

LEGALTECH IN LEEDS Annual Report 2023

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Whitecap Consulting

Whitecap typically works with boards, executives and investors of predominantly mid-sized organisations with a turnover of c£10m-£300m, helping clients analyse, develop and implement growth strategies.

The firm works with clients across a range of market sectors including Financial Services & FinTech, Technology & Innovation, Education, COnsumer, Retail & Leisure, Infrastructure, Manufacturing & Engineering, Logistics & Defence, and Professional Services (including Corporate Finance and Private Equity).

The report follows the Leeds City Region LegalTech & Innovation Report 2020 and analyses the geographical region which reflects the pre-2023 boundaries of the Leeds City Region.



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Sponsors



10 key facts about LegalTech in the Leeds region

The region has a deep strength in Legal and Tech

1. The regional economy generates £83bn in GVA, 20% of which is generated by the legal and tech sectors.
2. Since 2020, the legal sector GVA of the region has increased 19% to £1.3bn while the tech sector GVA has increased 110% to £15bn.
3. The estimated contribution of LegalTech to the regional economy is £374m.
4. 11% of all UK law firms are based in the region, which is home to approximately 1 in 3 of the top 100 law firms including the UK's largest law firm (DLA Piper) and the largest single site law firm outside London (Walker Morris).
5. The legal sector talent pool is very strong, and 59% of young people in the region are considering a career in Tech.

There is a fast-growing LegalTech community in the region

6. The LegalTech in Leeds initiative has created a focal point for LegalTech, having hosted 25 events in 18 months, with over 2,000 sign-ups and 200 speakers and 25 sponsors and partners.
7. The region is home to rradar, the award-winning disruptor law firm, SYKE, the high-growth LegalTech consultancy and LexisNexis, the global legal data and analytics provider.
8. Leeds based firm JUST: Access won the TechNation Rising Stars 2023 Award for Innovation and Disruption in LegalTech.
9. Australian LegalTech / FinTech firm PEXA has chosen Leeds to have its UK presence, having acquired Leeds-based Optima Legal last year.
10. The region is home to 10 universities, including 8 law schools.

FOREWORDS

Leeds City Council

Leeds Law Society

Ministry Of Justice

Leeds City Council



Tom Riordan, Chief Executive,
Leeds City Council

This report is a great example of our inclusive 'one-city' approach to connect, support and accelerate collaboration for the benefit of everyone in Leeds and the wider region. The Legal Tech in Leeds report not only shines a light on the speed of digital transformation but the shift in culture that is needed to support it.

Since the first report on Legal Tech and Innovation in September 2020 we have created a thriving, open and inclusive community centred on Leeds.

LegalTech in Leeds brings together our legal sector with our digital sector, our innovators, universities and public sector and has created the conditions for a thriving community to develop. Together, we have created a safe and collaborative space to share and solve issues that are challenging the way legal services are accessed and used, where risks can be taken, ideas are not judged and solutions developed. The report showcases the vibrancy of this community-led network and the pace and interests of activity in the city, which the Council is pleased to support as it grows.

The report clearly demonstrates the critical role that cities and regions play to strengthen the UK's position as a world-leading hub for legal services. The data shows the continued growth, investment and momentum of the sector since the last report, a real asset to the city and the region.

LegalTech in Leeds is leading the way with a blueprint of how successful collaboration across sectors can work to create the opportunities, jobs and industries of the future. We continue to build on the great progress made to date alongside our partners and will focus on building on this partnership approach to deliver the objectives set out for the year ahead.

Thank you to Julian, Chloe and the Whitecap Consulting team for their diligence in the LegalTech in Leeds community which I am confident will continue bring new insights, challenge existing practice and create new opportunities to broaden participation in this exciting and emerging sector, here in Leeds and the wider region.

The words on the Civic Hall "Pro Rege et Lege" - For King and the Law - symbolise how embedded the sector is in the city. I'm so pleased we have worked together very effectively with our law firms on such thought leading work, turning a threat to the sector into an opportunity. The future is bright for the legal sector in Leeds.

Leeds Law Society



Leeds Law Society has been supporting its members for over 150 years. The legal landscape has changed immeasurably in that time but Leeds Law Society's commitment to its members remains the same. Part of that commitment includes helping our members navigate the ways in which improvements in technology impact them and the work they do.

At Leeds Law Society we have members working in every kind of law firm, from large international firms to small, niche firms. We also have members across the in-house and public sector too. An aim behind our work with LegalTech in Leeds has been to support our members, wherever they are based, to embrace the opportunities offered by technology, both in their work and how they engage with their clients, in whatever legal sector they work in.

Leeds is a leading centre for legaltech innovation in the UK. It is the leading legal centre in the UK outside of London and, combined with a thriving digital sector and a number of legaltech start-ups and scale-ups, Leeds is perfectly placed to embrace the benefits of legaltech now and in years to come.

The adoption of legaltech is delivering a number of benefits to law firms and in-house legal teams in Leeds. Legaltech is helping to improve efficiency, productivity, and client service.

Legaltech is also helping law firms to reduce costs and to offer new and innovative services to their clients.

Legaltech is now being used by our members to support a full range of legal and business tasks, including document automation, legal research, due diligence, and client onboarding. It is also helping our members communicate in different ways with clients both local and international.

The future of legaltech in Leeds is bright. Leeds has the perfect blend of ingredients to be a global leader in legaltech innovation. Leeds Law Society is committed to working with our members and other stakeholders to support the growth and development of the legaltech sector in Leeds.



Ministry of Justice



Ministry
of Justice



Michael Freer,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

I would like to congratulate LegalTech in Leeds on the publication of their second independent report analysing the LegalTech sector across the region. The progress that the initiative has made, as is outlined in the report, is deeply encouraging and sets a strong benchmark for regional support for innovation in legal services.

In Government our vision is to ensure that the benefits of lawtech, both social and economic, are experienced across the UK and we want to see lawtech flourishing across all regions. It is great to see there is so much commitment and energy behind the sector in Leeds with involvement of experts from a range of backgrounds and such an active programme of events and activities. I was very pleased to visit Leeds in March. The wealth of talent that Leeds has to offer was very clear to me. I was also delighted to speak at a LegalTech in Leeds event in April.

In Government we are excited about the potential that technology and innovation have to transform the wider justice system. From self-service legal tools to document automation, lawtech has the potential to transform businesses and people's experiences of law, address unmet legal needs and support professionals to deliver the next generation of legal services.

We are proud to have one of the world's largest legal services markets here in the UK. Our ambition is to ensure our legal services sector continues to be world-leading and an important part of that is ensuring that the UK is a global hub for lawtech. This includes a vital role for legal and tech centres across the UK including in Leeds.

This is why we have funded and helped develop LawtechUK. We are excited to see CodeBase and Legal Geek take the reins of the programme, with a strong plan for the rest of this year. The programme supports the market to develop the technology it needs to drive modernisation and deliver first-class legal services. It has been hugely successful in acting as a catalyst to the sector and MoJ are excited to continue this support.

I'm delighted to see that LegalTech in Leeds is a partner to LawtechUK. Collaboration across the sector is crucial to the successful development of lawtech and it is pleasing to see LegalTech in Leeds helping to lead the way.



Esther
Simpson
Building

Disabled
parking only

Overview of LegalTech in Leeds

LegalTech in Leeds is an initiative, run and coordinated by Whitecap Consulting, with the overarching aim of increasing collaboration between the legal and tech sectors across Leeds and the surrounding region.

More specifically, LegalTech in Leeds works towards achieving the following objectives:

- **Accelerate Digital Transformation** – by creating stronger links between Legal and Tech / Digital sectors to meet client needs.
- **Enhance Access to Justice** – by improving access to legal expertise and justice for Consumers & Businesses.
- **Drive and Enable Innovation** – by supporting entrepreneurs who can help enhance the provision of legal services.

Through the continued support of sponsors and partners, LegalTech in Leeds is able to run an ongoing programme of activity which includes a variety of monthly events such as seminars, networking drinks and learning lunches as well as an annual conference and hackathon, an advisory board, a published ecosystem report and the running of a website and social media channels.

Since its inception in January 2022, LegalTech in Leeds has hosted a total of 25 events, attracting 2,101 signups, with a total of 205 speakers. From the seed funding provided by Leeds City Council, LegalTech in Leeds has been able to run two full-day conferences and a

hackathon which brought together incumbent firms from across Leeds Region with startup, scaleups and students, creating an environment which encouraged and facilitated real innovation and collaboration.

LegalTech in Leeds has also made strong connections with national initiatives and organisations such as:

- **LawtechUK** - LegalTech in Leeds is a partner to LawtechUK, which has been part of the speaker line-up at a number of events. LegalTech in Leeds continues to work closely with LawtechUK, mutually attending events, providing updates and promoting initiatives.
- **Ministry of Justice (MoJ) & Department for Business and Trade (DBT)** - LegalTech in Leeds was recently invited to an MoJ breakfast with Minister Mike Freer to discuss how MoJ and wider government can potentially support LegalTech in Leeds. Minister Mike Freer also delivered a keynote speech at the 2023 LegalTech in Leeds Conference.
- **Barclays Eagle Labs** – Barclays Eagle Labs has been a huge supporter of LegalTech in Leeds. Barclays provides a link to its national lawtech activity as well as hosts quarterly networking drinks and seminars including catering and AV.
- **Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)** – The SRA delivered a keynote at the 2022 conference and has provided updates to the advisory board. LegalTech in Leeds was also invited to attend an

SRA board meeting earlier this year and there is discussion around a potential exciting project that will involve both LegalTech in Leeds and the SRA.

- **City of London Corporation** - City of London Corporation has expressed interest in understanding how to become more involved with the initiative. LegalTech in Leeds was also invited to present to their Lawtech Sounding Board.

LegalTech in Leeds is committed to maintaining and strengthening these national connections to ensure the initiative is aligned to and working towards supporting the development of an interconnected LegalTech ecosystem which includes all regions of the UK.

In an effort to do this, LegalTech in Leeds has also made connections with regional initiatives such as SuperTech WM (West Midlands), Bristol+Bath LegalTech, and Manchester Law & Technology (University of Manchester), all of which were invited to sit on the panel at the LegalTech in Leeds 2023 conference to showcase the innovative and exciting LegalTech activity that is increasingly taking place across the UK.

The latest phase of the LawtechUK initiative will be led by Legal Geek and Codebase and looks set to have a strong regional focus. LegalTech in Leeds looks forward to working with the team to help play a part in the continued evolution and growth of the UK's LegalTech sector.

LegalTech in Leeds sponsors & partners

Strategic Partners:



Primary Sponsors:



Sponsors:



Partners:



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Overview of LegalTech in Leeds

Evolution of LegalTech

Leeds Region LegalTech ecosystem 2020 - 2023

Progress on 2020 recommendations

2023-24 objectives & actions

Ecosystem infographic

Ecosystem map

Executive summary

This is Whitecap Consulting's second report analysing the LegalTech sector across the region, with our first report being published in 2020. The analysis in this report demonstrates growth and increased activity across the sector as well as significant progress on the recommendations outlined in the 2020 report.

Whitecap Consulting has conducted an in-depth review of the LegalTech sector which has spanned several months and has involved desk-based research and data analysis as well as first-hand insight from multiple key stakeholders across the region. The report also details the notable increase in LegalTech activity across the region as 'LegalTech in Leeds' continues to gain momentum and grow its collaborative community both locally and nationally.

The report highlights the growth of the sector through key stats, calculated using Whitecap's established methodology explained in detail in the appendix of this report, which compares the landscape in 2020 to the current state of play in 2023. Within this report, we also reflect on the recommendations featured in the 2020 report, providing a progress update on all the actions and activity that have taken place towards achieving these recommendations over the past 3 years.

The development of LegalTech across the region:

Legal

1. Legal sector is growing, but the number of firms is shrinking in line with the national trend.
2. SME law firms are an underserved area that would benefit from increased support.
3. Large law firms are increasingly open and collaborative in their engagement in events and follow up conversations.

