

Litel2

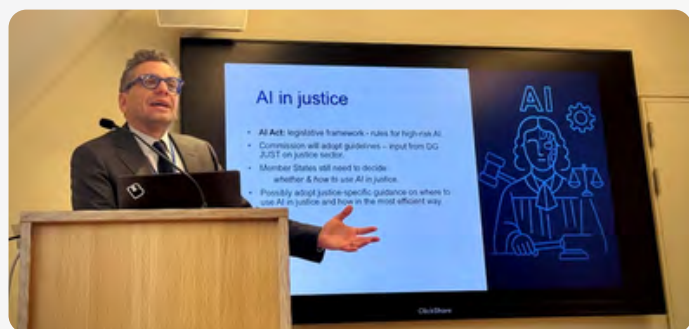
Lawyers Innovative Training for European Law



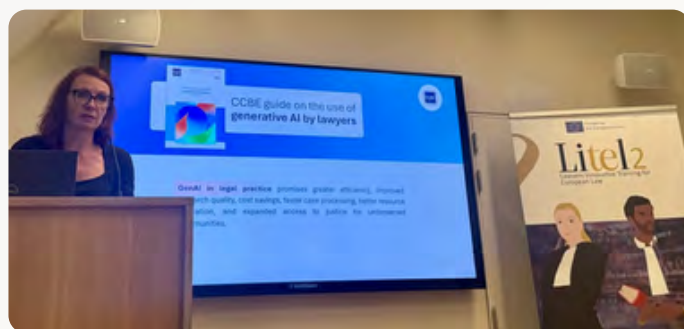
N°2 JANUARY 2026

Preparing lawyers for ethical AI use

As part of the LITEL 2 project, a new Study Visit was held in the beautiful setting of the Brussels Bar's (French section) Maison de l'Avocat, focusing on AI and Ethics in lawyer training. Being in Brussels offered the opportunity to welcome **Wojciech Postulski** (DG JUST, European Commission), just as the new **DigitalJustice@2030 Strategy** and the **European Judicial Training Strategy 2025-2030** were released. The programme also featured **Anna Drozd** (CCBE) who presented the CCBE's new Guidelines on the Ethical Use of AI by lawyers. Discussions throughout the visit highlighted key ethical challenges, risks, and training needs for institutions across Europe. A valuable step forward for the project !



Wojciech Postulski, European Commission DG Just



Anna Drozd, senior legal advisor CCBE

A look back at the Brussels Study Visit



4-5 December 2025



Brussels bar association

The second Study Visit of the LITEL 2 project took place in Brussels on 4–5 December 2025, gathering representatives from six partner institutions, guests, and experts to explore the ethical challenges of using artificial intelligence in legal practice and training. Hosted at the Brussels bar association, under the coordination of **Pierre-Yves Thoumsin** with the OFAB training team, the event focused on the responsibilities of legal training institutions in preparing future "lawyers for the ethical use of AI. Over two days, participants examined how AI tools intersect with professional ethics, data protection, and fundamental rights, including confidentiality, non-discrimination, and the right to a fair trial. The visit opened with a roundtable where partners shared national initiatives and challenges in integrating AI and ethics into training programmes. Sessions combined expert presentations and interactive workshops, covering topics such as :

- **The use of AI by judges and implications for due process;**
- **The CCBE's ethical guidelines for AI use in legal practice;**
- **How to draft AI usage policies for law firms;**
- **A hands-on workshop on prompt engineering and ethical case studies.**

Representatives from the EFB (France), the Law Society of Ireland, the UNBR (Romania), the CICAC (Council of Catalan Bars), the Brussels bar (French section) and the Czech bar, project partners, were present. The bar associations of Estonia, Warsaw and Siena were also represented, as well as the initial training centre of the Netherlands, which helped to enrich the discussions.

For further reading :

Key guidelines on AI and Ethics

- **CCBE Guidelines**
- **Guidelines for judges on the responsible use of generative AI** (Law Society of Ireland)
- **AI Ethical Toolkit** (Law Society of Ireland)
- **Guidance on Generative AI for the legal professional in Ireland** (Law Society of Ireland)
- **White paper on AI** (Paris bar)
- **Artificial Intelligence and the legal profession, CNB** (Paris bar)
- **Guidelines for lawyers on the use of AI** (OBFG/OVB) (Brussels bar)
- **AI use Guidelines** (Estonian bar association)
- **ICAM Guide to good practices for the use of AI in the legal profession** (Madrid bar)

INSIGHTS FROM THE **Scientific Committee**

The experts of the Scientific Committee are currently focusing on two key modules of the upcoming AI Training Kit : Prompting techniques and the regulatory framework. These interactive activities will serve as a foundation for the development of the remaining modules. As a reminder, the Kit will consist of 10 structured learning activities designed to provide a comprehensive and adaptable resource. It will enable any training centre in Europe to equip trainee lawyers and practicing professionals with the tools for a safe and responsible use of AI.

VOICES

FROM THE FIELD

Inside legal training

Fabrice Hambersin, President of Initial and Continuing Training of the Brussels bar and member of the Council of the Brussels bar



Fabrice Hambersin has been a lawyer at the Brussels bar for 22 years, specializing in intellectual property law and communication law. Alongside his work as a lawyer, he also teaches at the Albert Jacquard High School of Arts, which specializes in the production of video games, 3D and 2D animated films, advertising, and communication (transmedia and journalism). It is on the basis of these two roles that he decided to embark on this wonderful adventure within the Bar Council, particularly in matters related to the training of trainee lawyers and lawyers registered on the Brussels bar.

