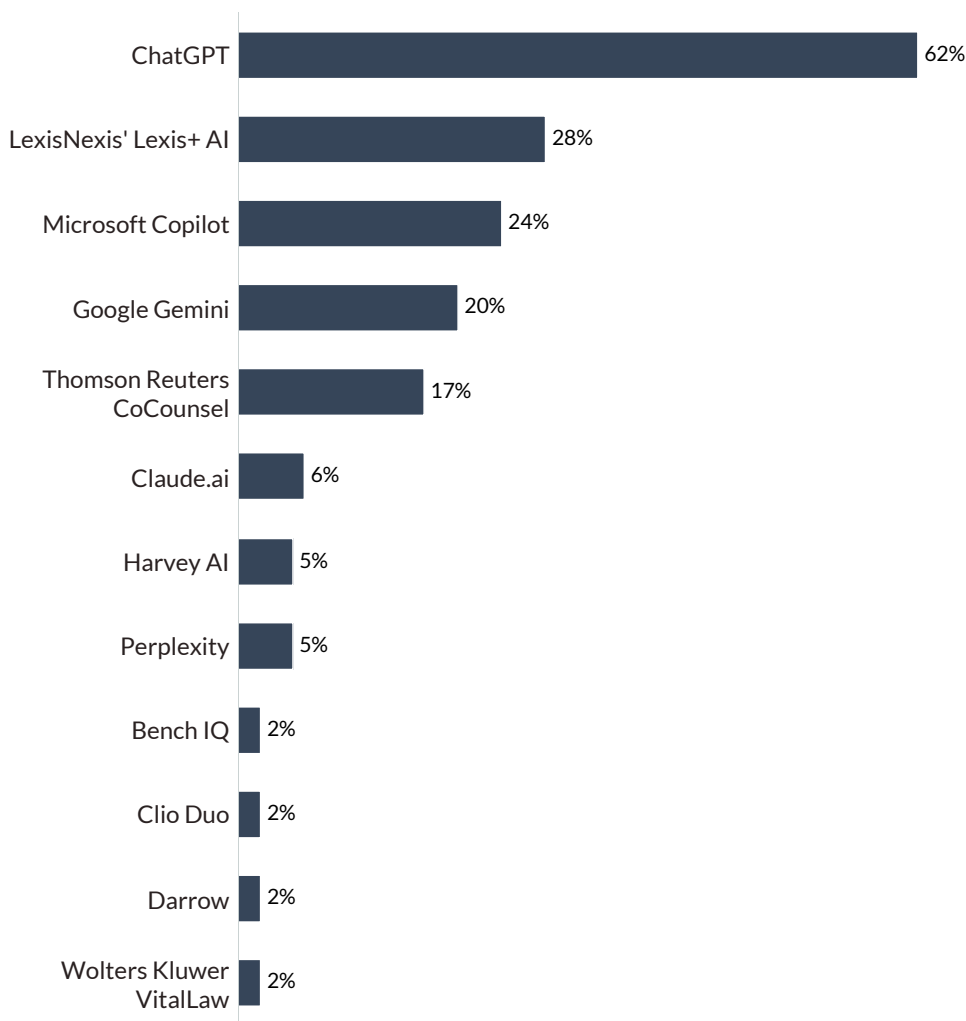
Does your firm contract with at least one generative AI provider?



For those using external tools, only five AI tools were identified by more than 6% of respondents as tools they use for work, outside of e-discovery. Sixty-two percent of respondents answering this question indicated that they currently use ChatGPT for work. Among more AI-

specific tools, LexisNexis' Lexis+ AI Tool was the second-most popular, chosen by 28% of respondents. Nearly a quarter of respondents also chose Microsoft Copilot, while another 20% selected Google Gemini and 17% selected Thomson Reuters CoCounsel.

Which generative AI tools do you currently use at work, for either legal or other tasks, excluding e-discovery?