LegalTech/Tech

4. There is increased LegalTech activity, but still a relatively small pool of LegalTech firms compared to the size of the sector.
5. There is a larger amount of tech firms supplying into the legal sector compared to LegalTech firms.
6. There is a strong and growing interest and engagement from universities in the region, both academics and students.

LegalTech Community

7. There is an opportunity to link even more closely to national developments via LawtechUK.
8. Linking with other regional initiatives and including the perspectives from other regions across the UK adds value to the sector and the regional economy.
9. Leeds City Council is extremely supportive of the local ecosystem and has demonstrated its commitment to growing regional initiatives such as LegalTech in Leeds.
10. LegalTech in Leeds has successfully created an open and inclusive community across the region which encourages collaboration across different parts of the ecosystem.



Leeds region LegalTech ecosystem 2020-23

Population	2020 3.1m	2023 3.1m	0%
Workforce	1.2m	1.1m	-2%
GVA	£75bn	£83bn	+11%
% UK GVA	4%	4%	0%

Legal sector GVA	2020 £1.1bn	2023 £1.3bn	+19%
Legal sector Workforce	15,800	18,300	+16%
% UK Legal GVA	2%	2%	0%
Legal Firms	1,180	1,140	-3%

Tech sector GVA	2020 £7bn	2023 £15bn	+110%
Tech sector Workforce	98,000	207,000	+110%
Tech Firms	6,100	6,000	-2%

Key Takeaways:

- **The region's economy is performing strongly** showing an 11% increase in GVA, although the workforce has seen a slight reduction in size over the last 3 years (-2%).
- **The legal sector is growing strongly** in terms of the value it creates for the regional economy, with a 19% growth in GVA and a 16% growth in the workforce from 2020 to 2023.
- However, we have seen **consolidation across the sector in terms of the number of law firms** which has decreased by 3% across Leeds the region and 2% nationally.
- **The tech sector continues to experience exponential growth** in terms of the value it creates (110%), and the number of jobs (110%).
- **The tech sector is a major driver of economic growth** for the region, making up almost a fifth of the total GVA (18%) and workforce.
- **The tech sector has also seen some consolidation** with a 2% decrease in the number of firms across the region.

2023-24 objectives & actions

2023-24 Objectives	Actions
<p>Better serve SME law firms across the region</p>	<p>SME law firms face unique challenges and are underserved in terms of tech and innovation. LegalTech in Leeds aims to improve this by engaging more with SME law firms and creating activity that specifically focuses on better serving their needs. LegalTech in Leeds will also introduce evening events to the activity to make them more accessible to SME firms and will make them more focused in order to address specific needs of the market.</p>
<p>Work on improving diversity across the sector</p>	<p>Diversity is an ongoing challenge for the legal sector, and it remains a key priority for LegalTech in Leeds in terms of speakers and attendees at events. Event registration & attendee data shows that different types of events attract different demographics. A number of more focused events such as 'Women in LegalTech' and will utilise resources such as the D-List to broaden the network of diverse speakers and experts in the field.</p>
<p>Identify and engage with more LegalTechs across the region</p>	<p>The size of the legal sector in the region presents a significant opportunity for LegalTech suppliers. However, we have identified a small number of LegalTechs across the region. LegalTech in Leeds aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and engage with more LegalTech firms already in the region, • support tech entrepreneurs seeking to enter into the sector, • promote the Leeds City Region as a market opportunity for LegalTech suppliers.
<p>Identify and address more focused/specific topics through events</p>	<p>To maximise value for different parts of the ecosystem, LegalTech in Leeds will introduce more focused events which have a targeted audience and address specific topics in more detail. The topics addressed will be determined by feedback from the LegalTech in Leeds community and the advisory board. These are likely to include topics such as property, AI and personal injury.</p>
<p>Increase engagement with students and create activity that focuses on career opportunities</p>	<p>Talent and skills remain a key challenge and topic of interest for the sector and LegalTech in Leeds plans to address this through introducing activity that focuses on students and career opportunities. LegalTech in Leeds will also continue to engage with the universities and law schools across the region and will create opportunities for students to get more involved with the event activity.</p>
<p>Work closely with and support national and regional initiatives</p>	<p>Building on the strong connections and partnerships already formed, LegalTech in Leeds will continue working closely with national and regional initiatives to support the overall growth and competitiveness of UK legal services. LegalTech in Leeds will invite national speakers such as LawTech UK and Ministry of Justice to events as well as attend the events of national and regional initiatives such as the Manchester Law and Technology Conference and the 2024 Legal Geek Conference.</p>

Leeds Region LegalTech Ecosystem 2023



LOCAL & NATIONAL GOVT

INVESTORS

HIGHER EDUCATION




BARRISTER CHAMBERS




LEGAL TECH FIRMS

LEGAL SECTOR / REGTECH SPECIALISTS

Progress on 2020 recommendations

- significant and tangible progress
- elements of tangible progress but action remains valid
- no evidence of progress

2020 report recommendations	Actions since 2020	Progress status
<p>Aim to strengthen links with London via initiatives such as 'Leeds in London' and law firms who have a presence in both locations, and to get Leeds onto the agenda for national and international conferences. The move towards virtual events can open up more opportunities in this regard.</p>	<p>Through the LegalTech in Leeds initiative, national links have been strengthened through connections and involvement with organisations such as LawtechUK, Legal Geek, Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Department for Business and Trade (DBT), City of London Corporation and a strong partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs. These relationships have led to a number of opportunities to get LegalTech in Leeds on the national agenda with LawtechUK, Legal Geek, SRA, MoJ and Barclays all having spoken at the events, as well as LegalTech in Leeds being invited to present at a breakfast event hosted by MoJ and at an SRA board meeting.</p>	
<p>Be part of the bigger picture. Encourage stakeholders to align regional initiatives such as events with key UK initiatives such as LawtechUK, Lawtech Sandbox, Legal Access Challenge. Raise awareness of these initiatives and encourage the sector to take part, highlighting opportunities and providing support for firms and in-house legal functions, and providers to the sector.</p>	<p>Over the past year, LegalTech in Leeds has been actively promoting national initiatives at LegalTech events and through channels such as social media and emailers, encouraging the community to get involved. Leeds based firm JUST: Access won the TechNation Rising Stars 2023 Award for Innovation and Disruption in LegalTech and 6% of applicants for the Legal Access Challenge were based in Yorkshire and the Humber. These examples demonstrate progress but also an opportunity for more targeted promotion of national initiatives and challenges to the LegalTech in Leeds community.</p>	
<p>Support the sector. Encourage collaborative problem solving, particularly amongst large and medium sized regionally focused law firms. Help current providers of legal services develop their businesses in new ways and support organisations who are thinking of delivering legal services for the first time.</p>	<p>At the first LegalTech in Leeds Showcase Conference, there was the opportunity for law firms and tech/LegalTech firms to take part in a reverse pitch whereby the legal sector presented their key challenges and the tech/LegalTech firms pitched technology-based solutions to these challenges, encouraging and facilitating collaborative problem solving. Since the conference, LegalTech in Leeds has hosted more events that attempt to support collaborative problem solving within the sector such as the Lawtech Showcase held in partnership with Walker Morris and the LegalTech in Leeds 'The Big Hack' which set a number of challenges faced by the legal sector and invited teams to pitch technology-based solutions to these problems.</p>	

2020 report recommendations	Actions since 2020	Progress status
<p>Connect the ecosystem. Get buy in from stakeholders for building a more open and collaborative community in the region. Encourage networking and collaboration in Leeds City Region via events and seminars, and host regionally focused competitions, problem solving, demo days and pitching events.</p>	<p><i>Through the creation of the LegalTech in Leeds annual programme of activity, we have created a collaborative community across the region which has buy-in from stakeholders, demonstrated through our growing list of sponsors and partners who continue to support the programme but also through the events continuing to be extremely well attended. The events offer the opportunity for collaboration and networking, with many connections and relationships having been built through attending a LegalTech in Leeds event. The events also support entrepreneurs across the region by providing the opportunity for tech/LegalTech firms to pitch their solutions to the legal sector – a key aim of LegalTech in Leeds.</i></p>	
<p>Encourage open dialogue across key stakeholder groups in the sector. Consider a cluster body / community entity (formal or informal) for legal tech & innovation in Leeds City Region.</p>	<p><i>Through the creation of the LegalTech in Leeds Advisory Board, we have created a formal group of key stakeholders across the region who meet once a month for an hour to discuss the latest developments in LegalTech both regionally and nationally, facilitating and encouraging open dialogue across the group. The Advisory Board is key to the running of LegalTech in Leeds as it ensures the initiative stays true to its guiding principles but also has an influence over the future direction of the programme.</i></p>	
<p>Champion the change. Consider an annual regionally focused challenge focused on addressing key issues in the sector, such as access to legal services or business model innovation. The challenge should offer a prize/prizes and have a high profile within the region and beyond, to make it aspirational and coveted. Regional initiatives and PR to encourage a focus on enhancing access to legal services for individuals and businesses in the region (and beyond).</p>	<p><i>Through the support of the Innovation@Leeds programme, LegalTech in Leeds was able to run a Hackathon in March 2023 ('The Big Hack'), which saw six teams working together over the course of a full day to solve key challenges faced by the legal sector. The teams pitched their solutions to a judging panel and competed for a cash prize of £6000. The hackathon was well attended and has received significant coverage on social media, with lots of positive feedback from attendees and interest from the wider community. Due to its success, LegalTech in Leeds is looking to host another Hackathon in 2024. .</i></p>	

Sponsor/partner quotes

“Technology continues to be high on the agenda of in-house legal teams and the popularity and hype around generative AI and large language models is only accelerating that.”

Jonny Badrock, Chief Legal Engineer, SYKE

“In order to deliver innovative solutions for our clients and our business, we engage with legal tech firms in order to collaborate and develop tools. Over recent months, we have seen a significant growth in the number and strength of legal tech suppliers in the Leeds region, enabling us to work with them on projects which deliver tangible benefits to us and our clients.”

David Williams, Partner, DAC Beachcroft

“Addleshaw Goddard focuses on understanding and embracing the latest technology developments shaping the legal sector. Our cutting-edge solutions harness artificial intelligence, automation, and data analytics to streamline processes, improve decision-making, and drive unprecedented outcomes for our clients. It is a particularly exciting time in the legal tech sphere given the advancements in generative AI. We are carefully assessing these advancements and working closely with our lawyers to tailor the technology for the needs of our business and clients.”

James Whitaker, Innovation and Legal Technology Senior Manager, Addleshaw Goddard

“Addleshaw Goddard strives to stay ahead of the curve by understanding and meeting our client’s evolving innovation needs. Clients now demand to see the deployment of innovative thinking coupled with cutting edge technology as standard that delivers value and efficiency. AG’s multi technology-driven solutions enable us to deliver exceptional service, seamless collaboration, and tailored experiences that exceed those expectations.”

Laura Pilkington, Innovation and Legal Technology Senior Manager, Addleshaw Goddard

“The legal sector has traditionally been seen as slow moving and clunky, with layers of detail and complexity. Commercial law, for instance, has a changing client base that requires a more agile approach to the delivery of legal services. With over 750,000 new startups founded in the UK last year, these companies are looking for a legal process that is streamlined, utilising technology to create an affordable and competitive service. The trend is likely to move toward a suite of tech tools, which will support a subscription based model for law firms, meaning the increasing scarcity of hourly billing.”

“Education is unquestionably key for the future of the legal sector. Whether it’s Firms providing in house training, improved modular learning in Universities, or stand alone courses within the legal innovation field. When I was training the buzz was all about commercial awareness, but it was never actually taught, it was simply something you needed to figure out for yourself. I fear the same thing is happening with legal innovation, with the exception of a handful of good Universities providing legal tech modules. Legal innovation needs to be embedded into the fabric of teaching.”

