Onit

Better Call GPT

Contract Review: Comparing LLMs to Humans

Under pressure to review more contracts with tighter budgets and shorter timelines, legal teams have long relied on Junior Lawyers or LPOs. But now, generative AI is stepping in and we asked: Can LLMs actually outperform human lawyers at contract review?

Research by Onit's AI Center of Excellence

Methodology

To put our research to the test, we used ten real-world procurement contracts — anonymized and split between U.S. and New Zealand jurisdictions. Senior lawyers served as our gold standard benchmark.

Law firms using AI can save 200 hours and $100,000 in new billable time per lawyer each year.

Thomson Reuters

Research Questions

Do LLMs outperform Junior Lawyers and LPOs in spotting legal issues? **?**

Can LLMs review contracts faster than Junior Lawyers and LPOs? **?**

Can LLMs review contracts more cheaply than Junior Lawyers and LPOs? **?**

Results

Accuracy
AI is just as good — or even better — than people at spotting legal issues.

AI vs Humans: Determining Legal Issues

	PRECISION	F-SCORE
LPO	0.933	0.874
GPT4-1106	0.835	0.871
Junior	0.876	0.860
Claude 2.0	0.743	0.817
GPT4-32k	0.958	0.820
Claude 2.1	0.723	0.809
Palm2 text-bison	0.617	0.708
GPT3.5	0.531	0.657

*Precision: how often the model correctly flags real legal issues.

AI vs Humans: Locating Legal Issues

	PRECISION	F-SCORE
LPO	0.915	0.770
GPT4-32K	0.847	0.740
Claude 2.1	0.911	0.701
GPT4-1106	0.857	0.686
Junior	0.866	0.667
Claude 2.0	0.812	0.631
GPT3.5	0.633	0.620
Palm2 text-bison	0.563	0.452

*F-score: how well a model balances precision and recall.

Speed
AI reviews contracts up to 77 times faster than humans.

AI vs Humans: Time per Document

ROLE	AVERAGE TIME PER DOCUMENT (MINUTES)
Senior Lawyer	43.46
Junior Lawyer	56.17
LPO	201.00
GPT4-1106	4.70
GPT4-32K	2.11
GPT3.5	1.44
Claude 2.1	2.05
Claude 2.0	1.63
Palm2 text-bison	0.73

Cost
AI review is 99.97% cheaper than traditional methods.

AI vs Humans: Cost per Document

ROLE	AVERAGE COST PER DOCUMENT (MINUTES)
Senior Lawyer	75.92
Junior Lawyer	74.26
LPO	36.85
GPT4-1106	0.25
GPT4-32K	1.24
GPT3.5	0.05
Claude 2.1	0.02
Claude 2.0	0.02
Palm2 text-bison	0.03

Real-World Impact

Evolving Roles
Junior Lawyers will increasingly shift toward high-value, strategic legal work.

Early Mover Advantage
Legal departments that integrate LLMs early will gain a significant competitive edge.

High-Stakes Race
An arms race will develop in the legal sector.

Power the future of contract review

READ THE WHITEPAPER

Onit provides premium workflow automation experiences for sophisticated, legal-related business processes – all from a single platform.

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