

A Machine Learning Model for Case Outcome Prediction in the Legal System

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Abstract -

The nation's democratic system relies on the judicial system to uphold the rule of law and safeguard the rights and freedoms of its citizens. To preserve the country's peace, trust, and order, the judicial system undergoes several essential modifications throughout time. Unfortunately, the time it takes for a judgment to be reached in court is excessive. The legal sector may be advancing at a dizzying rate thanks to new technology, but there remain a lot of uncharted territories and opportunities for growth. Our article "AI in Law Practice" offers a streamlined method. The most innovative technology of all time, Machine Learning, was used to build the model. For reasons of both law and ethics, the dataset is kept on IPFS. The system provides agencies and lawyers with valuable information by predicting the outcomes of cases. The model's challenge is to provide accurate prediction of the case outcome. The system's performance is evaluated using the F1-score, accuracy, precision, recall, support, and recall; this also shows how practical the system is. The model attains a 95% accuracy rate after being trained on 3304 cases from United States Supreme Court. Legal professionals, law departments, end users, and others will make use of the model that is now in development. Machine Learning, IPFS, AI, Appeals, Case Prediction, Natural Language Processing, and the Supreme Court are all relevant terms.

I. INTRODUCTION

The country's legal system ensures their upkeep. The system ought to be relied upon to provide proper justice to the community. However, it might take months, years, or even decades to get justice. This is due to the fact that the country's legal system is either too complicated, too sluggish, or both [1]. Nationwide, including the highest court, 25 lower courts, and other subordinate courts, there are 5.02 crore cases that have not yet been resolved as of July 20, 2023 [2]. Using the number of judges assigned to

each case as a measure of judicial performance paints a quite different picture. This research raises the possibility that India's problem with court delays has other root causes. This can be due to a peculiarity of Indian law, a lack of resources for other branches of the judiciary, or an unknown cause [1]. Pending cases in court can be attributed to several factors. These include a lack of judges and judicial officers, issues with the court's support staff and physical infrastructure, complicated facts, evidence type, and cooperation from different parties such as the Bar, investigating agencies, witnesses, and litigants [2]. Industries and occupations have been revolutionized by the widespread use of artificial intelligence (AI), which holds great promise for enhanced productivity, accuracy, and creativity. The revolutionary potential of AI in the legal field is starting to shine through. Building Case Prediction Systems using artificial intelligence is one of the most exciting uses of AI in the legal field. Algorithms like this have the potential to revolutionize the legal industry by predicting judgments and outcomes like settlement probabilities. The advent of AI-driven predictive analytics has the potential to optimize decisionmaking, improve resource allocation, and enhance the accessibility and fairness of legal services in a world where legal systems are struggling with increasing caseloads, limited resources, and the complexity of the modern legal landscape. With the ever-growing list of problems that lawyers and other stakeholders are trying to solve, AI-based case prediction systems are standing out as a gamechanging tool that might completely alter the legal industry. There has been little communication between the legal system and the IT world, despite recent research into various opportunities for the integration of AI, ML, DL, and NLP into the legal system [3]. In an attempt to improve, elevate, and strengthen the civil justice system, a small group of visionary scientists has taken on the challenging challenge of using ML and NLP techniques to build prediction models that accurately forecast court outcomes. Reducing the time required for court



proceedings and decision delivery is an essential aim. Given this context, building effective legal prediction models is of the utmost importance for society's welfare [3]. To further expedite their decisionmaking process, judges and justices in courts may also use prediction models. In order to better prepare for case argument, lawyers might utilize the prediction models to foretell how cases will turn out. With an emphasis on Case Prediction Systems, this research paper begins an extensive examination of the function and influence of AI in the legal profession. Legal practitioners, courts, clients, and the wider legal ecosystem are examined in relation to the potential and threats posed by AI in forecasting the outcomes of legal cases, as well as the technology that power these systems.