Deb Hetherington, Head of Innovation, Bruntwood SciTech

“The UK’s legal sector has been globally leading for many years. Innovation and the development of new technology in the sector represent both an opportunity and a threat to our legal system, and therefore it is important that we support the sector to stay ahead of the rapidly changing landscape. The UK’s international competitive position relies on the whole nation, not just London, so we are encouraged to see regionally focused initiatives blossoming.”

Christina Blacklaws, Chair, LawtechUK Panel



LEGALTECH IN LEEDS

Background

Programme of activity 2022/23

Innovation@Leeds programme

Performance measures from January 2022 - July 2023



Evolution of LegalTech

In 2017, Deloitte published ‘The case for disruptive technology in the legal profession’, describing the sector as being at a ‘tipping point’, stating that “only businesses that harness and understand new technologies will survive”. Three years on, in the region LegalTech and Innovation 2020 report, it was concluded that “the legal sector is nearing an inflection point of major industry transformation either due to – or creating opportune conditions for - legal tech and innovation”.

The legal sector is often described as being at the precipice of technological change and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, over the last 2-3 years, there has been an increase in tech adoption across the sector to improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery, and to satisfy unmet legal needs.

However, despite there being evidence of advancements in tech such as billing software, e-discovery tools and document automation, barriers to adoption still remain and so far, it is still widely agreed that a major digital revolution across the sector is still to come. These barriers often include a lack of financial resource, lack of staff with appropriate expertise, organisational culture, legacy systems and lack of integration and regulatory uncertainty.

Traditionally, the legal sector is known to be risk-averse and slow to adopt technology, which is still the case today. As can be seen through the cautious approach to adopting emerging technologies such as Blockchain/ Crypto Currencies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Big Data Analytics, all of which are expected to cause disruption to the industry in coming years.

Nevertheless, over recent months, there has been a significant increase in interest and activity across the LegalTech in Leeds community with regards to some of these emerging technologies, particularly AI and Big Data, with a number of law firms presenting on these topics at the 2023 LegalTech in Leeds Conference as well as LegalTech and Innovation becoming a key focus for the education sector, both in course content and academic research.

Examples of this can be found across recent LegalTech in Leeds events:

- AI was a common theme amongst the technology solutions that were pitched to the judging panel at the LegalTech in Leeds Hackathon. The winning team, ‘Remedy Robin’, pitched an AI image driven solution for the retail sector.
- University of Leeds gave a presentation on disruptive technologies such as AI, and how innovation is taking place across law firms.
- Leeds Trinity University spoke on the opportunities of AI across higher education including for governance, academic integrity, learning/ teaching and assessments.
- Addleshaw Goddard spoke about their collaboration with ASDA and how together they are realising the importance and how to get the most value out of data.
- Calls9 and University of Law hosted a session focused on a generative AI assistant that is still in the research and development phase.

Looking ahead, it will be interesting to observe how the tech and LegalTech sectors collaborate with the legal sector to help address some of the key concerns such as the rising pressure to reduce fees and improve client experience in the face of increasing costs as well as how the legal sector continues to manage challenges such as the shortage of talent and the significant inflation in remuneration to attract and retain talent.

As a new generation of lawyers comes through, the question remains whether the legal sector will ever reach the much anticipated ‘inflection’ or ‘tipping’ point or whether innovation and the adoption of emerging technologies across the sector will continue to be slower-paced and incremental.

With regards to Leeds itself, the city will continue to remain competitive in the delivery of legal services, with a growing and thriving tech sector and supplier landscape. Leeds will continue to position itself as a place of innovation and will attract future talent to its growing educational offerings. Through investments in the city centre by public and private sectors, Leeds has also increased its attractiveness to businesses and the advancement of public policy to drive the development of the Innovation Arc is expected to see this develop further.

Leeds region LegalTech ecosystem 2023

Leeds Region

3.1m
population

39,000
graduates from

£83bn
GVA

9 universities

4%
of UK GVA

56% graduate
retention rate

£73,000
GVA per worker

70%
who leave region
to study return
after graduation

Legal Sector



18,267
workforce

5%
UK Legal
workforce



1,140 Law firms

11% UK total
Law firms



£1.3bn GVA
(7% CAGR from
2018 – 2023)

6% of UK GVA

£1.6bn GVA
expected in 2027

**2022 UK
investment priorities:**

88% e-signatures

84% document
management systems

81% virtual data rooms

LegalTech Sector

£374m GVA

14 LegalTech
firms identified

21 Tech firms active
in legal sector

8 Tech firms specialising
in legal sector

Tech Sector



207,000
workforce

19% of
workforce

4% of UK tech
workforce

18,000
STEAM graduates



6,000
tech firms

7%
of all LCR
businesses

4%
of UK tech
businesses



£15bn
GVA

18% of
total GVA

10% UK
total Tech GVA

59% of young people are
considering a career in tech

£290m in Venture
Capital investment in 2022
(tech start ups)

64% increase in Tech
hiring from 2021 - 2022

2,500+ Tech roles

Addleshaw Goddard



MORE IMAGINATION MORE IMPACT

Addleshaw Goddard (AG) introduced a ground-breaking solution to enable Virgin Money to tackle the LIBOR challenge head-on, by integrating five legal technology platforms.

Like other major banks, Virgin Money had to transition its business customers from LIBOR to an alternative reference rate before the end of 2021. This meant speedily amending approximately 2,500 commercial loans, with some agreements running to hundreds of pages. Smart use of legal technology made sense but no off-the-shelf solution existed. So AG charted new territory, integrating the legal technology platforms HighQ, Kira, BRYTER and DocuSign with Virgin Money's pre-existing SharePoint site. Together, they created one seamless solution and offered the smooth digital customer experience Virgin Money was looking for.

The Challenge

The decision to phase out LIBOR created a major challenge for Virgin Money. Many of its commercial loans were based on LIBOR – and the compliance clock was already ticking. Virgin Money needed to review, amend and update documents for around 2,500 loans, with the most complex needing due diligence. The changes also needed to be approved and signed by their customers. Clearly, automation was going to be essential if Virgin Money was to achieve this within the required timescales and minimise the administrative burden for customers. But there was no off-the-shelf solution capable of doing all the different tasks needed. So AG came up with their own radical and highly ambitious answer.

The Imagination

AG took an approach rarely seen to date in the world of legal technology – rapidly integrating four separate technology platforms – HighQ, Kira, BRYTER and DocuSign. Together, these four platforms created one powerful automated solution capable of being incorporated with Virgin Money's pre-existing systems and solving their LIBOR challenge. They downloaded the entire document set from Virgin Money's SharePoint site in bulk and uploaded the documents to their new combined platform.

The integration enabled AG to: seamlessly perform due diligence on several hundred of the most complex loan agreements; select the right amendment letters; populate these letters with the correct information; and send amendment letters electronically to customers for approval and signing. Signed amendment letters were automatically returned to the platform and status updates were also automatically recorded and reconciled to Virgin Money's SharePoint at the end of every working day.

The Impact

AG's bold integration of five technology platforms on a scale not previously seen has enabled the efficient amendment of 2,500 loans – all within a clearly defined budget and tight timeframe.

It has achieved Virgin Money's overarching ambition to make the LIBOR transition process as smooth as possible for their customers, giving them confidence and peace of mind.



LegalTech in Leeds

Background

In 2020, a report was published by Whitecap Consulting in collaboration with the legal sector which focused on Legal Tech & Innovation in the region. The report highlighted a number of recommendations and suggested actions in areas of opportunity for the future growth of the legal sector.

The 'LegalTech in Leeds' initiative, supported by a combination of grant funding from Leeds City Council and initial sponsorship from Bruntwood SciTech, Barclays, DAC Beachcroft, Leeds Law Society, rradar, Pinsent Masons, Salesforce, Toca.io and University of Law, was initially created to help progress the recommendations of the report and ultimately bring together the legal and tech sectors in order to achieve the following objectives:

- **Accelerate Digital Transformation** – by creating stronger links between Legal and Tech / Digital sectors to meet client needs.
- **Enhance Access to Justice** – by improving access to legal expertise and justice for Consumers & Businesses.
- **Drive and Enable Innovation** – by supporting entrepreneurs who can help enhance the provision of legal services.

LegalTech in Leeds, coordinated by Whitecap Consulting, was set-up to run as a short-term initiative from January - March 2022, involving a series of drop-in events consisting of presentations and panel discussions to showcase some of the disruptive thinking that was progressing across the legal and tech sectors in region.

The initiative culminated in a full day conference, held in March 2022 at Bruntwood's West Gate building in Leeds, attracting c.260 sign-ups and attended by over 200 people. At the event, there were keynotes from industry experts including representatives from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) as well as LawtechUK, panel discussions on the latest developments and thought-provoking topics and an afternoon of speakers representing legal services providers and tech firms/entrepreneurs who delivered short, high-energy pitches which focused on addressing key industry challenges faced by the legal sector through technology-based solutions.

In order to gauge the success of the conference, Whitecap released a feedback survey to all attendees which produced the following results:

- Net Promoter Score -72% (classed as 'excellent').
- 55% of respondents said the range, diversity and quality of speakers was 'excellent' (100% said this was 'good' or 'excellent').
- 64% said the agenda format was 'excellent'.
- 55% said the networking opportunities were 'excellent'.

Following the positive feedback from the events as well as an overwhelmingly strong desire from stakeholders for LegalTech in Leeds to continue, in September 2022, Whitecap Consulting proposed to evolve LegalTech in Leeds into a sponsorship model which delivers an ongoing annual programme of activity, in partnership with the legal and tech sectors and in collaboration with Leeds City Council and Leeds Law Society.

Under its original three key aims, (accelerate digital transformation, enhance access to justice and drive and enable Innovation), the programme of activity would set out to achieve the following:

- Connect the legal and tech sectors around the common interests of LegalTech and innovations.
- Provide a focal point for LegalTech in the region.
- Help to promote Leeds' LegalTech activity and capability, not only regionally but nationally and internationally.
- Proactively help develop the LegalTech sector in the region.
- Align to the development of the national and international Legal and LegalTech sectors.

Jungle IT



Navigating Digital Transformation: Embracing Change Without Disruption

The working world has changed. Technology is now the foundation of most business operations. The advent of hybrid work models has generated an escalating requirement for cloud infrastructure, alongside a heightened need for security and compliance management. There is an increasing expectation from customers and employees for seamless IT services, and businesses must constantly innovate to stay competitive. Digital transformation is often associated with disruptive technology, but innovating doesn't need to be radical, a series of incremental changes can propel your digital journey, without compromising business operations.

Where to start with Technology Modernisation

If you don't have an IT strategy, you won't have a clear path to innovation. Strategic planning in IT is often a luxury for incumbent IT experts, while the day-to-day consumes their time. Working with a technology partner on a tailored approach can help support your strategic direction and map out your next steps.

Incremental Innovation with an IT Roadmap

Our approach at Jungle is simple. We're a people business that bridges the gap between the IT team and the goals of your business. Your IT journey begins with its most important asset; your users. It's our belief that providing a constructive and consultative approach to IT is the key to creating the right environment for success.

Expertise and Specialisation

Our team of IT professionals are well-versed in the latest technologies, industry best practices, and compliance requirements specific to the legal sector, ensuring that your technology infrastructure is designed, implemented, and maintained according to the latest industry standards.

Enhanced Security and Compliance

Protecting your business means deploying robust cyber security solutions alongside creating a security-first culture with your people and processes. Our in-house security team can advise, support and implement data protection measures and secure cloud-based collaboration environments.

Collaboration in a hybrid working world

AI-powered collaboration platforms and advanced meeting room solutions can help firms embrace hybrid work models, promoting productivity, flexibility, and seamless collaboration while maintaining resilient security measures to safeguard data in this evolving work landscape.

Device Lifecycle Management

Efficiently and accurately deploying new or replacement hardware can be time-consuming and expensive. Our Device Lifecycle Management service is designed to streamline the process by which your business deploys, supports, and maintains its devices.



