

Corporate Lawyers

AI augmenting legal research, document review, and case analysis in corporate law.

EXPOSURE	WINDOW	ADOPTION TODAY	READING
45 Elevated exposure	5–10 yrs until change lands	Medium	The role is being reshaped. Exposure is the share of today's work AI can plausibly take on within the window.

§ 01WHAT IS HAPPENING

What is happening to corporate lawyers

Impact	AI tools are increasingly used for tasks like e-discovery, contract analysis, legal re-search, and compliance checks, shifting Corporate Lawyers' focus towards strategy, client counsel, and complex transactional work.
Risk	Significant role augmentation by AI; premium on human judgment in complex corporate matters. The Corporate Lawyer role is undergoing significant augmentation. AI will auto-mate many routine research and document processing tasks, requiring lawyers to become proficient with legal tech and focus on strategic advisory, complex transactional structuring, and nuanced legal interpretation in corporate governance, M&A, and compliance.
Sector readiness	Actively Adopting & Regulating Law firms and legal departments are adopting AI tools for efficiency and enhanced capabilities, while the profession also grapples with the ethical and regulatory implications of AI in corporate law.

§ 02 POSITION

Where you stand

- i The Corporate Lawyer role is undergoing a profound and accelerating redefinition by AI, fundamentally restructuring legal research, document review, and compliance.
- ii AI will autonomously manage vast routine data, optimize document analysis, and streamline compliance, compelling Corporate Lawyers to pivot to indispensable strategic counsel and profound human relationship building.
- iii Survival and impact will hinge on Corporate Lawyers mastering AI tools, critically validating AI outputs for legal soundness, championing ethical AI, and providing irreplaceable human judgment and advocacy at the heart of corporate integrity.

§ 03 ACTIONS

15 POINTS

What this means for you

Concrete changes to how the work gets done, in the order you are likely to meet them.

- 01 **AI-Powered Contract Analysis & Management.** Corporate Lawyers are increasingly leveraging AI platforms that autonomously review vast volumes of contracts. AI identifies key clauses, extracts relevant data points, flags risks or deviations from standard terms, and assists in managing contract lifecycles, radically accelerating due diligence.
- 02 **AI-Driven Due Diligence & Document Review.** Corporate Lawyers will oversee AI systems that autonomously sift through immense data rooms during M&A or financing deals, identifying relevant documents, flagging privileged information, and highlighting potential liabilities. This dramatically reduces manual review time, demanding validation of AI outputs for accuracy.
- 03 **Automated Compliance Monitoring & Risk Assessment.** AI tools are autonomously monitoring corporate communications, transactions, and internal policies for compliance with complex regulatory frameworks (e.g., securities laws, anti-bribery regulations, data privacy laws). Corporate Lawyers will intervene for flagged anomalies, ensuring adherence and mitigating legal risk.
- 04 **Generative AI for Legal Drafting (Contracts, Memos).** AI can autonomously draft initial versions of routine contracts (e.g., NDAs, vendor agreements), corporate resolutions, legal memos, and even sections of complex transactional documents. This streamlines documentation, allowing Corporate Lawyers to focus on strategic negotiation and bespoke legal language.
- 05 **AI-Assisted Legal Research & Precedent Analysis.** Corporate Lawyers will utilize AI tools that autonomously search and analyze vast databases of case law, statutes, and regulatory guidance relevant to corporate matters. AI identifies relevant precedents and synthesizes complex legal information, accelerating research.

