

About

The Artificial Intelligence Working Group was founded in 2019 within the Istanbul Bar Association, Information and Technology Law Commission. The focus of the Working Group is the legal implications of artificial intelligence and robotic technologies. The Working Group provides legal opinions on artificial intelligence and robotic technologies, and in this context, works in cooperation with other centers and commissions of the Istanbul Bar Association. Another aim of the Working Group is to announce the technical and legal developments in this field to the legal public.

- **Our past works**

- 1. Annual Reports**

2019 Annual Report: The first annual report (“Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence Report”) has been created with the joint collaborations of the İstanbul, Ankara and İzmir Bar Associations. It is consistent of three main chapters, the first of which elaborates the history of artificial intelligence (“AI”) and its relations with law; the second describes the attorney profession and the use of AI, courses for internship training and steps that are in need to be taken in law faculties; while the third chapter consists of civil and criminal liability of AI, surveillance of employees with the use of AI, the use of AI within digital evidence detection and the regulation of AI. The report was presented to the public in order to gather insight after its publication. It was translated to English after the report was finalised. Subsequently, an international event in regards to the report was organised.

2020 Annual Report: In the second annual report, artificial intelligence technologies was evaluated from a labor law perspective. Focuses of the report are: the transition of workplace applications in regards to technological advancements, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work life, threats of cyber security and the responsibilities of the government.

2. International Conference

International conferences are organised annually in cooperation with NGOs and universities. Our first International conference is based on the Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence Report. The conference was held with the cooperation of the İstanbul Bar Association IT Law Commission, Bahçeşehir University and deeplearning.ai, in two sessions as one offline-video sessions and a live broadcast. The opening speeches were given by the President of the İstanbul Bar Association Atty. Mehmet Durakoğlu and Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences at Bahçeşehir University Prof. Dr. Nafiz Arıca. The live broadcast was realised with Atty. Gökhan Ahi from the İstanbul Bar Association as a moderator and with the speeches conducted by Ali Fuat Altay from the Palo Alto Network, Dr. Leyla Türker Şener from İstanbul University, M. Ayyüce Kızarak and Atty. Dr. Başak Ozan Özparlak from the Digital Transformation Office of the Turkish Republic. In the offline video-session, Prof. Dr. Ryan Calo from Washington University, Prof. Dr. Woodrow Harzig from Northeastern University, Prof. Dr. Richard Kelly from Nevada University and Dr. Eduard Fosch from Leiden University was featured as speakers.

3. Interim Reports

Interim reports are issued every two or three months. In the Interim Report, the related issue is evaluated in both technical and legal aspects. In these reports, there are contributions of the members of the Group, as well as of lawyers and academics who contribute from outside of the group. Academic advisors are in collaboration with the reports in order to strengthen the academic side. The reports prepared are published within the Istanbul Bar Association.

Algorithmic Decision Making and Data Protection: The first interim report published in February 2020 deals with algorithmic decision systems, one of the application areas of artificial intelligence technology. The report focuses on the risks of algorithmic decision systems used in many sectors, and includes precautions to be taken in terms of protecting personal data and security.

Legal Technologies and Practices in the Lawyer Profession: In the letter of opinion published in July 2020, analysis were made in regards to the use of artificial intelligence assisted law technologies being used in the attorney profession. In this context, it was emphasised that

lawyers should adapt to the rapid development of technology and take steps for their professional development so that they can perform their profession better. The benefits of legal technologies, as well as the risks they may harbor, and the possible difficulties that lawyers may face are highlighted in this report. Lastly, recommendations are made regarding both the development and use of legal technologies.

Digital Transformation in the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Law: The report published in March 2021 includes the developments in our country in the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, contact tracing practices and surveillance society, digitalisation steps in the judiciary in the electronic environment, artificial intelligence-based health applications, evaluation of distance education and distance examination in terms of protection of personal data, the effect of digital retailing and contract law and financial technologies were evaluated. Dr. Güçlü Akyürek from MEF University advised this report.

4. In-Group Educational Sessions

Artificial Intelligence Working Group organises monthly in-group trainings with the aim of the groups members to improve themselves in the field.

Artificial Intelligence from the Perspective of a Law Practitioner

The first in-group training took place in February. Osman Gazi Güçlütürk from Galatasaray University talked about how he evaluated artificial intelligence from the perspective of a law practitioner.

Technical Development of Artificial Intelligence and the Usage Today

The second in-group event was held in March. Master computer engineer and lawyer Burak Memiş explained the historical development of artificial intelligence in the light of technical information.

5. Workshops

This year, a workshop consisting of three series in the field of “Legal Tech” was realised. In these workshops which were organised as closed meetings, lawyers and people who develop legal tech applications were brought together. A questionnaire was presented to the participants after the workshops. “Legal Tech Analysis Report” is currently being prepared by taking the survey results into consideration.

- **Our Current Works**

- 1. Bulletins**

The Artificial Intelligence Working Group prepares a monthly bulletin on current and critical developments in the field of artificial intelligence. These bulletins consist of 3 news and one opinion letter. The translation team also contributes to the bulletin since the news content is in English. While the abstracts about the news are prepared by the members, the opinion letters are prepared by both the members and academicians or lawyers who contribute from outside of the group.

- 2. Infographic**

In the infographic team, it is aimed to explain the topics related to artificial intelligence together with visual contents. These contents are created by the members while Lit Lab Team from Kadir Has University provides support in terms of design.

- 3. Legal Tech Analysis Report**

In this report, it is aimed to create documentations of the workshops previously done in regards to Legal Tech. The results of the questionnaire given to lawyers and Legal Tech developers at the end of the workshops will be analysed and a report will be created accordingly.

- 4. In-Group Educational Sessions**

The Artificial Intelligence Working Group organises monthly in-group trainings with the aim of the groups members to improve themselves in the field. The Group publishes the notes on trainings for the benefit of the public.

- 5. Submission of Opinion on the CAHAI Multi-stakeholder Consultation**

The series of meetings are organized to submission of opinion with the academicians and lawyers in the Artificial Intelligence Working Group.

- **Some Planned Works in 2021**

- 1. The Preparation of Educational Videos**

It is planned to create training videos on technical issues for lawyers to be published on the Istanbul Bar Association's website and YouTube channel. In this direction, it is aimed to contact people working in the technical field. The training videos are expected to be published in June.

- 2. Second International Conference**

The second international conference is expected to be realised in September of this year.

- 3. 2021 Annual Report**

The third annual report is planned to evaluate artificial intelligence technology in the context of criminal law.

- 4. Artificial Intelligence Workshop with TÜSİAD (Turkish Industry & Business Association)**

It is aimed for this event to be held in May, by bringing together sector representatives and legal stakeholders, sectoral approaches in regulating artificial intelligence from investment to sectoral demands and competition will be discussed.

- 5. Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary in Cooperation with the Ministry of Justice**

It is aimed to bring the judicial members together with closed workshops on the use of artificial intelligence in the judiciary to open the subject for discussion and to produce an evaluation report.