Creating the right environment for success.

We prime your company for technological change that aligns with your goals and objectives.

If you have any questions or you're ready to start a project then we're here to work with you.

To learn more contact: hello@jungleit.co.uk

Sponsor/partner quotes

“There has always been legal talent in the region, but the last few years have seen a tangible acceleration of high-growth local businesses and a highly skilled legal community has developed alongside them to provide the professional support they need. Not only that, but I see each community engaging more meaningfully and we can feel the ecosystem really coming to life.”

James Croyston, Director, Founders Law

“I see the boundaries between the notionally distinct legal and tech sectors starting to blur. Local events, gatherings and communities are contributing to a genuinely integrated group.” – James Croyston, Director, Founders Law
“Tech tools used by lawyers are growing exponentially in capability and scope of utility. Lawyers must adapt their ways of working to leverage these tools, but as a profession, we need to be sure that these powerful tools do not usurp the role of important training, especially for junior lawyers. Like in school when we had to demonstrate how we reached an answer in a calculation and the principles behind the sums we punch into a calculator, we equally need to ensure that the tools do not replace our understanding of the process.”

James Croyston, Director, Founders Law

“In the ever-evolving legal sector, we’re seeing a constant stream of new technologies and innovation. To thrive in this new era, we must adapt, innovate and evolve our skill requirements as well as embrace the transformative power of technology.

“In particular we’re seeing a rise in the use of AI technologies in the legal sector and we believe this is a transformative opportunity that should be embraced. As lawyers we need to skilfully harness the power of AI using its expertise and efficiency. It’s not about humans versus machines, but about lawyers who can use AI successfully, leveraging its capabilities to reshape the future of law.”

Malcolm Simpson, Managing Partner, Walker Morris

“Legal operations and the embedding of wider disciplines into legal process will continue to see a broader demand for skills in the legal sector and engagement with universities will be key to upskilling the legal teams of the future.”

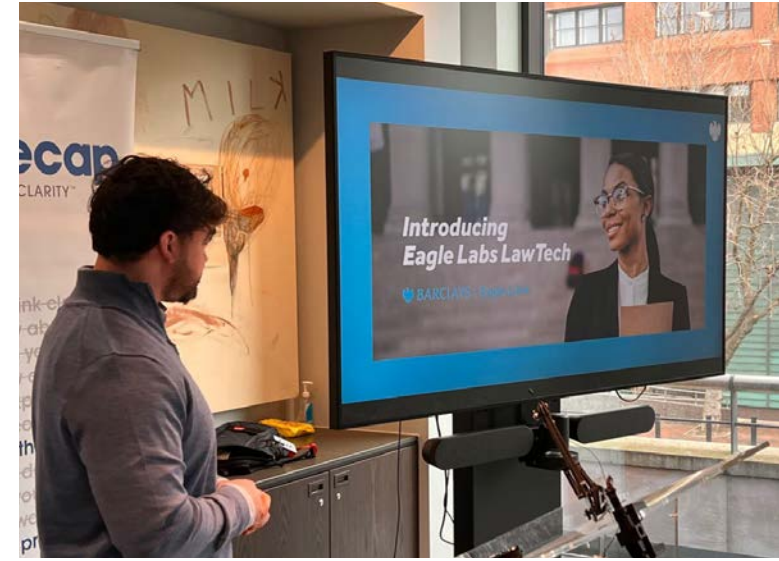
Jonny Badrock, Chief Legal Engineer, SYKE

“Not so many years ago, clients had to make the pilgrimage into the city centre if they wanted to visit their lawyer; the big offices, filled with impressive decoration were, I think, there to reinforce a sense of power on the part of the law firm. Clients had no option but to either phone or visit, and that represented what I was keen to move on from when I started radar. Clients today have a huge range of options when it comes to accessing legal services – in person, telephone, internet, social media, webinars, podcasts – the list just keeps on growing.

A law firm that insists on sticking to the old ways because it’s “traditional” is going to find that they end up with clients who’ve gone elsewhere. It’s also a case that the needs of clients are evolving – the problems they face now are much more complex than those they faced as little as ten years ago; we have the challenge of remote working, the fallout from the COVID pandemic, Brexit, the cost of living crisis, energy costs, a huge number of new laws coming out of Westminster that will all affect businesses and other organisations.

Law firms need to be able to react quickly to changes in legislation and regulation but, perhaps more importantly, need to know how to translate this into the language their clients speak, to make it digestible and understandable. That’s the challenge facing 21st century law firms – be where your clients are, and learn how to speak their language.”

Gary Gallen, CEO, radar





With its ground-breaking business model, digital agility, and strong value proposition, rradar has been disrupting the legal landscape – for the better – well ahead of time.

A model that stands strong

Businesses don't want to be on the wrong side of the law – yet so many find themselves in that very situation. SMEs lose around £14 billion each year due to legal problems; they often don't recognise how complex the law can be, nor understand the ever-increasing regulations they must comply with.

The traditional legal model is in trouble. A record number of graduates and a reduction in the number of law firms ready to employ them. Increasing salaries at the biggest firms and a commensurate rise in fees. Clients driven out by a legal cost of living crisis.

Even the biggest clients, including major government agencies, are cutting back on the use of traditional legal services and taking things back in house. They are finding that the costs of employing an external lawyer far outweigh budgets available – or potential damages sought.

With the effects of the pandemic still reverberating through the system, clients are often waiting months, sometimes years, for court hearings – further extending the period during which they need a lawyer's services. Over 28% of outstanding court cases have been open for more than a year, and completion times remain higher than pre-COVID levels.

As such, it is no surprise that clients are looking for alternative ways to access legal advice – and not only after a problem has occurred, but to prevent the need for such support altogether through knowledge and education.

Thought leadership by design – a new model

Since its founding in 2012, rradar has always done things differently – and its unique model plays to the opportunities that continue to emerge from this perfect legal storm.

rradar was born from a vision. A vision of a world where businesses could access verified and accurate legal guidance, 24/7, so they have the knowledge and tools they need to prevent problems, navigate risks, be stronger and go further.

Epitomising the very essence of legaltech, rradar's unique model fuses first-class legal and commercial advice and representation with cutting-edge technology. This is delivered via its own proprietary technology platform and digital products – including: rradarstation – an online knowledge portal that contains thousands of legally verified guides and templates and rradargrace – a legal assistant app pushing advice on the go – as well as a Legal Advice Line and 24/7/365 Crisis Line. rradar's model provides the ideal solution to the challenging market dynamics described above, answering the needs of the marketplace to empower access to legal services in a smarter, faster way, letting businesses educate themselves to proactively prevent problems.

A success story - driving and delivering on insights that support SMEs

Over 120,000 businesses now use rradar's services to pre-empt problems and get immediate guidance, resulting in their teams becoming more risk-aware and proactive when dealing with legal issues. With over 6,500 client interactions every week – and growing – rradar's ground-breaking model builds detailed analytics of the UK SME market and its challenges, every hour of every day – analysed by its Client Insights Team.

These insights, coupled with market trends and research available to rradar through its powerful network of global partners in the legal, insurance and consultancy sectors, feed back into rradar's platforms to push information, content, and knowledge to clients, creating a continuous cycle of support.

Indeed, rradar's analysis shows that since 2018, businesses have been predominantly affected by employment and HR-related issues. These include disciplinaries and grievances, absences, contracts, and probations – as well as performance and capability, redundancy, investigations, TUPE, equal opportunities, holidays, recruitment, and selection problems.

rradar's insights also echo the UK-wide trends facing businesses. For example, in the labour market, with large numbers of businesses seeking support in managing employees' expectations when it comes to flexible working arrangements, as well as how to bridge widespread skills shortages. Other strong themes include – as you would expect – the business implications of Brexit, the cost-of-living crisis, and the pandemic, which generated a 130% increase in demand for rradar's services.

Everything rradar builds has the purpose of helping clients – those real businesses who need support to prevent, manage or fix an issue. By bringing together its expertise and delivering that to clients through its innovative platform, rradar has created a one-stop -shop. While some of its components are offered by others, nobody does it all – and that is what sets rradar apart.

To find out more visit www.rradar.com or follow rradar on social media.

Programme of activity 2022/23

With the support of a growing number partners and sponsors, LegalTech in Leeds has developed an ongoing programme of activity:

Calendar of Monthly Events – seminars, workshops, networking drinks, learning lunches, a hackathon and more.

LegalTech in Leeds Conference 2023 – second annual LegalTech in Leeds conference which was the largest LegalTech event based outside of London.

LegalTech in Leeds Website – hosts new articles, blog posts, event write-ups, event sign-up links, advisory board and sponsor information and more.

LegalTech in Leeds Advisory Board – made up of the sponsors and partners and meet once a month to discuss the progress and future direction of the initiative.

Annual LegalTech in Leeds Report – update on the 2020 LegalTech and Innovation report as well as a progress report on LegalTech in Leeds.

Social Media and Brand Presence – create and build a following through LinkedIn, Eventbrite and Twitter as well as build a substantial mailing database.

Current partners are: Addleshaw Goddard, Bruntwood SciTech, Barclays Eagle Labs, Barrister Link, Calls9, Cyber Security Partners (CSP), DAC Beachcroft, FinTech North, Founders Law, Jungle IT, Katchr, Leeds City Council, Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, Leeds Law Society, LawtechUK, Leeds Trinity University, Page White Farrer, PEXA, rradar, SYKE, The University of Law, Toca, University of Leeds, Walker Morris, Whitecap Consulting, Yorkshire Legal.



Innovation@Leeds Programme

LegalTech in Leeds has been a beneficiary of the Innovation@Leeds programme, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, coordinated by West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and led by Leeds City Council (LCC).

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

LegalTech in Leeds, alongside a number of other exciting initiatives and projects taking place across the region including FinTech North, AI Tech UK, Digital Sport North and many more, was awarded part of the fund to support two key events in the programme of activity:

- LegalTech in Leeds Hackathon – 'The Big Hack'
- LegalTech in Leeds Conference 2023

Regional impact from involvement in this programme:

- Together, the 2023 conference and the LegalTech in Leeds hackathon attracted 413 sign-ups with approx. 250 attendees.
- The conference featured a keynote from Mike Freer MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Ministry of Justice.
- For every £1 of Innovation@Leeds grant funding, LegalTech in Leeds has raised approx. £3 in additional funding, which would equate to £6 if factoring in sponsorship in kind.

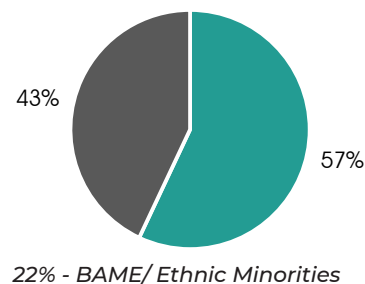
Key learnings from involvement in this programme:

1. Different events attract different demographics in terms of the audience.
2. Including the perspectives from other regions and having representatives from regional initiatives as part of the conference agenda appeared to add a lot of value for the audience.

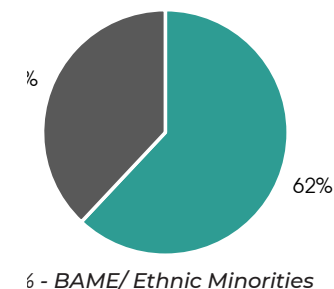
3. Linking the overall aims and objectives to national initiatives and developments has given LegalTech in Leeds more relevance and credibility. Making sure the community is as open and inclusive as possible has significantly contributed to the growth and success of LegalTech in Leeds.
4. Having an advisory board which is diverse, and representative of the ecosystem has been extremely valuable in the process of organising and running the programme, particularly the hackathon and the conference.

The 2023 conference and LegalTech in Leeds hackathon have generated positive diversity stats:

2023 Conference - Speaker Diversity Stats



LegalTech In Leeds Hackathon Attendee Diversity



■ Male ■ Female

Major improvement on the 2022 conference speaker diversity stats which showed 76% male speakers, 24% female speakers and 12% speakers from BAME backgrounds.