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- 06 **Focus on Strategic Legal Counsel & Transaction Structuring.** As AI assumes command of data-driven tasks, the paramount value of Corporate Lawyers shifts profoundly towards providing high-level strategic legal advice, structuring complex corporate transactions (M&A, IPOs), and navigating intricate legal and business challenges.
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- 07 **AI-Driven Corporate Governance & Board Support.** AI tools are assisting Corporate Lawyers in managing corporate governance by tracking board resolutions, compliance with bylaws, and identifying potential conflicts of interest. This streamlines oversight and ensures adherence to best practices.
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- 08 **Ethical AI in Corporate Legal Practice & Bias Mitigation.** Corporate Lawyers will be at the forefront of addressing the ethical implications of AI in their practice, particularly concerning algorithmic bias in data analysis, ensuring client data privacy, and upholding the highest ethical standards for legal advice and corporate conduct.
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- 09 **Human-AI Teaming for Complex Deals.** Corporate Lawyers will operate in seamless human-AI teams. AI will process vast data, generate initial drafts, and provide analytical insights, while the human lawyer leads complex negotiations, applies nuanced legal judgment, and resolves unforeseen issues in high-stakes corporate transactions.
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- 10 **AI for IP Due Diligence (Corporate).** In corporate transactions involving intellectual property, AI tools will autonomously assess patent portfolios, identify potential infringement risks, and evaluate IP strength. Corporate Lawyers will leverage these insights for comprehensive IP due diligence.
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- 11 **Continuous Learning & Legal Tech Literacy.** The exponential pace of AI integration in corporate law demands that Corporate Lawyers commit to continuous, aggressive learning of new AI-powered legal tech tools, advanced analytics platforms, and their profound capabilities and ethical implications, as a foundational competency for effective practice.
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- 12 **Specialization in AI & Data Law.** The rise of AI is creating new specializations for Corporate Lawyers focusing on AI ethics, data privacy (e.g., GDPR, CCPA compliance), AI regulation, and legal issues arising from autonomous technologies within corporate contexts.
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- 13 **AI-Powered Litigation Prediction (Corporate Disputes).** AI models can autonomously analyze historical litigation data, legal arguments, and judge rulings to predict potential outcomes of corporate disputes or M&A litigation, informing negotiation and settlement strategies.
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- 14 **Leadership in Legal Innovation & Transformation.** Corporate Lawyers in leadership roles will play a crucial role in guiding their legal departments or firms through the pervasive adoption of AI, advocating for strategic legal tech solutions, and fundamentally reshaping the future of corporate law.
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- 15 **Strategic Client Acquisition & Relationship Management.** As AI streamlines tactical tasks, Corporate Lawyers will dedicate more time to fostering profound, long-term relationships with corporate clients, understanding their business strategies, and acting as trusted legal advisors for complex matters.
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What is pushing this change

- 01

Explosive Growth of Corporate Legal Data (Contracts, Filings, Emails). Vast amounts of contracts, corporate filings, communications, and legal precedents provide rich input for AI models.
- 02

Advancements in AI/ML (NLP, Predictive Analytics, Generative AI). Breakthroughs in AI fields enable sophisticated text understanding, autonomous content generation, and intelligent predictions for legal outcomes.
- 03

Urgent Demand for Speed & Efficiency in Legal Due Diligence. Corporate transactions (M&A, financing) require rapid review of vast documentation, compelling AI adoption.
- 04

Complexity of Global Regulations & Corporate Transactions. Navigating diverse global regulations, complex cross-border transactions, and intricate legal structures is challenging; AI assists.
- 05

Need for Proactive Risk Management & Compliance. AI can identify hidden risks, potential liabilities, and flag non-compliance in vast datasets, enhancing due diligence.
- 06

Shortage of Skilled Corporate Lawyers (Entry/Mid-level). The demand for corporate lawyers with deep legal and business expertise often outstrips supply; AI can augment.
- 07

Growth of Legal Tech Solutions. A growing ecosystem of AI-powered tools is available for legal research, document review, and contract analysis.
- 08

Client Expectations for Faster & More Cost-Effective Legal Services. Clients demand faster, more efficient, and transparent legal services, driving AI adoption.
- 09

Global Competition in Legal Services. Legal firms compete globally on speed, cost, and analytical capabilities; AI offers a competitive edge.
- 10

Focus on Ethical AI & Responsible Business. AI's use in legal practice raises ethical questions about bias, privacy, and accountability, requiring careful consideration.

Impact by sector

The headline figure is an average. Where you work changes the picture.

M&A Lawyers	AI for autonomous due diligence, contract review in deals, and M&A litigation prediction. Focus on deal structuring and risk assessment.
Corporate Governance Lawyers	AI for monitoring board resolutions, identifying conflicts of interest, and ensuring regulatory compliance. Focus on governance best practices.

Compliance Lawyers	AI for autonomous regulatory monitoring, policy adherence checks, and AML/KYC screening. Focus on proactive compliance and risk mitigation.
Contract Lawyers	AI for autonomous contract review, drafting, and lifecycle management. Focus on complex negotiation and bespoke clauses.
In-House Corporate Counsel	AI for managing internal legal research, compliance monitoring, and streamlining routine legal support. Focus on strategic internal advice and operational efficiency.