Significance of AI in Law Practice

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology would be well-suited to the legal profession due to the importance of precedent, legal analysis, and complex reasoning. What with all the legal documents, previous It is challenging for legal experts to effectively navigate the mountain of case records, legislation, and regulations. analyze the situation and foretell the results. AI systems, enabled by NLP and machine learning algorithms, might potentially outperform humans in terms of speed and accuracy when it comes to analyzing large datasets, finding patterns, and making predictions [3]. When it comes to legal practice, the importance of AI goes beyond just making accurate predictions. Ultimately, it aims to make legal services more accessible to all people by optimizing resource allocation, streamlining legal research, improving decision-making, and so on. Legal practitioners may benefit from data-driven insights provided by AI systems, which can aid in case prioritization, resource allocation, risk mitigation, and client cost reduction. In addition to improving legal practice, this revolutionary possibility solves persistent problems in the field, such as the need to reduce backlogs, increase judicial efficiency, and ensure that all people have equal access to justice. Predicting the results of court judgments and cases with plausible explanation and improved accuracy is a difficult and timeconsuming process due to the complexity of the legal system (Ruhl et al., 2017). This necessitates a heavy reliance on general IT, NLP, and ML for data purification, modeling, engineering, and extraction, as well as for training and testing models [4]. Consequently, we likewise want to do our part in this challenging job by developing a reliable prediction model for US Supreme Court opinions, appeals, and verdicts. Plus, we detail our work on a legal prediction model that uses machine learning to successfully anticipate US Supreme Court rulings. After training and testing on 3,304 Supreme Court cases, the model achieved an accuracy rate of 95%.

A. MACHINE LEARNING

The capacity for machines to learn from their experiences, reason and behave like humans without any human involvement is provided by machine learning, a new area of artificial intelligence. Finding patterns or predictions in massive volumes of data collected from many sources is the goal of this wellliked data analysis approach [5]. Data collecting, method selection, model training, and validation must all be finished before machine learning can be used in practice. For these procedures, choosing the right algorithm is critical. The two most common forms of machine learning are supervised and unsupervised learning [6]. Label presence or absence is the key differentiator between the two types of datasets. Supervised learning makes use of labeled training datasets to infer prediction functions. There are input values and predicted output values in every training instance. In order to construct a prediction model that can anticipate the outcome from the pertinent input data, supervised learning algorithms look for correlations between the input and output values. Neural networks, decision trees, support vector machines, random forests, k-nearest neighbors, linear regression, and naive Bayes are just a few of the supervised learning algorithms that have been created. Data classification and regression are two supervised applications of On the flip side, a variety of pattern recognition challenges may be tackled using unsupervised learning, which is particularly useful when dealing with unlabeled data and training datasets. Unsupervised learning primarily makes use of dimensionality reduction and clustering as methods for categorizing training data into different sets based on their unique attributes [7].

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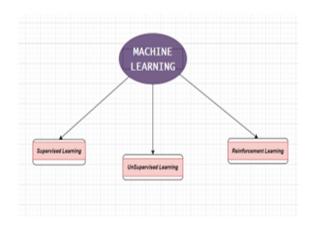


Fig 1. Machine Learning Types

However, the exact number of groups and their meanings remain unknown. As a result, association mining and categorization often use unsupervised learning [6]. Not supervised machine learning methods are often used, such as principal component analysis (PCA) and K-means. In addition, reinforcement learning is a subset of machine learning techniques that explains how computers may learn new problems and apply what they've learned in general.

B. IPFS

The objective of a new decentralized storage system is the Interplanetary File System (IPFS), which is based on the principles of peer-to-peer networking and content addressing. [8]. IPFS is an interesting large-scale operational network to study since it serves tens of millions of requests per day and has over 230,000 users. Few details about its nature, operation, or study outcomes are available, despite the fact that it is an essential part of several endeavors and studies. Building a decentralized, global network for storing and sharing files is the primary objective of IPFS. Its goal is to make traditional web protocols more efficient and resilient by allowing files to be stored in several places, making them resistant to censorship, and ensuring availability even if some nodes go down. The unique features that set the IPFS P2P file-sharing network apart from the usual clientserver model have contributed to its meteoric rise in popularity since its 2014 debut. The protocol has already gained traction in several industries, including media and finance, and revolutionized the bitcoin field by making decentralized applications (DApps) more scalable. The way we save, retrieve, and exchange data online might be drastically altered by IPFS. With the advancement of technology develops further, we may anticipate even more breakthroughs and uptake in the future.