**LEVELLING
UP**



UK Government

**West
Yorkshire**
Combined
Authority

**Tracy Brabin
Mayor**
of West Yorkshire

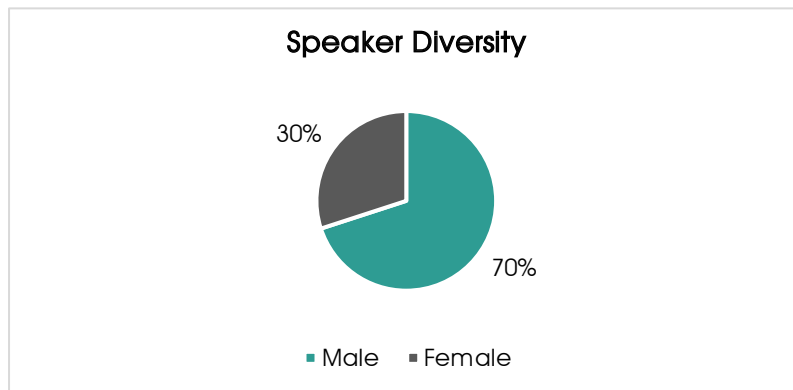
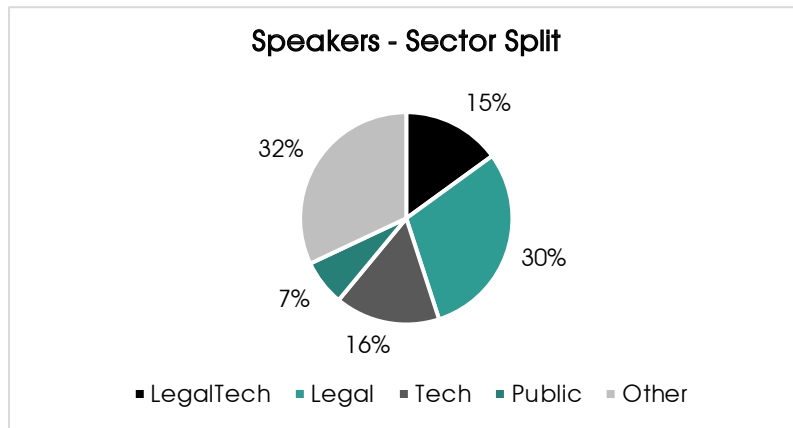
Leeds
CITY COUNCIL



Performance Measures from January 2022 – July 2023

From its inception in January 2022 to July 2023, LegalTech in Leeds hosted a total of 25 events, attracting 2,101 signups and 205 speakers. Of those sign-ups, there is almost equal representation from across the legal and tech sectors and approximately 30% are in a c-suite level/ decision making role, and 20% are students.

Speaker Statistics

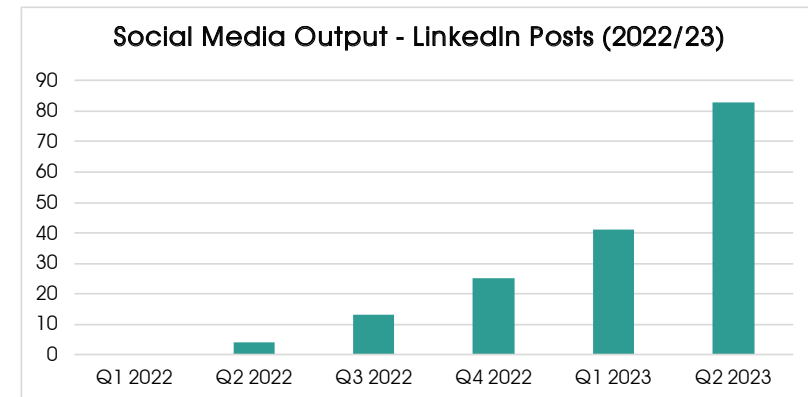


Output and Engagement

Social media following and brand presence since LegalTech in Leeds was formed into the annual programme of activity (from September 2022 – July 2023).

- LinkedIn Followers – 1,040% increase (786 followers)
- Eventbrite Followers – 1,130% growth (222 followers)
- Email Subscribers – 230% growth (985 subscribers)

Social media output has also been steadily increasing, as demonstrated by the growth in the number of LinkedIn posts over the yearly quarters from 2022 to 2023:



As well as locally, the LegalTech in Leeds brand has been gaining national recognition and attention, as can be seen through national partnerships with organisations such as LawtechUK, Legal Geek, Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), City of London Corporation and Barclays Eagles Lab, along with the number of non-LegalTech in Leeds events.

Broader engagement of LegalTech in Leeds

JUNE 2022

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to present the initiative at the Legal Services Board, which hosted a breakfast event focused on legal technology and access to justice in Yorkshire. Open to lawyers & practitioners, academics, law students, and legal/ consumer groups across the region, a key aim of the event was to explore how collaboration across the sector can further be supported and the role that LegalTech in Leeds will play in achieving this.

DECEMBER 2022

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to present at the Leeds Digital Forum, giving attendees a background on the initiative and an update on what we achieved so far. The Leeds Digital Forum is an opportunity for all digitally focused businesses in the city to hear about the different and exciting projects and initiatives being undertaken in the digital sector and digital communities across the city.

MARCH 2023

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to the Lawtech breakfast hosted by Ministry of Justice and chaired by Minister Mike Freer, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Legal Services and International at the UK Ministry of Justice. At the meeting, there was the opportunity to deliver a short pitch of the LegalTech in Leeds initiative to the minister and discuss how HMG can support LegalTech and innovation across the region going forward.

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to Leeds Digital Forum to present for a second time, giving an update on the progress of the initiative including reporting on the first ever LegalTech in Leeds hackathon. This event is a good opportunity for local initiatives to give periodic updates and to showcase their progress and latest activity.

MAY 2023

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to sit on the panel at an innovation breakfast held as part of the 3-day 2023 UKREiif event. The panel discussion was focused on the development of clusters across the region and LegalTech in Leeds was asked to share its experience and learnings from successfully creating a growing LegalTech community/cluster across the region.

2022

2023

2024

JULY 2022

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to attend the University of Manchester's Law and Technology Conference. The conference was the region's first major event on LegalTech and Legal Innovation and was held as part of the University of Manchester's Law and Technology Initiative, which aims to bring together the broad community of legal innovators in and around the Northwest.

FEBRUARY 2023

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to present the initiative at the Innovation@Leeds Forum, alongside a number of other exciting and innovative projects that are also part of the Innovation@Leeds programme.

APRIL 2023

LegalTech in Leeds was invited to take part in Leeds Trinity University's Professional Challenge. As part of this, students are set 'real life' challenges by local organisations and are given just under 2 weeks to develop solutions to these challenges. LegalTech in Leeds attended the LTU camped to record the following challenge, "find a technology-based solution for the inequalities that exist surrounding access to legal services for BAME and ethnic minority communities."

LegalTech in Leeds was then invited back to the campus to support in a workshop with the students that had selected the above challenge. Students then had 2 weeks to work on the challenge before presenting their solutions at the celebration day on 12th May.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS LEGALTECH

Regional highlights

National



Leeds Trinity University



Unleashing Potential: Leeds Trinity University's Professional Challenge - Where Theory Meets Practice

In May of this year, Leeds Trinity University collaborated with Legal Tech in Leeds and other regional partners to host its Professional Challenge event.

The Professional Challenge is available to all Level 4 students and is designed to develop key employability skills and increased awareness of local and global issues, including for example sustainability and environmental matters as well as knowledge of the Leeds region.

The Professional Challenge this year helped students to learn more about the global United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and how organisations across all sectors are increasingly looking at ways to reduce their negative impact on the planet and increase the positive ways in which they can contribute to society. Further the Professional Challenge developed students' ability to think critically about collaborating with others to drive positive change within their communities.

Employability remains at the forefront of the Professional Challenge, providing students with practical opportunities to hone fundamental skills. Through real-world problems and industry-specific scenarios, students worked in interdisciplinary teams, applying their theoretical knowledge to practical situations. The process fostered the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and teamwork skills, empowering students to create innovative solutions.

Throughout the Challenge, students benefited from the guidance and mentorship of industry

professionals. These mentors provided invaluable feedback, shared insights from their own experiences, and helped students refine their ideas and strategies. The mentor-student relationships also facilitated the growth of professional networks, connecting students with industry contacts and potential internship or future employment prospects.

The Challenge concluded with an event, where students presented their findings and solutions before industry experts. Students were able to showcase their knowledge, skills, and creativity, demonstrating their readiness to make a meaningful impact in their chosen fields.

The Professional Challenge helps students develop valuable skills that are highly valued in the professional world, setting them up for success in their future careers.

Julian Wells, [Director of Whitecap Consulting / LegalTech in Leeds] said:

"LegalTech in Leeds had a great experience taking part in this year's professional challenge. The challenge provided the opportunity for students to work in diverse teams on real industry challenges, allowing them to develop key employability skills such as problem-solving, teamwork and the ability to effectively communicate and present their solutions. The students brought enthusiasm and a lot of great ideas, it was fantastic to see them immerse themselves in the challenge. I hope we can encourage more organisations from the regional LegalTech community to take part in future."

For more information contact:

s.best@leedstrinity.ac.uk



Key Developments across LegalTech

Regional highlights

Through the acquisition of Optima Legal, Australian LegalTech/ FinTech PEXA now has a presence in Leeds. PEXA offers a streamlined and automated solution that is integrated into HM Land Registry and the Bank of England, enabling frictionless remortgages and faster settlements. In Australia, the market has largely embraced the benefits of a digital property settlement solution and PEXA has revolutionised the process of remortgaging and buying/ selling a home. Following its recent UK expansion into Leeds, PEXA hopes to demonstrate this value to the UK market.

JUST: Access, the Leeds-based LegalTech startup, has been announced as a winner of the TechNation Rising Stars 5.0 award. The prestigious award recognises the most innovative and disruptive tech startups in the UK and JUST: Access was the only LegalTech amongst the winners. JUST: Access is a company committed to using technology to make legal services more accessible and affordable for both individuals and businesses. The company's vision is to democratise legal services by empowering people with the tools they need to succeed.

DLA Piper has committed to an £85m office development, situated on Wellington Street, next to Leeds City Station and Channel 4's new home, the Majestic building. The new modernised office will bring together 600 employees from across two sites and will have an open plan design, a cafe and a roof garden. City Square House is low carbon credentials which is a key factor in the design.

Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has opened its Digital Delivery Centre in the heart of Leeds business district, bringing 100 new jobs to the city and reinforcing the reputation Leeds has built for being a hub of financial, digital and tech talent. Leeds City Council has worked hard to ensure that Leeds is seen as an attractive destination for business and organisations with an increasing number of national companies continuing to expand their presence in the city, further confirming Leeds as a centre for finance, digital and tech.

eDiscovery and legal services business Consilio has completed its acquisition of Leeds-based LegalTech SYKE. In August 2023, LOD (Lawyers On Demand) and SYKE announced the signing of a transformational deal to combine forces with Consilio, the global leader in legal consulting and enterprise legal services.

Gunnercooke becomes first major UK law firm to officially accept payment in cryptoassets. The law firm's leading FinTech and Cryptoasset full-service practice has also built up a client base of around 100 cryptocurrency developers, platforms and exchanges.

University of Law

The University of Law Legal Tech Research Academy (ULTRA) is now into its sixth year. We offer a wide variety of tech and innovation courses at every level from Undergraduate to Masters and both in person and online. Our partnership with LegalTech in Leeds offers students an opportunity to experience what they are learning about in practice and to gain inspiration from talks, workshops and events. As they say though, the proof is in the pudding, so here's what our students had to say:

"Having a legaltech module to study has been invaluable for my plans after university. Getting a rundown on all the areas of the legaltech industry has been helpful, but to have practical experience designing products and analysing the stories of industry leaders, has really helped me understand what role I could play in the advancement of the field."

