

Tomorrow's lawyers: An introduction to your future

SUSSKIND, Richard. **Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future** (Second edition). Oxford University Press. EUA, 2017. 240 pages. ISBN: 978-0198796633.

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“[...] you're going to devote your lives to competing with these emerging technologies?”³

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³ SUSSKIND, Richard. Threats To Traditional Legal Practice: An Interview with Richard Susskind - Part 2. [Interview given to] Oliver Duchesne. **PRIORI**: October 31, 2018. Available in: <https://www.priorilegal.com/blog/threats-to-traditional-legal-practice-an-interview-with-richard-susskind-part-2>. Access on: 08 jan. 2022.

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Among the main social and global changes that took place between the end of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century, it can be said that the advancement of digital technologies (software) is one of the most notable and permanent. Consequently, society undergoes successive adaptations regarding the practical adherence of these technologies in their daily lives. However, as with any transition period, there are still challenges to be overcome.

Indeed, not only individuals are affected by the impacts of emerging technologies, but also everything related to coexistence, modes of production and other activities. Thus, among the various examples of these articulations, work stands out and, with it, the contemporary and global concern to replace manual human work by the performance provided by digital technologies, a concern mainly caused by the constant development of robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

With these assumptions presented, it is observed that Law and the legal professions do not escape the impacts of emerging technologies, resulting in recurring dilemmas between the practice of legal traditionalism and adherence to innovations provided by new technologies, a debate addressed in the work reviewed here.

The international bestseller, "Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future", was originally published in 2013 by Oxford University Press (OUP) and is authored by Professor Doctor Richard Susskind, one of the most renowned authors in the field of Law and relationship with new technologies, as well as the future of law and other legal professions, being president of the "Computers and Law Society", of the "Advisory Group for Online Dispute Resolution of the Civil Justice Council" and of the "Institute Internet Advisory Board" Oxford", where he works as a visiting professor, also teaching at University College London (UCL), Gresham College, London, and at the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow.

His works have already been translated into 10 languages, among which the following stand out: "Expert Systems in Law" (OUP, 1987); "The Future of Law" (OUP, 1996); "Transforming the Law" (OUP, 2000); "The Susskind Interviews: Legal Experts in Changing

Times” (Sweet & Maxwell, 2005); “The End of Lawyers? Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services” (OUP, 2008); "Tomorrow's Lawyers" (2013), among others.⁴

In the first edition of his work (2013), Susskind warns that the legal market will change more in the next 20 years than in the last two centuries, due to the following factors, pointing out its main causes and consequences: I) economic crises and the challenge of "more for less", as economic crises generate a paradox for the practice of law: they increase the demand for services, but, on the other hand, presuppose a decrease in the amounts charged for their provision, generating a disproportionate intensity of work to the profit; II) the liberalization of the legal market, which can be understood as the facilitation, provided by the internet, of conflict resolution extrajudicially, therefore, the figure of the lawyer being dispensed with; and III) information technology (IT), considering that the entire past mode of practicing law is in imminent change due to disruptive technologies, that is, technologies that are capable of causing a rupture between the traditional and technological innovations, imposing new models of action, adequacy and strategies for the new legal market.

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Ratifying his thesis of the motivations that generate change in the global legal scenario, as well as its consequences, in the second edition of his prognosis, released in 2017, Susskind makes necessary updates regarding legal relations, their new characteristics, and also weaving new one's pertinent considerations about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Law.

The work is divided into three parts, from which the author demonstrates the concreteness of his hypothesis, proposing, in addition to motivations and consequences, to present the new legal context and the predictable effects generated by the permeation of emerging technologies, an opportunity in which offers guidance to law students, lawyers, law firms (of all experience levels) and legal professionals who choose to build a future in which they use technology to their advantage rather than to a competitive degree.

The first part of the work, entitled RADICAL CHANGES IN THE LEGAL MARKET, in which 5 subtopics or thematic elements are developed, respectively: 1 - Three drivers of change; 2 - Strategies for success; 3 - Commoditizing the law, 4 - Working differently; and 5 - Legal Disruptive Technologies.

⁴ For more information about the author, his trajectory and works, visit: <http://www.susskind.com/>.

In the second part, it develops THE NEW LANDSCAPE, consisting of the following thematic elements: 6 - The future for law firms; 7 - The role for in-house lawyers; 8 - The timing of the changes; 9 - Access to justice and online legal services; 10 - Judges, IT, and virtual courts; 11 - Online dispute; and 12 – “The Future of Law” revisited.

Finally, the third part of the work, PROSPECTS FOR NEW LAWYERS, ends with the following approaches: 13 - New jobs for lawyers; 14 - Who will employ young lawyers; 15 - Training lawyers for what?; 16 - Replacing the old training ground; 17 - Questions to ask employers; and 18 - Artificial intelligence and the long.

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A partir dessas considerações, pode-se afirmar que a previsão inicial do autor – em relação às mudanças radicais no mercado jurídico – já estão em curso e a tendência é o seu prosseguimento, de forma que os três fatores que são indicados como as causas das mudanças (crises econômicas, liberalização do mercado jurídico e a tecnologia da informação) ocasionam constantes desafios aos profissionais e futuros profissionais do direito. Porém, em conformidade com as ponderações do autor, o que determina a superação desses desafios é a forma pela qual esses profissionais utilizam tecnologias como meios auxiliares para construção de novos parâmetros para exercício da profissão.

In the current legal context of many countries, including Brazil and other countries in the Americas, digital technologies increasingly occupy spaces and impose changes, for example, the constant development and scope of electronic petitions; algorithms for searching jurisprudence and storing sensitive data; data search tools for citation and execution; legal startups, such as “lawtechs” or “legaltechs”, among other examples.

It also highlights the challenges that emerged during the SARS-COV-2 (covid-19) pandemic period, with the consequent social isolation and the need to continue online legal services, among which the following stand out: remote work/ home office and the execution of online services, online meetings and hearings, electronic petition, among others. It remains clear the directions of these changes that affect all parties (representatives, represented, judiciary) and that adapting to new technologies becomes not only a supportive means, but, to a certain extent, necessary for survival.

It is concluded, then, that the notes on the work of Richard Susskind are constituted as elements of a new legal market in constant transition, elements constituted by virtue of the rise

of emerging technologies and which are originally responses to the need for access to and enforcement of justice for all. Thus, it is necessary that lawyers, law firms and other professionals in legal careers, devise new strategies to build a future in which professions essential to justice are better provided with the help of emerging technologies.

Likewise, law schools that are still preparing future jurists to live the practice in a past model, must create new practical teaching methods and adequate to new technological realities, because in the current legal market there are also those who compete with the technologies and its purposes, in order to deprive information and restrict access to justice, limiting it to restrictive standards. However, the exercise of change in the legal market indicates that these restrictions are in imminent decline, leaving new lawyers and other legal professionals to adapt to the new realities and ensure the promotion of justice for all.

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