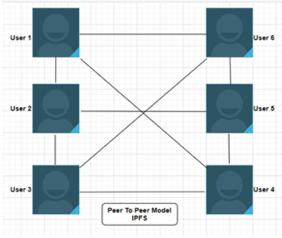


Fig 2. IPFS

Following this format, the remainder of the document is structured. Section 2 discusses the relevant literature, with an emphasis on prediction of court decisions. We are motivated to work on this research by the problem description in Section 3. In Section 4, we go over the proposed tasks. An analysis of the results is presented in Section 5. Section 6 elaborates on the intriguing subject of using ML and NLP to the judicial system. The research wraps up with a brief synopsis of the following procedures in section 7.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The study presents a Recently developed and tested eLegPredict, a legal prediction model enabled by machine learning (ML), successfully predicts decisions made by the Indian Supreme Court [3]. The accuracy of eLegPredict has been 76% (F1-score) after training and testing on 3072 Supreme Court cases. The authors argue that legal prediction models would be of significant interest to and help the legal community. Case stakeholders, including judges and attorneys, may use these models to better prepare for the future, including making faster decisions, strengthening defenses, and enhancing arguments. However, finding relevant bulk case files, extracting, cleaning, and engineering data are only a few of the complex steps involved in accurately predicting court opinions and case outcomes. These difficulties are addressed by eLegPredict's innovative ML method, which takes into account both the legal and non-legal aspects of a case [3]. Case type, parties, applicable legislation and case laws, and legal arguments are all

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aspects of a case that are characterized by the law. The bench's make-up, judges' backgrounds, and public sentiment are all examples of non-legal aspects. As soon as new case descriptions are put into a designated directory, eLegPredict automatically reads through the documents and generates a prediction to assist users. The authors conclude that eLegPredict is an innovative tool with enormous potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of India's judicial system. An article published in 2017 by Katz, Bommarito, and Blackman. "A General Approach for Predicting the Behavior of the Supreme Court of the United States." [9] introduces a novel approach to predicting the US Supreme Court's decisions. The research uses data-driven methods to build a prediction model by analyzing a large dataset of past Supreme Court rulings, legal precedents, and variables. Astonishingly contextual prediction of Court judgments, both voting results and justice-authored opinions, is the goal of the model's development. The writers use machine learning and natural language processing (NLP) to demonstrate how this approach might alter public perception of the Court's decision-making procedure. The study has significant ramifications for both academic and professional legal studies, as it sheds light on how artificial intelligence and data analytics may be used to predict rulings from the nation's top court. André Lage-Freitas et al. (2019) [10] investigate the topic, develop a prediction method, write code, and create a working prototype that, after being trained and tested on 4,043 Brazilian court cases, shows an accuracy rate of 79%. To predict if ECHR verdicts violate any human rights article, O'Sullivan and Beel [11] create ML-enabled algorithms in 2019. A total test accuracy of 68.83% is the product of the authors' use of word (echr2vec) and paragraph (doc2vec) embeddings to elevate performance. In their study, Pillai and Chandran (2020) [12] examine how Bag of Words and CNN may be used to extract important phrases from Indian court orders, classify them as bailable or nonbailable, and then predict their future classification. About 85% of the time, their prediction model is spot on. In their study, Sert et al. (2021) used artificial intelligence (AI) methods in conjunction with natural language processing (NLP) word embedding to ascertain if certain decisions issued by the Turkish Constitutional Court infringe against public morality or freedom of speech. Their predicted accuracy is about 90%, according to the writers. In their article titled "Automatic Judgment Prediction via Legal Reading Comprehension" [14], the researchers