Q How did you design AI training for lawyers?

The Brussels bar immediately felt the need to rapidly support lawyers in this essential digital and technological transition, both for younger lawyers (within initial training) and for more experienced lawyers.

We developed the “BOOST NUMERIQUE” project, which enables lawyers to attend a series of conferences on the application of AI in different areas of legal practice.

Our objective is to train lawyers to use AI prudently (verifying sources or multiplying information sources), in accordance with our ethical rules and with a strong sense of responsibility, in order to avoid an increase in malpractice resulting from the misuse of AI in judicial proceedings or contract drafting.

Indeed, we are already being approached by judges regarding certain abuses in the use of AI by some colleagues (a very small minority, I must emphasize). We have also introduced AI-related courses within initial training, delivered by young lawyers specialized in the field.

Q Could you present the main features of the initial training provided by the Brussels bar (French section) ?

Marie DUPONT, President of the Brussels bar, wished to profoundly reform initial training, meaning the training provided to young trainee lawyers (CAPA). First of all, it should be recalled that, unlike France, there is no entrance examination in Belgium, nor any prior training required to register on the list of trainee lawyers. Following an in-depth educational audit conducted in 2023, we decided to develop four pillars :

1. **The first pillar** concerns the compulsory core curriculum of basic training for trainee lawyers, with both theoretical and practical courses in subjects such as professional ethics, criminal procedure, civil procedure, administrative procedure, the practice of legal aid, the use of alternative dispute resolution methods (mediation, arbitration, etc.), as well as an introduction to AI. For the past year, we have been developing a genuine e-learning process (videos, quizzes, case studies) for certain courses, complemented by practical Q&A sessions.
2. **The second pillar** consists of compulsory practical seminars focused on communication skills, advocacy, and negotiation.
3. **The third pillar** was created around an advanced course in professional ethics and several optional courses to be chosen from a wide and diverse range of training programmes (advanced criminal law, traffic law, family law, corporate law, reading financial statements, time and priority management, stress management and burnout prevention, etc.).
4. **The fourth pillar** requires trainee lawyers to provide free first-line legal consultations for disadvantaged litigants and to take part in projects organised by the bar (shadowing a bailiff, a judge, or a prosecutor in the exercise of their duties).

Q In your view, what are the main future challenges for lawyer training in Europe?

The digital world and technologies continue to develop rapidly. They can be our greatest ally as well as our worst enemy. Our challenge will be to continue quickly understanding their developments and their positive and negative impacts, mastering them and adapting them to our professional practice, while taking several key elements into account : respect for ethical rules, prudence, responsibility, and integrity.

Indeed, faced with a growing political will to increasingly interfere in the regulation of our profession, the best weapon and main argument that our profession will be able to rely on is the competence of lawyers and their commitment to continuous training, for the benefit of all litigants.

The quality and modernity of the training offered to lawyers must form the backbone of all reflections carried out by bar associations to safeguard our profession in Europe.

AI changemakers in the legal world

Geoffroy Blondiau, Lawyer and AI lecturer at the Brussels bar



Q As an AI trainer for the Brussels bar, how do you address the issue of the ethical use of artificial intelligence among lawyers ? What concerns or difficulties most often arise during your training sessions?

We adopted a combined approach that brings together both legal and technical aspects.

Legal issues (AI Act, GDPR, IP, deontology, etc.) are of course central to our profession, but technical understanding of AI is equally crucial: knowing how an AI system works helps lawyers understand when it performs well, where its limitations lie, and in which situations AI is likely to make mistakes.

During the training sessions, the same concerns arise repeatedly : which AI tools can a lawyer safely use, and may they upload personal data? It is difficult to give definitive guidance on tools as they evolve almost daily, so I focus on providing clear criteria that allow lawyers to select secure and appropriate AI solutions.

Q How do you imagine the legal profession will evolve over the next ten years, given that AI is already reshaping legal practice?

Today, AI is used mainly as a drafting assistant, yet its role already extends far beyond that : research, data analysis, marketing, administrative automation, client-support agents, and more. AI will evolve from a tool into a full work environment, with the vast majority of tasks becoming automated, while the lawyer remains the strategic conductor. Conversely, lawyers who resist these tools will struggle to meet client evolving expectations and may ultimately no longer find their place within the profession. Personally, I am quite optimistic: in my classes, I have observed that virtually all trainee lawyers actively use AI. This is a very encouraging sign for the future of our profession.

Q The OFAB has developed JEF, an AI system dedicated to members of the Bar. What were the determining factors that led to the creation of this tool ? What tangible benefits can lawyers expect in their daily work ?

Using AI has become indispensable, yet its adoption is constrained for lawyers who must handle confidential and personal client data. Our goal was therefore to offer an AI environment with enhanced control over data, while reducing errors and hallucinations as far as possible.

JEF enables lawyers to work with confidential and personal data, relying solely on the knowledge base the lawyer provides. It saves precious time every day for the 1,200 lawyers who use it and has become a genuine tool for developing, refining and challenging their ideas and written work.

**next
STEPS**

**21-22
APRIL**

**Upcoming Study Visit in Bucharest
focused on data protection aspects for an
institution responsible for training lawyers**



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