"Before doing the modules, I knew I wanted a career in legaltech. Now that it's done, I know more than anything how I must approach the role that I chose, if I want to succeed. With curiosity. With an open mind. With a resilient and empathetic approach, when trying to sell to people in the industry who are still fearful of the legaltech change."

Callum Gee - LLB Student 2020-2023

"Throughout my study of Legal Tech, I had my horizons broadened as to the impact technology will have on the legal sector in the coming years, and I believe it to be a fundamental topic that should be taught to all who seek to further or begin their career in law."

"The module helped me to understand not just the topic itself but how to apply the things we learnt; For example, I personally made a billable hour system with help from AI."

"To summarise my point Legal Tech is a quintessential topic that should be studied by all who pursue a career in Law, as it is the key to the evolution of our daily work lives, my belief is that through studying Legal Tech I have further solidified my portfolio for future endeavours."

Josh Senior LLB - Student 2020-2023

"As an MA Law student with a background in English and Politics, I have found the LegalTech in Leeds events to be an excellent resource for gaining valuable insights from experienced professionals about the tech industry and how it works to support progress in the practice of law. The commercial awareness I have accrued by attending the events as a guest has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of how law firms, like any other businesses, need to evolve with the progression of technology in order to succeed in such a competitive environment. The further research I have undertaken as a result of the conversations that have taken place at LegalTech events has made me a more well-rounded, proactive and perceptive law student. "

Heather Murphy – MA Law 2023





National

Lawtech UK

In March, it was announced that Legal Geek and tech incubator CodeBase have secured £3m in funding from the UK Government to take over a two-year grant for the operation and development of LawTechUK from 1st April 2023.

Over the next 2 years, Codebase and Legal Geek will support Lawtech UK to deliver a programme to achieve the overall aim of:

- engaging, inspiring and educating a scaled and interconnected lawtech ecosystem so it has the culture, expertise and confidence to use lawtech innovation to:
 - drive growth for the UK.
 - inspire greater confidence in the legal system and UK democracy.
 - incentivises the use of UK law and encourages co-creation of innovative solutions.

This will be achieved through a programme of roaming events across the UK, with the first being held in Cardiff. LawtechUK will be working towards key deliverables including:

- **Community & Communications** - inspire and engage a scaled lawtech community across the entire UK and showcase the UK as a great place for lawtech innovation.
- **Education Programmes** – through a number of education programmes, raise the aggregate bar on the quality of startups being created in lawtech and increase the amount of private investment being made into lawtech.
- **Innovation & Sandbox** - facilitate better exchange of information/insight between service providers and lawtech businesses, including relating to the unmet need, and increase the number of lawtech solutions being adopted cross-industry.
- **Thought Leadership** - generate progressive industry-level views that positively shape the UK's lawtech agenda and enhance the UK's international reputation as a legal and lawtech leader.

Regional clusters

SuperTech WM

SuperTech is a cross-sector partnership designed to showcase the talent, innovation, and investment potential of the West Midlands' rapidly emerging professional services technology (ProfTech) cluster. This supercluster aims to amplify the voice and potential of regional businesses in sectors that include FinTech, LegalTech, PropTech and InsurTech.

Bristol+Bath LegalTech

Bristol + Bath LegalTech was co-founded in 2019 by Bristol Law Society, Chris Bull and Dagmar Steffens with Chris and Dagmar in the co-chair roles. The network is a collaboration of law firms, legal tech companies and educationalists with a mutual interest in legal technology and innovation.

Manchester Law & Technology Initiative (University of Manchester)

Launched in September 2018, the Law and Technology Initiative at The University of Manchester serves as a dynamic platform between industry stakeholders, regulatory communities and academics within the Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS), Department of Computer Science and the Law School.

LawscotTech

LawscotTech is an initiative by the Law Society of Scotland to stimulate legal technology innovation in Scotland which will deliver practical benefits for those working in the justice and legal sectors and their clients. LawscotTech will provide support from concept stage through to taking a product or service to market.

Walker Morris



I did that.

Innovation at Walker Morris means continually improving our processes, practices and workflows, so we can work more effectively for our clients and enable our colleagues to forge their own path.

In 2022 we launched our rebrand and developed an integrated programme of inspirational events and employee engagement materials, including our innovative 'I did that' campaign. The campaign focused on creating a workplace that is ideas-driven and innovative and we needed our people to help.

We asked everyone to share their unique and innovative ideas – because great minds don't think alike. We asked about the things they wished they could spend less time on. What clients found knotty or inefficient about working with us. And what bit of tech they used at home and wished they had at work.

We launched the 'I did that' campaign in early December 2022, by Christmas, we had amassed over 60 unique ideas from across the firm on the things that were holding our people and business back. Some were big projects. Some were smaller ideas that had the potential to make a big impact. All of them started with someone coming to us with a thought – and now those people are beginning to see the results. They can point to something and say 'I did that'.

We wanted to explore solutions that would enable us to shine brighter for our clients, work more efficiently and increase our capabilities. Through our work as a strategic partner to LegalTech in Leeds, we connected with Barclays Eagle Labs, to see first-hand the ways in which they support the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UK and, in particular, LawTech. We made connections with several Leeds LawTech businesses that could potentially help us to address some of the issues raised as part of the 'I did that' campaign.

We held an Innovation Day event at our offices in February with LegalTech in Leeds as part of the Accelerator Programme. We heard from a number of LawTech businesses on what they do and how their products work. It also provided us with an opportunity to gather insights and ideas as part of our technology journey and as well as providing feedback on how to develop their products from a lawyers point of view.

Our Innovation Day gave us a chance to gather information, shape our thinking and discover what is possible. We're on an exciting journey with technology and innovation and it's important to see what's out there.



Sponsor/partner quotes

"We have continued to see growth across various sectors in the Leeds City region and a number of employers are increasingly seeing Leeds as a natural second home in the UK. A great example of this is the Government Legal Department who continue to grow their presence in the area."

Luke Corcoran, Vice President of Leeds Law Society and Senior Lawyer
at Government Legal Department

"An understanding of how technology can assist lawyers in every area has never been more important. From the more routine like video conferencing with clients to the more advanced like AI, lawyers need to continue to develop their skills to take best advantage of these developments. Clients are increasingly expecting their lawyers to understand and embrace technology too."

Luke Corcoran, Vice President of Leeds Law Society and Senior Lawyer
at Government Legal Department

"Universities in the Leeds City Region will play a vital role in preparing the lawyers of tomorrow with the skills they will need to stand out in a competitive field. Career options in legal technology and legal operations are opening up all the time and Universities can help students explore these areas as well as traditional legal skills."

Luke Corcoran, Vice President of Leeds Law Society and Senior Lawyer
at Government Legal Department

"We've recently launched a new events concept which we're aiming to make into the largest LegalTech conference in Europe. The Whitecap reports on the growth and future potential of regional LegalTech ecosystems in Leeds and Bristol helped validate the concept and give us inspiration for our LegalTechTalk events, which launch in June 2024."

Bradley Collins, CEO, LegalTechTalk

"LegalTech in Leeds is bringing together the best of the tech and legal sectors in our region, accelerating digital transformation and providing tech entrepreneurs with better opportunities to engage with the legal sector. It's great to see how they champion collaboration, inclusivity, and digital innovation, all for the benefit of our city's vibrant professional community. The success of the recent LegalTech in Leeds Conference is a testament to the positive impact they have on the legal and tech communities in Leeds."

Adam Roney, Founder & CEO, Calls9

"In the legal sector, data is the lifeblood of operations, and its security is paramount. We're seeing a critical need to implement robust data protection measures and secure cloud-based collaboration environments to enable effective hybrid working. Compliance with regulatory requirements, safeguarding sensitive data, creating a security-first culture and ensuring a firm's IT infrastructure is scalable is key."

Jonathan Asquith, Managing Director at Jungle IT

"The LegalTech in Leeds programme has helped open up new relationships and opportunities for us. We have had several conversations with technology firms regarding potential collaboration and we ran an insights day as a prize for Leeds Trinity University's essay competition."

These may never have happened if it wasn't for the initiative. We have also had conversations with universities around creating LegalTech teaching modules and we hope to recruit more people from Leeds over the coming years."

James Whitaker, Senior Manager – Innovation and Legal Technology, Addleshaw Goddard

LegalTech in Leeds event series: Jan 2022 – Jul 2023

EVENT

1

February 2022



Signups: **22**

LegalTech in Leeds hosted its first ever event on 24th February 2022 at Platform in Leeds.

The event was a drop-in style seminar designed to bring together the legal and tech sectors across the region. The event featured a range of speakers including representatives from Bruntwood SciTech, Leeds Law Society, Prinsix, Berwins Solicitors, Gunnercooke and University of Law.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

2

March 2022



Signups: **33**

On 10th March 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its second drop-in session at AvenueHQ.

At this event, we heard from Barclays Eagle Labs who spoke about the Eagle Labs proposition and how it is supporting entrepreneurs to scale their businesses through its growth programmes. We also heard from law firms including DAC Beachcroft and rradar as well as tech firms including Toca, Focis and xDesign.

The event provided an opportunity to showcase some of the disruptive thinking across the sector as well as a chance for the community to network and build relationships.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

3

March 2022



Signups: **257**

On 24th March 2022, representatives of the Legal, Digital and LegalTech sectors convened in person and virtually for the inaugural LegalTech in Leeds Conference, hosted by Bruntwood at its West Gate building in central Leeds.

At the conference we welcomed over 30 speakers and approximately 150 attendees to what was our third event of the LegalTech in Leeds programme. The agenda was a blend of keynotes, panel discussions with a showcase in the afternoon featuring reverse pitches from across the legal and tech sectors. Guest speakers included Jenifer Swallow, Director of LawtechUK, Ben Wagenaar and Head of Technology & Innovation at the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA).

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

4

May 2022



Signups: 80

On 19th May, LegalTech in Leeds hosted a 'Feedback and Future Plans' session, in partnership with Pinsent Masons, in order to assess the appetite for LegalTech in Leeds to continue and evolve into an annual programme of activity.

This event involved a presentation outlining potential future plans for LegalTech in Leeds as well as a panel discussion and audience participation, confirming that there was indeed a strong desire from stakeholders for the initiative to continue. After this event, LegalTech in Leeds started to engage the community and interested parties for support in the form of sponsorship and created a proposed annual programme of activity.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

5

September 2022



Signups: 97

On 30th September, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its first 'Legal Innovation Talks', in partnership with Bruntwood SciTech.

As a strategic partner of the new programme of activity, LegalTech in Leeds would co-host quarterly events with Bruntwood SciTech, under the badge of 'Legal Innovation Talks'.

These events would be broadly focused on innovation and disruption across the legal sector, bringing together the community to showcase and discuss some of latest developments across LegalTech. This event featured presentations from LawtechUK, Barclays Eagle Labs, radar and University of Law.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

6

October 2022



Signups: 108

On 11th October 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted 'LegalTech Perspectives, in partnership with Addleshaw Goddard'.

This event was extremely well attended with almost 75% of the sign-ups being present on the day. At the event, we had presentations from Addleshaw Goddard, Toca, Just Access and Channel 4. There was also a panel discussion which talked about topics such as the people and training elements of digital transformation and the support available in navigating the landscape.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

7

October 2022



Signups: 42

On 18th October 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its first networking drinks at AvenueHQ, in partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs.

The first drinks event was a huge success with a great buzz in the room, lots of food and drink and new and familiar faces, a common theme at LegalTech in Leeds events.

EVENT

8

November 2022



Signups: 87

On 16th November 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its 'WEB3, Metaverse and Crypto' event at AvenueHQ, in partnership with Calls9.