Shangbang Long, Cunchao Tu, Zhiyuan Liu, and Maosong Sun propose a novel approach to using LRC for the purpose of automated judgment prediction. Using the case materials, including the fact description, plaintiffs' pleadings, and law articles, the goal of automatic judgment prediction is to forecast the result of a legal case. Much of what is now available relies on a text categorization paradigm, which fails to adequately account for the complex interrelationships present in varied case materials. Reading comprehension (LRC) is a way to formally practice predicting automatic judgment. For LRC to work, the model has to be fed case materials and then asked to predict the case's conclusion. Such questions often use a multiple-choice format, asking something like "What is the most likely outcome of the case?" The authors introduce AutoJudge, a novel LRC model that successfully represents the complex semantic interrelationships among facts, pleas, and laws. On a real-world civil case dataset, AutoJudge significantly beats state-of-the-art methods [14]. The authors state that compared to conventional text categorization approaches, LRC enables the model to reason more comprehensively and informatively about the case materials, making it a potentially viable approach to automated judgment prediction. The use of machine learning for the prediction of case outcomes and court judgments is examined in the paper by Aastha Budhiraja and Kamlesh Sharma titled "Correlation of Language Processing and Learning Techniques for Legal Support System" [15]. Although this is a complex and time-consuming process, the authors note that language processing and learning methods may make it more precise and efficient. A classifier integrating the Att BLSTM and Text CNN models is presented by the authors. Through the use of feature emphasis and full text accounting, this method may automatically extract more robust features from legal texts. Compared to document classification models such as SVM-TFIDF, DPCNN, and HAN, the proposed model produced superior results in testing. Final verdicts and case outcomes can be better predicted using the authors' suggested methodology, they say. They claim this has the potential to be an invaluable resource for lawyers, enhancing the efficacy of the justice system via enhanced decision-making. Because it offers a novel method for forecasting court decisions and case outcomes, the article is pertinent to the area of legal assistance systems [15]. Better and more efficient legal assistance systems may be created using this. which would be good for the public and for attorneys alike.

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Table 1. Literature Survey

Title	Author	Year	
Predicting Indian Supreme Court Judgments, Decisions, or Appeals: eLegalls Court Decision Predictor (eLegPredict)	Sharma, S. K., Shandilya, R., & Sharma, S	2023	
Harnessing legal complexity	Ruhl, J. B., Katz, D. M., & Bommarito, M. J.	2017	
A general approach for predicting the behavior of the Supreme Court of the United States	Katz, D. M., Bommarito, M. J., & Blackman, J.	2017	
Predicting Brazilian court decisions	Lage-Freitas, A., Allende- Cid, H., Santana, O., & de Oliveira-Lage, L.	2019	
Predicting the outcome of judicial decisions made by the European court of human rights.	O'Sullivan, C., & Beel, J.	2019	
Verdict Prediction for Indian Courts Using Bag of Words and Convolutional Neural Network.	Pillai, V. G., & Chandran, L. R.	2020	

Using Artificial Intelligence	Sert, M. F., Yıldırım, E., &	2021
to Predict Decisions of the	Haşlak	
Turkish Constitutional Court		
Automatic judgment	Long, S., Tu, C., Liu, Z., &	2019
prediction via legal reading	Sun, M.	
comprehension.		
Correlation of Language	A. Budhiraja and K. Sharma	2022
Processing and Learning		
Techniques for Legal		
Support System		

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Building an AI model for precise and automatic case prediction and legal research is the issue this paper attempts to solve.

Key Problems

- 1. Prediction Accuracy
- 2. Data Collection and Management
- 3. Feature Engineering
- 4. Machine Learning Models
- 5. Ethical and Legal Considerations

Motivation for the proposed work

Improving Efficiency: Due to the high volume of cases handled by the judicial system, time and resources are frequently mismanaged. Clients might benefit from knowing the possible results of their legal proceedings ahead of time since it helps them mitigate risk. AI-based case prediction may help courts and judges manage their caseloads more effectively, which leads to judicial efficiency. It has

the potential to expedite judicial processes, decrease backlog, and prioritize cases. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the ability to make objective and consistent predictions, which may help make legal decisions with less room for human prejudice or subjectivity.

• Better User Experience: Making the UI easy to use increases user engagement and makes it accessible to all stakeholders.

• Improved Access to Justice: AI has the capacity to optimize case management, which in turn can make legal services more affordable and accessible. This might mean that underprivileged communities have more opportunities to access justice.

IV. PROPOSED WORK

The proposed model is based on Machine Learning. Its primary goal is to forecast the case's result, namely which side should win based on facts and judgments, and it employs Natural Language Processing as well. We used many Python programs such as scikit-learn, matplotlib, NumPy, etc., to construct this model. In order to keep the data secure, the dataset is kept in a decentralized storage system, namely IPFS. It is essential to manage the legal data with care, avoiding any ethical and legal complications, since it is vital. This analysis makes use of the US Supreme Court Dataset using Logistic Regression, KNN, Random Forest, and XGB as its models. The whole ML model flow is seen in Figure 3. The image shows the key components of the model that fill out this report. There is a lot of wording in recent Supreme Court opinions that doesn't aid in making predictions, thus the substance has to be cleaned up. Similar to what is done in the architectural field, the court decisions in PDF format are read as input and cleaned up using natural language processing (NLP). Additional required natural language processing (NLP) processes are then included into machine learning (ML) to ascertain the most effective vector data. Processes are discussed in further depth in this section.



