

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: Navigating the crossroads of geopolitics and genAI Global political upheaval and the rapid rise of genAI are reshaping the legal landscape. For law firms these forces are creating unprecedented challenges — pressure to seize opportunities but manage risks—surrounding client strategy, regulatory compliance, and delivering cross-border work. Our speaker will explore how firms can anticipate change, adapt their service models, and leverage AI to deliver smarter, faster and more resilient legal solutions in an increasingly complex world.
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 yet? • 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>Ben Allgrove, chief innovation officer, Baker McKenzie</i>
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break

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11:45 – 12:30	DISCUSSION SESSION <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 	
12:30 – 12:35	Grab a coffee and return to plenary room	
12:35 – 13:05	DISCUSSION SESSION FEEDBACK A quickfire session to hear the key points that have emerged from each table's topic discussions.	
13:05 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00– 14:45	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>Nick Pryor, director of knowledge and innovation, Freeths</i> <i>Moderator: Tom Slate, director of projects and innovation, Shoosmiths</i>	
	STREAMED SESSIONS:	
14:45 – 15:30	WORKSHOP: 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	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 sky-rocketing cost of funding the modern, tech-enabled firm is putting PE in the mix for consideration by large law firms. Is PE

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	<p>damage – with the risk of being left behind in the AI race? Can AI be a tool to build a firm’s resilience?</p> <p>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?</p>
15:30 - 15:50	COFFEE BREAK
15:50 – 16:35	<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>Helder Santos, head of legaltech and innovation, Bird & Bird</i></p>
16:35 – 17:05	CLOSING KEYNOTE: To be announced
17:05 - 17:10	<p>CLOSING AND THANKS</p> <p><i>Andreea Dulgheru, editor, Briefing</i></p> <p><i>Co-chair: Tom Slate, director of projects and innovation, Shoosmiths</i></p>
17:10	DRINKS RECEPTION