Skills to build

The skills that keep the human part of this work valuable as the routine part is automated.

- 01 **Legal Reasoning & Critical Analysis.** The core ability to apply legal principles to complex corporate facts, make nuanced judgments, and strategize within a corporate context.
- 02 **AI/Legal Tech Literacy & Oversight.** Proficiency in using AI-powered contract analysis, e-discovery, legal research, and compliance monitoring tools, and interpreting AI insights.
- 03 **Transactional Law & Business Acumen.** Deep understanding of corporate law, M&A, capital markets, and business operations to structure and execute complex transactions.
- 04 **Ethical AI Use & Data Privacy.** Upholding the highest ethical standards in legal practice, ensuring client data privacy, and understanding potential biases in AI outputs.
- 05 **Communication & Negotiation.** Effectively articulating complex legal advice, negotiating deal terms, and persuading stakeholders in corporate settings.
- 06 **Problem-Solving & Legal Strategy.** The ability to diagnose complex legal issues, find innovative solutions to ambiguous corporate challenges, and develop effective legal strategies.
- 07 **Regulatory Compliance & Corporate Governance.** Deep knowledge of corporate governance best practices, securities laws, and industry-specific regulations, leveraging AI for compliance.
- 08 **Adaptability & Continuous Learning.** Willingness to rapidly learn new AI technologies, adapt legal methodologies, and stay updated on evolving corporate law and business trends.

Tools in use

KINDS OF TOOL WORTH KNOWING

- 01 **AI-Powered Contract Analysis & CLM (Contract Lifecycle Management).** Software that uses AI to autonomously review, extract data from, and manage contracts throughout their lifecycle, identifying risks and obligations.
- 02 **AI for Legal Due Diligence.** AI tools that autonomously process vast amounts of unstructured data (e.g., emails, internal documents) for relevance and privilege during due diligence.
- 03 **AI for Regulatory Intelligence & Compliance Monitoring.** AI platforms that autonomously scan regulatory updates, legal documents, and news feeds to identify new compliance obligations and monitor adherence.
- 04 **Generative AI for Legal Drafting.** Large Language Models (LLMs) specialized for legal text that autonomously draft initial versions of legal memos, corporate resolutions, and contracts.
- 05 **AI-Assisted Legal Research Platforms.** AI-powered search engines that autonomously sift through vast legal databases, case law, and regulations to retrieve relevant information for corporate law.
- 06 **AI for Litigation Prediction (Corporate).** AI models that autonomously analyze historical litigation data, legal arguments, and judicial rulings to predict outcomes of corporate disputes.

NAMED TOOLS ALREADY IN USE

Kira Systems / Luminance (Contract Analysis)

VISIT

Leading AI-powered contract analysis and CLM platforms that use AI to automate contract review and management.

Datasite (Due Diligence Platform with AI) / Relativity (e-discovery)

VISIT

Platforms for managing virtual data rooms and e-discovery, integrating AI for document analysis and relevance identification during due diligence.

Compliance.ai / CUBE (Regulatory Intelligence)

VISIT

RegTech platforms that leverage AI for autonomous regulatory monitoring and impact analysis, specifically for corporate compliance.

LexisNexis (Lexis+ AI) / Casetext (CoCounsel AI)

VISIT

Generative AI models and legal research platforms that assist in drafting legal documents and provide enhanced legal research capabilities.

Thomson Reuters (Westlaw Edge AI) / Evisort (AI Contract Platform)

VISIT

AI-powered legal research and information retrieval platforms that use advanced search and NLP to find relevant legal documents.

Juristat (AI for Patent Prosecution Analytics, concept applies) / Legal Analytics (LexisNexis) VISIT
AI-powered analytics tools that predict outcomes in litigation or regulatory enforcement, informing strategic decisions in corporate disputes.

In practice

Ways people in this role are already using AI, and what they get from it.

Automate Contract Review

EXAMPLE 1

HOW

Corporate Lawyers will oversee an AI-powered contract analysis platform. The AI will autonomously review vast numbers of contracts, identify key clauses, extract relevant data points, and flag deviations from standard terms or potential risks for the lawyer's review.