The event took us on a journey through the history of Web1, Web2 and Web3, detailing its core principles of decentralisation, ownership, self-sovereign identity and native payments. We had presentations from Calls9, Sure Valley Ventures, Eversheds Sutherland and Quartz Barristers and a panel discussion with the addition of Leeds City Council and AI Tech UK. We had extremely positive feedback on this event as it highlighted the impact that the metaverse could have on the legal sector in the future.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

9

December 2022



Signups: 59

On 6th December 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its second 'Legal Innovation Talks', in partnership with Bruntwood SciTech.

After the usual introduction to LegalTech in Leeds, we had welcomes from Bruntwood SciTech and Leeds Law Society. Followed by presentations from Fluid, Leeds Trinity University and TrialView and a panel discussion involving all the speakers with the addition of Walker Morris and Berwins Solicitors. Topics discussed on the day included the inefficiencies that exist within law firms and where technology can help as well as the positive impact that tech can have on the client experience.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
10

December 2022



Signups: 36

On 13th December 2022, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its Christmas networking drinks at AvenueHQ, in partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs.

At the event, there was plenty of festive snacks and drinks as well as the opportunity to network and build connections with the LegalTech community. It was a fantastic way to celebrate a great year of LegalTech activities and to look forward to 2023.

EVENT
11

January 2023



Signups: 82

On 19th January 2023, at Open Innovations, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its first in a two-part 'Digital Transformation Forum', in partnership with Jungle IT.

After welcomes from LegalTech in Leeds and Leeds Law Society, we had a Jungle IT deliver a Digital Transformation Workshop which involved taking attendees through a five-step roadmap, which started with 'defining your strategy' and finishing with 'reviewing OKRs and assessing the roadmap'. We then had a keynote from radar, who outlined the digital transformation journey that the organisation has been on and some of the challenges they have faced. The last presentation was delivered by Lawtech 365, an out of region LegalTech solution. We then had a panel discussion on the topic of digital transformation, featuring the speakers with the addition of Addleshaw Goddard and Digilegal. Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
12

February 2023



Signups: 83

On 7th February 2023, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its third networking drinks at AvenueHQ, in partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs.

The event was extremely well attended, welcoming lots of new faces to the LegalTech in Leeds community. The event offered an abundance of pizzas, snacks and drinks as well as ample opportunity to network and build connections. We also had a short talk from Barclays Eagle Labs who highlighted all the exciting activity happening within LegalTech, particularly the growing network of incubators helping to support LawTech startups and scaleups.

EVENT
13

February 2023



Signups: 86

On 9th February 2023, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its 'Data and Cyber Security Seminar', in partnership with Cyber Security Partners (CSP), hosted at AvenueHQ.

The purpose of this event was to inform attendees on some of the key updates and developments within data and cybersecurity, discuss some of the challenges surrounding the topic with a particular focus on legal sector, and provide support and advice on how to navigate data and cybersecurity guidelines. At the event, we had presentations from Cyber Security Partners (CSP), DLA Piper, The Oakland Group and Blacks Solicitors, followed by a panel discussion involving all the speakers with the addition of Thornton Jones solicitors. CSP discussed 'Data and Cyber Security' to help the Legal sector with various topics around: protecting your data, certifications and standards, compliance, the strategic use of data and the benefits. Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
14

February 2023



Signups: 55

On 15th February, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its first virtual learning lunch, in partnership with University of Law.

These monthly learning lunches have been designed to feature an expert speaker who will dive into a specific topic followed an interactive roundtable style discussion. Our first learning lunch focused on tech adoption, co-hosted with Jungle IT, aimed at those working in the legal sector who have struggled to introduce new technology within a firm, both in terms of the tech and also getting buy in/ uptake from users. Topics covered included adoption best practices, successful adoption of new technology, behavioural change and adoption framework guidelines.

EVENT
15

February 2023



Signups: 108

On 28th February, hosted at the spectacular Walker Morris head office, LegalTech in Leeds invited five out-of-region firms to take part in a Lawtech Innovation Showcase, where they demonstrated the 'art of the possible' through their technology-based solutions.

At the event, we had welcomes from LegalTech in Leeds and Leeds Law Society, followed by a keynote from Walker Morris, before the start of the Lawtech showcase. The showcase featured five out of region LegalTech firms who pitched solutions such as workflow management/ optimisation, Know-You-Customer and anti-money laundering checks.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
16

March 2023



Signups: 73

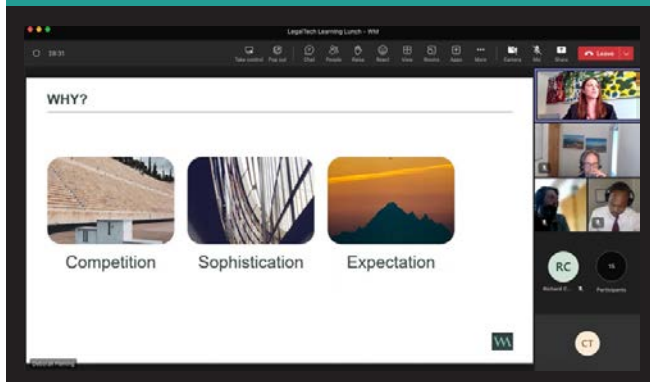
On 10th March 2023, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its inaugural hackathon titled 'The Big hack', in partnership with Bruntwood SciTech.

The event saw over 50 people brave the snow to join us at the Platform building in Leeds, where six teams of six people gathered to work together over the course of a day to solve key challenges faced by the legal sector. Each team pitched their solution to a judging panel in the afternoon, with the winning team 'Remedy Robin' – presenting a solution for customer disputes in the retail sector. All attendees then joined together to celebrate the winning team over pizza and drinks.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
17

April 2023



Signups: 27

On 20th April, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its second Learning Lunch in partnership with University of Law360.

The guest speaker for this session was Walker Morris and the aim of the learning lunch was to help bridge the gap between the legal and tech sectors, specifically focusing on the challenge surrounding language and the barrier it can create between law and tech firms. This session was extremely valuable for all those working across the LegalTech ecosystem including law firms, tech firms and LegalTech firms as well as those in education.

EVENT
18

April 2023



Signups: 360

On 26th April, LegalTech in Leeds held its second annual conference and it was a huge success.

The conference attracted over 200 in-person attendees from all over the UK, bringing together the legal and tech sectors and putting Leeds on the map for LegalTech and Innovation. The day was split into four main sessions with an agenda packed with over 50 speakers, including regional and national thought leaders as well as an opening keynote from Mike Freer MP, Minister for Courts and Legal Services at the Ministry of Justice and a closing keynote from Simon Wright, Chief Operating Officer at PEXA. Overall, the 2023 Legal Tech in Leeds conference was a huge success and has generated an overwhelmingly positive reaction to and interest in Leeds as a city and the LegalTech community.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

19

May 2023



Signups: 45

On 24th May, based at the Leeds office of global law firm Squire Patton Boggs, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its most recent seminar, in partnership with Leeds Trinity University.

The session featured welcomes from Squire Patton Boggs and Leeds Law Society as well as a brief update from LegalTech in Leeds. This was followed by a fascinating keynote from Leeds Trinity University who spoke about the range of law courses that are on offer at the university and the bold ambitions to integrate LegalTech into these courses so that students gain the necessary understanding of how technology is shaping the future of legal services, so they can successfully navigate the rapidly evolving profession. At the event, we also heard from LegalTech Katchr and law firm Clyde & Co who discussed the key challenges they have experienced through the firms ongoing migration to LexisNexus.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT

20

June 2023



Signups: 26

On 8th June, we held a virtual Learning Lunch in partnership with The University of Law, featuring Katchr as our guest speaker.

Katchr is a leading specialist provider of Business Intelligence, Dashboard and Analytics software to law firms, and this session will be valuable for all those working across the LegalTech ecosystem including law firms, tech firms and LegalTech firms as well as those in education. This session was filled with lots of interesting discussion and questions from the audience.

EVENT

21

June 2023



Signups: 74

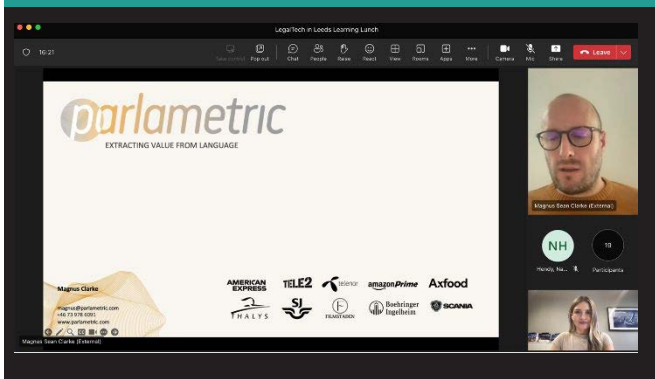
On 13th June, LegalTech in Leeds hosted its final instalment of the 'Legal Innovation Talks', in partnership with Bruntwood SciTech.

This was a very well attended event held at Platform in Leeds. The event was focused on sharing the latest developments in the regional LegalTech ecosystem, with presentations from LegalTech in Leeds and Leeds Law Society, as well as a panel discussion, involving rradar, University of Law, Jungle IT and Walker Morris, on how to grow the LegalTech sector across the region. After the panel, there was a short pitch from local LegalTech startup MindYourself.

Read event write up [HERE](#)

EVENT
22

June 2023



Signups: 33

On 20th June, LegalTech in Leeds hosted a virtual learning lunch in partnership with University of Law, featuring Parlametric as the guest speakers.

Parlametric describe themselves as “not a typical software company – but more of an Analysis-as-a-Service company.” They deliver value and concrete insights through data, supplying solutions into multiple sectors including the legal sector. This learning lunch was focused on the topic of AI and automation and the efficiencies that can be gained through application in the legal sector. This session was very interactive with lots of great audience participation and engagement.

EVENT
23

June 2023



Signups: 80

On 20th June, we held our quarterly networking drinks at Avenue HQ, in partnership with Barclays Eagle Labs.

At the event, there was the opportunity to grab a slice of pizza and a drink and network with lots of new and familiar faces.

These events have proved to be extremely popular amongst the LegalTech in Leeds community and are a great addition to the events calendar.

EVENT
24

July 2023



Signups: 98

On 4th July, LegalTech in Leeds hosted a seminar focused on LegalTech across real estate, in partnership with global law firm Addleshaw Goddard.

The event was extremely well-attended with lots of new and familiar faces, hosted in Leeds at Addleshaw Goddard. At this event, LegalTech in Leeds shone a spotlight on real estate, focusing on the application of LegalTech across property and conveyancing, an area of the law many consider ripe for digital transformation. At the event, we heard from Addleshaw Goddard, Leeds City Council, Orbital Witness, PEXA and Optima Legal, with an interesting and engaging panel discussion to close off the session.

Read event write up [HERE](#)



Calls9 and The University of Law

Building an AI Welfare Assistant (Proof of concept)

The Challenge

Throughout his experience, Patrick Grant, a Senior Lecturer & Project Director for LegalTech & Innovation at The University of Law, has noticed that millions of people in the UK use advice centres and non-profits to get help for free. However, only a small percentage of them receive telephone or face-to-face help for various reasons. Particularly, many non-English speaking immigrants urgently require help but are hindered from accessing digital or personal advice.

Patrick approached Calls9 to see if we could use Generative AI to help these organisations and those using them. He and the Calls9 team initiated a tech solution to this problem and presented it at the LegalTech in Leeds Conference. They used the real case study of "Rozi", a single mother of five without food, nappies or electricity, desperately needing assistance who does not speak English.

The Delivery

Calls9 embarked on a research and development project to craft a Generative AI Assistant. This tool aims to provide free advice to individuals of all backgrounds and languages.

Using the amazing capabilities of Generative AI technologies, we created a demo AI Assistant that:

- Turns speech to text: Non-English speakers can create a message in their own language.
- Translates languages: The message can be translated into English automatically.

- Finds information: They can automatically get advice from the Internet as well as contact details for a non-profit relevant to their situation and location.
- Carries out actions: The assistant can craft and send an email to the relevant organisation as them. It will then translate the reply of the organisation back into their own language.