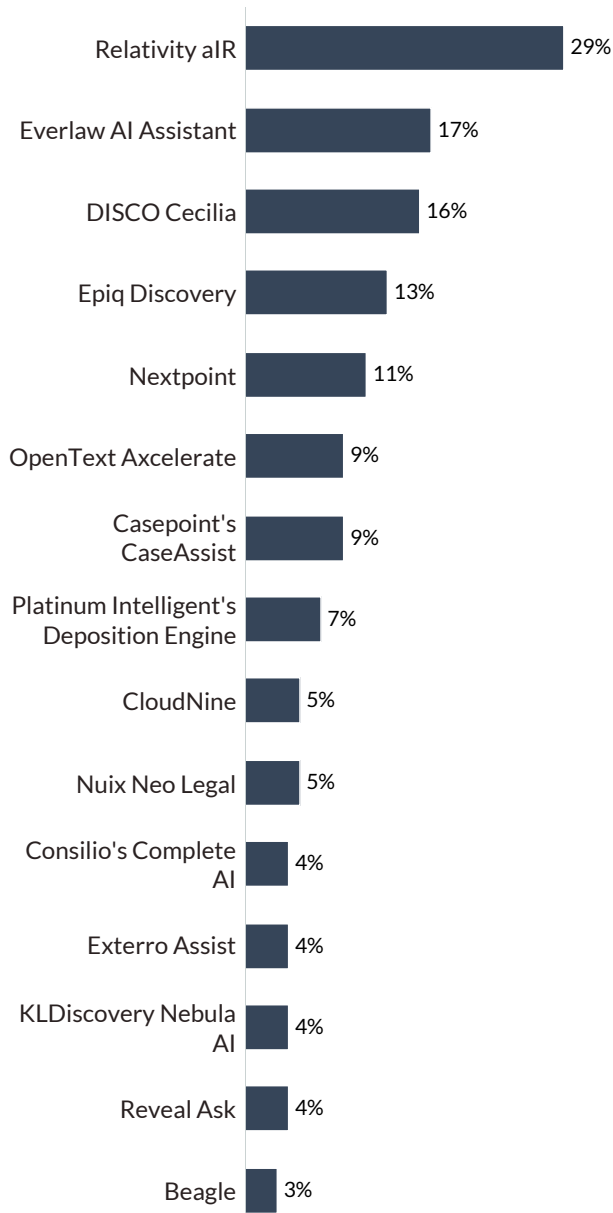


Note: Law360 is owned by LexisNexis Legal & Professional, a RELX company, which developed Lexis+AI.

Turning to e-discovery tools, nearly 30% of respondents selected Relativity aIR. Other commonly cited tools were Everlaw's AI Assistant – 17% of all respondents –

DISCO Cecilia – 16% – Epiq Discovery – 13% – and Nextpoint – 11%. No more than 10% of respondents selected any other e-discovery tools.

Which generative AI tools does your firm currently use for e-discovery?



As new tools become available regularly, some consolidation may begin to appear. At the moment, however, it appears that legal industry-specific generative AI is a

fragmented market, with only well-resourced law firms devoting money and personnel to the continued use of specific tools or the development of internal AI tools.

Meet the Team

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John Campbell
Senior Data Editor

Orlando Lorenzo
Editor at Large

Sarah Golin
Director of Training and Professional Development

Chris Yates
Art Director

Jacqueline Bell
Director of Series, Surveys & Data



Questionnaire

Which of the following best describes your role at your firm?

- Associate
- Nonequity partner
- Equity partner
- Of counsel or staff attorney
- Solo practitioner
- Other (please specify)
- I am not a lawyer or do not work at a law firm

Have clients expressed any preferences regarding your firm's use of AI in its work?

- Yes, they want the firm to use AI
- Yes, they prefer the firm not use AI on their work
- Clients are divided on whether they prefer the firm to use AI
- No, clients have expressed no preferences regarding AI
- I don't know

Do the following apply to how your firm approaches generative AI? *(Please check all that apply.)*

- My firm encourages us to use generative AI
- My firm offers training in how to use AI writing and research tools
- My firm warned us against unauthorized use of generative AI at work
- None of these apply to our firm

Have you received any training on generative AI tools, either from your firm or from another source?

- Yes, from my firm
- Yes, from another source
- Yes, from both my firm and other source
- No, I have not received any AI-related training

Do you currently use or plan to use a generative AI tool for any of the following purposes? *(Currently using; Not currently using, but plan on using in the future; Not currently using and no plans to use in the future)*

- Preparing a court filing
- Marketing
- Compliance
- Billing
- Correspondence
- Document creation
- Contract review and analysis

- Trial preparation
- Legal research
- E-discovery or technology-assisted review
- Document summary
- Translation
- Patent drafting
- Client intake
- Due diligence
- Other

Has your own use of generative AI for any purpose made your work easier, harder, or had no effect?

- Made my work easier
- Had no effect
- Made my work harder

In a typical week, how often do you use generative AI in your job?

- Daily
- 3-4 times per week
- 1-2 times per week
- Less than once per week
- Never

Which of the following best captures your sentiment toward AI adoption in the legal industry?

- Positive: The changes are likely to benefit legal practice overall
- Neutral: Both the pros and cons are sizable
- Negative: The changes are likely to damage legal practice overall
- Unsure

Which of the following do you envision as positive effects of law firms' adoption of generative AI? (Please check all that apply.)

