

CFRED's 1st LawTech Seminar:

**CAN LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE OF
MACHINE LAWYERING?**

by

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The CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Road, Central

Automation is rapidly entering the practice of law. Law is essentially information and lawyers must think about this information in highly logical, informed ways. Processing information in highly logical ways is what computers do best. It is therefore no surprise that information technology has found quick acceptance in law practices around the world. The analysis of tens of thousands of documents in anticipation of trial or a corporate transaction was once a training ground for young lawyers, then was shifted in part to paralegals, and is finally being delegated to machine scanning with limited artificial intelligence. Simple memoranda of law, one of the primary work products of young lawyers, can now be prepared by artificially intelligent computer systems as easily as Google Maps can compile directions to the nearest Starbucks. Standardized contracts, another activity of less senior counsel, can now be assembled clause by clause as quickly as Amazon can suggest to you new books based on your previous purchases. These machines work without rest and – when networked – can amass information and improve their output faster than is possible for an individual lawyer. When a skillful and experienced lawyer can supplement his own activity with such automated assistance, the need for less-skilled lawyers (previously used on simpler or more regular tasks) significantly reduces and the profit positions of senior lawyers (with fewer potential partners) can materially improve. Efficiency thus speaks against our current training model. When should law schools start preparing their students to ‘leap frog’ such machine applications into higher skilled, more ‘human’ activity? Should students be trained to interact with such machine lawyering tools? If these questions will soon become urgent, can such education be undertaken within curricula as currently structured?

**All are welcome!
Admission is free of charge!**

To join us, please register your interest [here](#) by 21 February 2018.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



David Donald has been a Professor in the Faculty of Law at The Chinese University of Hong Kong since 2008. In 2010, he founded the CUHK Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development and served as its executive director until 2013, and again from 2017. In 2014 he founded the CUHK New Ventures Legal Team (NVLT), a clinical support group for the University's Pre-Incubation Centre for startup companies. In 2017 NVLT was turned into the New Ventures Legal Clinic in conjunction with the CUHK Entrepreneurship Initiative.

From 2003 until 2008, David taught at the Institute for Law and Finance of the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. For the decade preceding that he worked as a commercial, corporate and securities lawyer in Washington, Milan, Rome and Frankfurt. David has written extensively on market structure, securities clearing and settlement, and corporate law.