The results

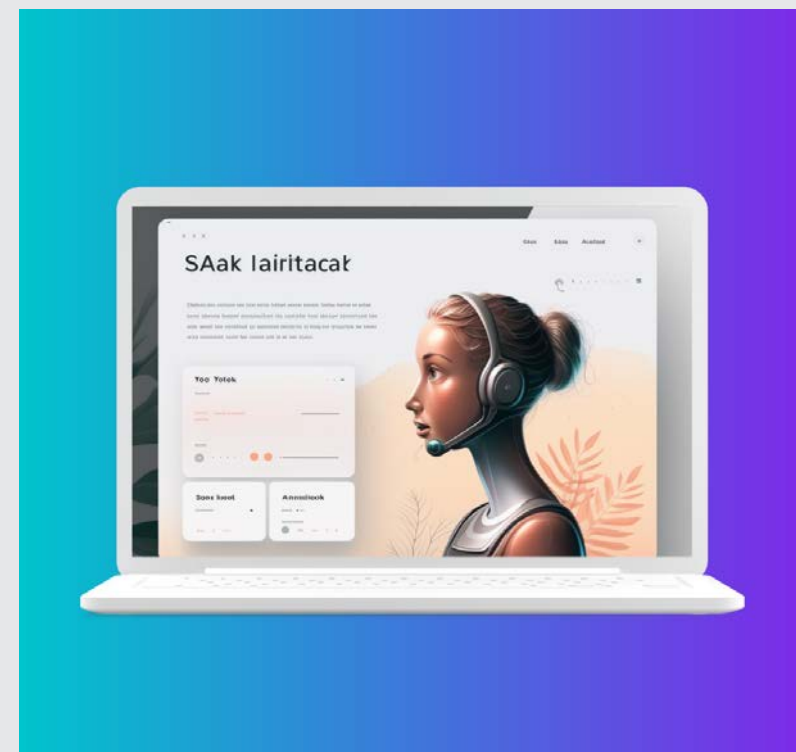
Using this assistant, people like Rozi can:

- Instruct the AI assistant in their own language.
- Have relevant welfare information returned to them.
- Instruct the AI assistant to carry out related tasks on their behalf.

A game-changer not just for the non-profit advice sector but for so many other businesses that can develop their own AI Agents and Assistants to elevate customer service and improve customer experience.

Learn more about AI Fast Lane, our End-To-End AI Transformation programme designed to identify where AI can give you a strategic advantage and help you rapidly deploy AI use cases in your organisation.

charakalemaki@calls9.com





APPENDIX

Definitions and methodology

Sponsor/partner directory






WALKER MORRIS

We're delighted to be strategic partners with LegalTech in Leeds, bringing together the legal and digital sectors in the Leeds City Region.

LegalTech
IN LEEDS

WALKER MORRIS 

Definitions and methodology

Geographical and data scope of report

The regional data points in this report relate to the geographical area defined as Leeds City Region until 2023. Recently, the boundaries of Leeds City Region have been changed slightly, but in order to provide a view that is comparable to the data points from our last report, we have retained the same scope.

Legal Technology (LegalTech)

Legal technology, also known as Legal Tech, refers to technologies that aim to support, supplement or replace traditional methods for delivering legal services, in line with the definition used by the Law Society of England and Wales LegalTech is often used to improve the customer/ client experience of legal services, to help customers better access legal services and to help legal service providers streamline their processes/ practices, adding value to services without increasing costs.

LCR GVA per Worker

Leeds City Region total Gross Value Add (GVA) / Leeds City Region Workforce

LCR GVA

ONS publish yearly regional GVA as well as quarterly percentage change to GVA which allows us to calculate up to date GVA estimates for a region.

Legal Sector Stats

To estimate the workforce and number of law firms across the Leeds City Region legal sector, we use the most recent and up-to-date open-source data published by Nomis, using the SIC codes 69 (excluding accounting).

To estimate the legal sector GVA across Leeds City Region, we use the estimated GVA per Worker and the legal sector workforce (GVA per Worker x Legal Sector Workforce).

Tech Sector Stats

It is extremely difficult to calculate tech sector stats due to the lack of SIC codes associated with the sector. However, Whitecap has established a methodology that involves local and national data published by Nomis using SIC 62, weighted against more extensive data published by Tech Nation. This allows us to estimate the Tech workforce across Leeds City Region as well as the number of tech firms.

We can then use the estimated tech workforce to calculate tech GVA (GVA per Worker x Tech workforce).

LegalTech GVA Methodology

Estimating the value of the LegalTech sector in a region is challenging as not everyone working in the legal or tech sectors is working in a 'LegalTech' role.

Additionally, only considering the number of employees in identified LegalTechs within a region does not account for people working within law firms in a tech-related role or those working within tech firms in a legal or LegalTech specific role.

Therefore, we have developed a methodology based on a number of inputs that estimate the proportion of legal and tech that is LegalTech, based on Gross Value Add (GVA).

Step 1: From key inputs including:

- Leeds City Region GVA
- LCR legal sector GVA
- Proportion of people working in tech-related roles in law firms
- Proportion of vacancies for tech-related roles in law firm

Estimate the proportion of Leeds City Region legal sector GVA that is 'LegalTech' = £130m

Step 2: Estimate the proportion of Leeds City Region tech sector GVA that is 'LegalTech' = £235m

Step 3: Calculate the GVA from the identified LegalTech firms in the region = £9m

LegalTech GVA Formula:

Proportion of legal that is LegalTech + Proportion of tech that is LegalTech + Identified LegalTech GVA

$$\pounds 130\text{m} + \pounds 235\text{m} + \pounds 9\text{m} = \pounds 374\text{m}$$

Sponsor/partner directory



Addleshaw Goddard

Addleshaw Goddard is an international law firm, headquartered in London with regional offices across the UK, including Leeds. Each year, Addleshaw Goddard acts on behalf of over 3000 major businesses, including 48 FTSE 100 companies.

<https://www.addleshawgoddard.com/en/>



Bruntwood SciTech

Bruntwood SciTech offers high quality office and laboratory space, a range of scientific services, and specialist business support which enables companies in the science and technology sector to form, collaborate, scale and grow.

<https://bruntwood.co.uk/scitech/>



Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs is a network made up of member businesses, partners, investors, corporates, mentors, banking expertise and much more. Eagle Labs provide a wealth of support to startup and scaleup businesses as well as access for private investors to a network of high potential and growing businesses.

<https://labs.uk.barclays/>



Barrister Link

Barrister Link is an easy-to-use online platform where you can access the best legal minds to represent your case. Covering all aspects of law, complete the form below to start linking to the right barrister.

<https://barristerlink.co.uk/>



Calls9

A digital transformation specialist with a team of thinkers, innovators and problem solvers. Calls9 supports clients to make sense of changes and execute digital transformation strategies to position them for success.

<https://www.calls9.com/>



Cyber Security Partners

Cyber Security Partners are a collective of cyber security (CS) specialists with an assemblage of leading CS industry certificates and years of training. This is to enable us to provide you with the best in cyber security support.

<https://www.csp.partners/>



DAC Beachcroft

DAC Beachcroft is an international legal business with offices across the world. DAC Beachcroft provides legal advice in Insurance, Healthcare and Real Estate. With over 1100 lawyers, DAC Beachcroft is a closely connected team of more than 2500 people committed to helping our clients succeed.

<https://www.dacbeachcroft.com/>



FinTech North

FinTech North is an open and collaborative platform for sharing ideas, challenges and best practice, for showcasing innovative start-ups and scale-ups and for facilitating the connections and collaborations which create real value for businesses and consumers.

<https://www.fintechnorth.uk/>



Founders Law

Frictionless, relationship-driven legal support, from seed through to exit - Previously known as Chronos Law. Founders Law help clients fundraise and interact with investors; build and incentivise a team; protect and exploit creations; negotiate an increasing array of contracts and ensure marketing; complaints handling, and use of data is compliant with the many rules that apply.

<https://founders-law.co.uk/>



Katchr

At Katchr we help law firms to improve performance by providing fast and easy access to information with our legal software. Katchr is a law firm performance management solution for people who believe that what gets measured gets done.

<https://katchr.com/>



Jungle IT

We deliver complete IT strategies that help you navigate technological change and create the best conditions for your company's success. Our team takes your business from reacting to preparing with confidence. We're a people business that bridges the gap between the IT team and the goals of your business.

<https://www.jungleit.co.uk/>



Leeds City Council

Leeds City Council is the local authority of the City of Leeds in West Yorkshire, England. It is a metropolitan district council, one of five in West Yorkshire and one of 36 in the metropolitan counties of England and provides the majority of local government services in Leeds.

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/>



Leeds City Region LEP

The Leeds City Region is a local enterprise partnership city region located in West Yorkshire, England. Prior to the West Yorkshire devolution deal, the partnership covered parts of South and North Yorkshire.

<https://www.the-lep.com/>



Leeds Law Society

The legal sector is constantly evolving and so are we. We constantly strive to find new ways to meet our members' needs and work to remain ahead of the curve to ensure that we continue to influence the changing landscape of the law.

<https://www.leedslawsociety.org.uk/>

LawtechUK

LawtechUK, is a government-backed initiative within Tech Nation, established to support the transformation of the UK legal sector through technology, for the benefit of society and the economy. The operation of LawtechUK was transferred to CodeBase and Legal Geek on the 1st April 2023.

<https://lawtechuk.io/>



Leeds Trinity University

Leeds Trinity University is a public university in Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England. Originally established to provide qualified teachers to Catholic schools, it gradually expanded and now offers foundation, undergraduate, and postgraduate degrees in a range of humanities and social sciences.

<https://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/>



PEXA

PEXA is a world-leading digital exchange and data insights listed FinTech, LegalTech & PropTech business. PEXA's world-first digital settlement solution is revolutionising the way we exchange property and after major success in Australia, PEXA is looking to demonstrate the same value in the UK.

<https://pexauk.co.uk/>



Page White Farrer

We are one of the leading firms of specialist patent and trade mark attorneys in Europe with offices in the UK (London and Leeds) and Germany. We're experienced in all aspects of intellectual property law, and our clients range from multinational companies, to small start-ups and individual inventors.

<https://www.radar.com/>





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We are a specialist litigation and commercial law firm that uses legal expertise and digital tools to proactively manage, advise and deliver business solutions to reduce legal risk. We also specialise in the education and prevention of legal crises in the first place.

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SYKE

We are legal technology specialists with deep knowledge of legal operations. We provide integrated advice and delivery to maximize return on investment and speed adoption. We now have a multidisciplinary team of 130+ engineers across the globe, who speak more than 20 different languages, helping customers in multiple territories and jurisdictions.

<https://syke.tech/>



The University of Law

The University of Law is a for-profit private university in the United Kingdom, providing law degrees, specialist legal training and continuing professional development courses for British barristers and solicitors; it is the United Kingdom's largest law school.

<https://www.law.ac.uk/>



Toca

Toca is a UK software business with mission to help organisations solve complex development and integration challenges faster and at a fraction of the cost through a powerful combination of apps, automation and extensible integration in a single low-code platform.

<https://toca.io/>



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of Leeds

Established in 1904, the University of Leeds is one of the largest universities in the UK. We're part of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities and are renowned globally for the quality of our research and teaching.

<https://www.leeds.ac.uk/>



Walker Morris

Walker Morris is a commercial law firm, providing legal services for multinational companies, banks, insurance, retail, public & privately listed companies. At Walker Morris, we believe everyone is unique. We all have our own goals and visions for what we want our professional lives to look like.

<https://www.walkermorris.co.uk/>



Whitecap Consulting

Whitecap Consulting, established in May 2012, is a regional strategy consultancy helping clients analyse, develop and implement growth strategies. Working across a range of sectors, the firm's work is focused on three key service lines: direct client advisory, commercial due diligence, and market reports. Whitecap has 6 offices, all of which are in regional cities.

<https://www.whitecapconsulting.co.uk/>



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