- Increased efficiency in administrative tasks
- Ability to expand caseload due to streamlined work
- Cost savings being passed along to clients
- Expanded service to low-income clients
- Other (please specify)

Which of the following do you envision as negative effects of law firms' adoption of generative AI? (Please check all that apply.)

- AI learning inaccurate information and passing it on
- AI providing incorrect responses (sometimes known as “hallucinations”)
- Fewer billable hours
- Rise in frivolous AI-generated lawsuits
- Fewer opportunities for new lawyers to do basic legal work
- Firms across the industry using AI technologies without client choice or consent
- Loss of white collar jobs
- Potential malpractice claims for AI usage
- Other (please specify)

How important do you think it will be for lawyers to become more familiar with AI tools in the next 5 years?

- Very important
- Important
- Moderately important
- Slightly important
- Not important

Which of the following concern you regarding the adoption of generative AI? (Please check all that apply.)

- Loss of institutional knowledge
- Difficulty in maintaining client confidentiality, security and data privacy
- Cost of AI products
- AI changing law school curriculums
- Challenges in keeping pace with rapid advances in AI technology
- AI's imperfect grasp of legal ethics and standards
- Other (please specify)

Do you think that robo legal advisors should be allowed to function without being barred?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Has your firm hired any artificial intelligence-focused executives or personnel to guide the firm's AI policy and/or use?

- Yes, the firm has hired an executive
- Yes, the firm has hired multiple people to guide AI policy
- The firm is actively searching to fill one or more AI-specific roles
- No, the firm has not hired and is not hiring for such a role
- I don't know

Is your law firm developing its own internally built generative AI tool?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Does your firm contract with at least one generative AI provider?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Which of the following generative AI tools do you currently use at work, for either legal or other tasks, excluding e-discovery? (Select up to 5 tools.)

- ChatGPT
- Google Gemini
- Harvey AI
- LexisNexis' Lexis+ AI
- Microsoft Copilot
- Thomson Reuters CoCounsel
- Anytime AI
- Assembly Software's NeosAI
- Bench IQ
- Caseblink
- CaseMark
- CaseMine's Amicus
- Clio Duo
- ContractPodAi Leah
- Darrow
- DeepJudge
- DocJuris
- Dori
- Eve
- EvenUp
- Evisort
- Fileread AI
- FirmPilot
- Graceview
- Hanzo Spotlight AI
- Hebbia
- Icertis ExploreAI
- Inspira AI
- Ironclad's AI Assist
- Ivo
- Jimini AI
- Jus Mundi
- Lega
- LegalMation
- Legalyze.ai
- Lexion AI Contract Assist
- Lexter AI
- Leya
- LinkSquares
- Litify AI
- LokiBots
- Luminance
- Netdocument ndmax
- Noetica AI
- Ontra Synapse
- Orbital Copilot
- Paxton AI
- Priori Scout
- Regology's RegIntel
- Robin AI
- Spellbook
- Superlegal
- Supio
- Visalaw.Ai
- VLex's Vincent AI
- William AI
- Wolters Kluwer VitalLaw
- Other (enter additional tools on next page)

Which of the following generative AI tools does your firm currently use for e-discovery? (Select up to 3 tools.)

- Casepoint's CaseAssist
- DISCO Cecilia
- Everlaw AI Assistant
- Relativity aIR
- Beagle
- CloudNine
- Consilio's Complete AI
- Epiq Discovery
- Exterro Assist
- KLDDiscovery Nebula AI
- Nextpoint
- Nuix Neo Legal
- OpenText Axcelerate
- Platinum Intelligent's Deposition Engine
- Reveal Ask
- Other (enter additional tools on next page)

What is your firm size?

- 1 to 25 attorneys
- 26 to 100 attorneys
- 101 to 250 attorneys
- 251 to 600 attorneys
- 601 to 1,000 attorneys
- More than 1,000 attorneys

What is your practice area?

- Aerospace & Defense
- Appellate
- Asset Management
- Banking
- Bankruptcy
- Benefits
- Capital Markets
- Class Action
- Commercial Contract
- Corporate
- Cybersecurity & Privacy
- Employment
- Energy
- Environmental
- Fintech
- Food & Beverage
- General Litigation
- Government Contracts
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Immigration
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- International Arbitration
- International Trade
- Media & Entertainment
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Native American
- Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice
- Private Equity
- Product Liability
- Project Finance
- Real Estate
- Retail & E-Commerce
- Securities
- Sports & Betting
- Tax
- Technology
- Telecommunications
- Transportation
- Trials
- Trusts & Estates
- White Collar
- Other (please specify)

How old are you?

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-79
- 80-89
- 90+
- Prefer not to say

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary
- Prefer not to say

Where are you based? Please indicate the location in which you work for the majority of the year.

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