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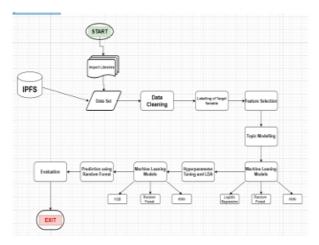


Fig 3. Flow Chart

MODEL DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURE

A decentralized approach to storing and sharing hypermedia is being proposed via a distributed file system protocol known as the InterPlanetary File System (IPFS). Improved efficiency and resilience in online information exchange and access is the goal of this peer-to-peer hypermedia protocol. For reasons of both ethics and compliance with the law, we have deposited the dataset in IPFS. It saved the information and created a hash code known as CID. Both the latency and the permanence of data are provided by it.



Fig 4. Data stored in IPFS

Data cleaning, data manipulation, data visualization, natural language processing procedures, and model training and testing may all be accomplished by importing python libraries like sklearn, matplotlib, NumPy, pandas, NLTK, and many more. We have used a dataset consisting of 3,304 instances from the US Supreme Court up to the year 2021. We need to forecast whether the first party will win or not using the target variable first party winner.

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Fig 5. Data set

Among the primary functions of this task is the compilation of data and the modeling of natural language processing. It reads all 3,304 case papers (in PDF format), executes a plethora of complex intermediate subroutines and procedures, and, at last, produces clean vector data with the right labels. Key natural language processing (NLP) techniques used to improve word recognition and increase productivity in this work are as follows: word stemming, digit removal, stop word removal, removal of smaller words (less than three characters), and conversion of all words to lower case. Consideration of all factors leads to the elimination of data that is superfluous to reaching a choice. Following the file's tokenization, n-grams (where n is an integer between 1 and 4) are produced. Words' textual representations need to be numerically quantified for modeling purposes so that the document and corpus as a whole can capture their importance. Term Frequencyinverse Document Frequency, an efficient method, is used for this purpose. Because of its tuning, the TF-IDF disregards the terms that appear less often (<10%). This way, we may filter the data even more and keep just the most representative samples. We also build a system that scans the case document's target phrases as part of the NLP modeling process. This mechanism automatically captures the decision categorization of each document in the corpus and adds it as a label to its tokenized vector representation. At the end, it creates a tidy CSV file with all the data. Artificial intelligence models Logistic Regression, Random Forest, KNN, eXtreme Gradient Boosting (X Gradient Boost), and KNN are the main classifiers used in this study. We rely on supervised machine learning classifiers to construct our prediction model. Outside the scope of this research, there are additional online resources that provide readers with the detailed scientific,

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mathematical, and technological aspects of these classifiers. Every classifier has its hyperparameters meticulously adjusted for optimal performance. The whole dataset is divided into two parts: one to be used for training the model, and the other to be used for testing. The main technical tools used in this study are Python, the Scikit-learn ML package, and the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK) for NLP. Following successful training of the classifiers mentioned before, we discovered that Random Forest yields a respectable 80% accuracy. This model is therefore chosen for the purpose of prediction. In terms of evaluation, we find a 95% accuracy rate when we use Random Forest for prediction. It correctly foretells the side that will prevail in the courtroom.

V. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Three hundred and thirty-four decisions handed down by the United States Supreme Court from 1955 to 2021 make up the dataset that we used to train and evaluate our proposed model. Every case has its unique IDs, the case facts, and the judgment outcome. While such datasets could be helpful for NLP applications, the case details were seldom included in them. One prospective use of this dataset is to determine the outcome of a case only from its facts. Objective Measurement: Winner of the First Party: If this claim holds water, then the first side won; otherwise, the second side did. Create attributes from the facts column using natural language processing techniques.

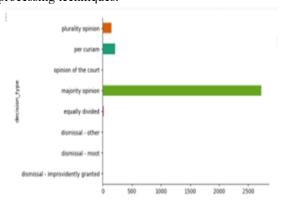


Fig 6. Decision type

Decision type graph shows that on what basis the decision is taken. Most of the decisions are taken on majority opinion of the court.



Fig 7. Clean facts

Facts provided for decision are not cleaned and machine does not understand natural language so we clean the facts using NLP techniques such as tokenization, lemmatization, stop words removal etc.

