

Briefing AI Leaders 2026

Thursday 11th June, Wallacespace Spitalfields



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Agenda is subject to change

09:00 - 09:30	BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING Grab a coffee and croissant, and connect with your peers!
09:30 – 09:40	WELCOME <i>Andreea Dulgheru, editor, Briefing</i> <i>Co-chair: Tom Slate, director of projects and innovation, Shoosmiths</i>
09:40 – 10:00	ICE BREAKER The fun starts with a quick ice-breaker session designed to get you in the mood to collaborate, share and learn!
10:00 – 10:30	KEYNOTE: details coming soon
10:30 – 11:15	KEYNOTE AI LEADERS PANEL: GenAI — the shift from experimentation to operational reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring ROI, profitability and monetising productivity gains • Re-thinking the law firm model: how will the blend of legal expertise and AI reshape the future law firm? • Pricing for value and client outcomes — are we approaching a tipping point? • The changing shape of the legal market: the impact of genAI on competition, consolidation, client acquisition strategy – and how clients choose law firms • Managing the cost of gen AI, including budgeting? • Adapting for adoption – what does successful adoption really look like? <i>Kerry Westland, head of the innovation group, Addleshaw Goddard</i> <i>Olivia Dhein, practice GenAI integration lead, Baker McKenzie</i> <i>Rachel Broquard, service excellence partner, Eversheds Sutherland</i> <i>Victoria Albrecht, director of AI acceleration, Cleary Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton</i> <i>Chair: Joe Cohen, legal innovation partner, Harvey</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break

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<p>11:45 – 12:30</p>	<p>DISCUSSION SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building workflows and processes to maximise the human/digital blend • Lean and mean: engineering a streamlined, integrated, high- functioning legal tech stack • Foundational gaps: addressing data quality, information architecture and cybersecurity • The low-hanging AI fruit: AI for back-office efficiencies and a streamlined client experience • Pilots and trials versus getting stuck in – weighing up the pros, cons, timeframes and outcomes • Adoption: share your experience of bottom-up versus top-down adoption
<p>12:30 – 12:35</p>	<p>Grab a coffee and return to plenary room</p>
<p>12:35 – 13:05</p>	<p>DISCUSSION SESSION QUICKFIRE FEEDBACK A quickfire session to hear the key points that have emerged from each table’s topic discussions.</p>
<p>13:05 – 14:00</p>	<p>LUNCH BREAK</p>
<p>14:00 – 14:45</p>	<p>PANEL: The evolving client picture — building a digital-first, value-driven collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are client firms using genAI, and how is that shaping the services they want from firms? • Is price really the focus, or will clients accept a more comprehensive ‘value’ based on outcomes? • What does increasing client and law firm use of AI mean for the types of work law firms will focus on going forwards? • How are law firms collaborating to bring clients on the AI journey? <p><i>Babar Hayat, head of technology and transformation, Konexo</i> <i>Catherine Bellsham-Revell, head of legal – disputes and operations, Lloyds Banking Group</i> <i>Helder Santos, head of legaltech and innovation, Bird & Bird</i> <i>Stéphanie Hamon, global head of legal market engagement, HSBC</i> <i>Chair: Alex Fortescue-Webb, global head of legal engineering, Legora</i></p>
<p>14:45 – 14:50</p>	<p>Grab a coffee and head to your streamed session</p>
	<p>STREAMED SESSIONS:</p>

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<p>14:50 – 15:30</p>	<p>Risk and resilience – meeting regulatory, governance and security challenges How should law firms balance the multiple risks posed by genAI – from security and data breaches, regulatory challenges and the potential for reputational damage – with the risk of being left behind in the AI race? Can AI be a tool to build a firm’s resilience? <i>Neil Green, director of transformation, Pinsent Masons</i> <i>Paul Haggett, partner and general counsel, Burges Salmon</i></p>	<p>FIRESIDE CHAT: Funding focus –meeting the cost of building the AI-enabled law firm Private equity investment in UK law firms has skewed largely to midmarket and consumer practices. But now the skyrocketing cost of funding the modern, tech-enabled firm is putting PE in the mix for consideration by large law firms. Is PE investment the only game in town? Are Management Service Organisations (MSOs) a solid alternative? How can law firms make the cultural shift to a more commercial way of operating? <i>Henry Goodwin, partner, Leo Capital</i> <i>Travis Lenkner, chief development officer, Burford</i></p>
<p>15:30 - 15:50</p>	<p>COFFEE BREAK</p>	
<p>15:50 – 16:35</p>	<p>PANEL: The future of legal talent: redefining roles, skills, training and career paths in the AI-enabled firm While much attention has focused on the impact of AI on junior lawyers, senior experience and human judgement remain critical in navigating increasingly complex disputes, high-stakes transactions, and unmet legal needs. Our speakers will explore how law firms can bridge the gap between a new generation of AI-savvy junior lawyers and traditionally trained senior partners. How should firms rethink training, career progression, and team structures to thrive in an AI-enabled environment? And, crucially, can AI itself be harnessed not just as a tool, but as a partner in developing and retaining top legal talent? <i>Catherine Goodman, chief knowledge officer & AI lead, Kennedys</i> <i>Nick Pryor, director of knowledge and innovation, Freeths</i> <i>Viknesh Hariharan, head of pricing and commercial strategy, LexisNexis</i> <i>Chair: Tom Slate, director of projects and innovation, Shoosmiths</i></p>	
<p>16:35 – 17:05</p>	<p>CLOSING KEYNOTE: Trust vs trustworthiness - rethinking the human role in the AI-enabled firm <i>Maria Axente, founder, Responsible Intelligence</i></p>	
<p>17:05 - 17:10</p>	<p>CLOSING AND THANKS <i>Andreea Dulgheru, editor, Briefing</i> <i>Co-chair: Tom Slate, director of projects and innovation, Shoosmiths</i></p>	
<p>17:10</p>	<p>DRINKS RECEPTION Join your peers and the Briefing team for a relaxed chat to end the day</p>	