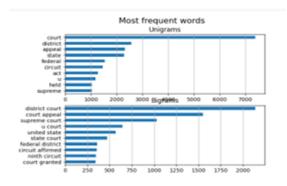


Fig 8. Most frequent words

Most frequent words are the words used in facts. The corpus is difficult to understand for the machine so we have done feature engineering to train our model on each and every word.



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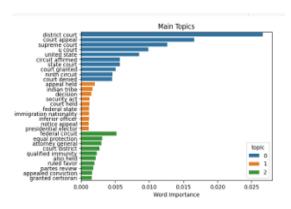


Fig 9. Topic Modelling

Topic modelling is the process in NLP to find out the main topics in the corpus so that our model can understand and learn those topics for further predictions.

Following feature engineering, we use various machine learning algorithms to train our model:

- logistic regression (54%)
- Random Forest (64%)
- KNN (58%)

After performing hyperparameter tuning and LDA, we applied different machine learning models:

- KNN (63%)
- Random Forest (80%)
- XG Boost (66%)

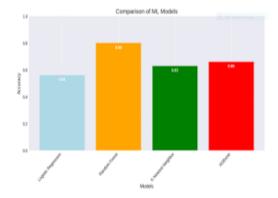


Fig 10. Comparison of ML Models

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JUNE 2025, Volume 15, ISSUE 2 UGC Approved Journal Random Forest gives good accuracy so we further move on with it and predict the case outcomes using user input.

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.97	0.92	0.95	252
1	0.95	0.98	0.97	406
accuracy			0.96	658
macro avg	0.96	0.95	0.96	658
weighted avg	0.96	0.96	0.96	658

Accuracy: 0.958966565349544

Table 2 shows the evaluation parameter with accuracy of 95%. This demonstrates how well the suggested model predicts the case's conclusion.

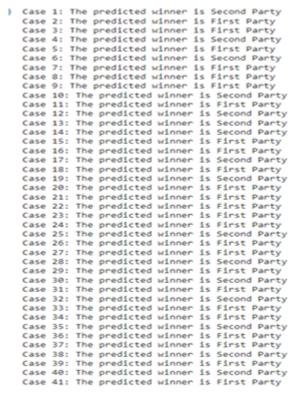


Fig 11. Final Output

The above figure shows the final output.

VI. CONCLUSION & FUTURE SCOPE

Promising developments in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) to case prediction in legal practice have occurred in recent years. By utilizing



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natural language processing and machine learning methods, AI systems have the ability to analyze vast volumes of legal data, including statutes, case law, and precedents, in order to predict case outcomes and offer valuable insights to legal professionals. The integration of AI in case prediction offers several advantages, including:

Enhanced Accuracy: AI models can offer predictions based on historical data and patterns, providing insights into possible case outcomes. This aids attorneys in making more informed decisions. • Efficiency: AI systems can quickly process and analyze large volumes of legal data, saving time for lawyers and legal professionals in researching and preparing cases. • Risk Assessment: AI systems can assist in evaluating the potential risks associated with legal strategies, thereby aiding lawyers in developing more effective and successful case strategies. • Cost-Effectiveness: By streamlining the legal research process, AI can potentially reduce costs associated with prolonged legal procedures and research. The future scope of AI in Law Practice for case prediction is promising and likely to expand further in the coming years. Several areas indicate the potential growth and advancements: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Refinement of AI Models: Continued advancements in machine learning and natural language processing will lead to more sophisticated AI models capable of better understanding legal nuances and complexities. This will improve the accuracy of case predictions. Ethical AI Development: There will be a strong focus on addressing bias and ethical concerns in AI systems. Efforts will be made to create more transparent and fair AI models to ensure unbiased predictions and decisions. Customization and Specialization: AI systems will become more specialized, catering to specific legal domains or case types. This specialization will enable more accurate and tailored predictions for different branches of law. Increased Integration in Legal Firms: Law firms will increasingly integrate AI tools into their practice for case prediction, legal research, contract analysis, and other tasks to enhance efficiency and productivity. Collaboration between AI and Legal Professionals: The future will likely witness a harmonious collaboration between AI technologies and legal professionals. AI will serve as a tool to support lawyers rather than replace them, aiding in more efficient and informed decision-making.

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