GAIN

Significantly reduces manual contract review time, identifies risks faster, and streamlines contract management for large enterprises.

Perform AI-Driven Due Diligence

EXAMPLE 2

HOW

Corporate Lawyers will utilize an AI tool that autonomously sifts through millions of documents in a virtual data room during M&A due diligence. The AI will identify relevant emails, financial records, and legal agreements, highlighting potential liabilities and synergies.

GAIN

Dramatically accelerates due diligence processes, uncovers hidden risks in vast datasets, and provides a more comprehensive overview of target companies.

Monitor Regulatory Compliance

EXAMPLE 3

HOW

Corporate Lawyers will deploy an AI-powered regulatory intelligence platform. The AI will autonomously scan new laws and regulations, identify changes relevant to the corporation, and assess their impact on internal policies and procedures for compliance.

GAIN

Ensures real-time awareness of regulatory changes, automates compliance checks, and proactively mitigates legal and reputational risks for corporations.

Generate Legal Memos

EXAMPLE 4

HOW

Corporate Lawyers can instruct a generative AI tool to draft a legal memo outlining the implications of a new regulation on a corporate activity. By providing key legal principles and facts, the AI will autonomously generate a structured memo for the lawyer's refinement.

GAIN

Saves significant drafting time, ensures consistent legal language, and allows lawyers to focus on strategic legal reasoning and complex arguments.

Predict Litigation Outcomes

EXAMPLE 5

HOW

Corporate Lawyers can leverage an AI model that autonomously analyzes historical corporate litigation data, legal arguments, and judicial rulings. The AI will predict the likelihood of a lawsuit's success or failure, informing settlement strategies and risk assessment.

GAIN

Provides data-backed insights into potential litigation outcomes, informs negotiation strategies, and helps manage legal risk more proactively.

§ 09 CONTEXT

How this role compares

Three neighbouring roles chosen to show the direction of travel.

Legal Researchers (Basic search) / Document Reviewers (Routine review)

MORE EXPOSED

AI IMPACT

Catastrophic (AI can autonomously conduct vast legal research; AI can perform routine document review and privilege logging.)

WORK MOVES TO

Immediate need for radical re-skilling into AI oversight, data quality management for AI, or specialization in complex legal analysis.

AI Legal Tech Developers / AI Compliance Data Scientists

DIFFERENT SKILLS, GROWING

AI IMPACT

Foundational (They design and build the AI algorithms and systems that power advanced legal research and compliance.)

WORK MOVES TO

Deep expertise in AI/ML algorithms, NLP, data science, and software engineering, with a focus on legal applications.

General Counsel (Overall legal strategy) / M&A Advisors (Strategic deal-making)

COMPLEMENTARY, LESS EXPOSED

AI IMPACT

Low-Moderate Augmentation (AI assists in research for General Counsel; AI helps with due diligence for M&A Advisors), but core strategic legal leadership, complex business negotiation, and ultimate deal responsibility remain paramount.

WORK MOVES TO

Overall legal strategy, risk management, and ethical leadership for the organization (General Counsel); Strategic deal structuring, financial negotiation, and overall transaction management (M&A Advisors).

§ 10 VERDICT

Closing judgement

For Corporate Lawyers, AI is not merely a tool but a radical force of transformation that will fundamentally redefine their role. It will autonomously handle the mundane, amplify research and analysis, and streamline compliance, compelling lawyers to pivot to indispensable strategic counsel, profound client relationships, and ethical oversight. The future Corporate Lawyer will be a visionary orchestrator of human-AI collaboration, providing irreplaceable judgment and advocacy at the heart of corporate integrity.

§ 11 BASIS

REVISED 4 OCTOBER 2026

Evidence and revisions

What the exposure figure rests on, what changed when it was last revised, and the published work cited for this role.

SCORE

40 to 45

WINDOW

5-10 years (unchanged)

The 4 October 2026 review moved the score up by 5 points.

Microsoft's AI applicability score for the matching occupation is 0.18, in the upper half of 785 US occupations; Anthropic's observed exposure (the share of the occupation's tasks already being done with Claude) is 0.17, which is substantial by the standards of the 756 occupations measured; the US Bureau of Labor Statistics places it in the 'very high' AI-exposure tier; BLS projects employment to grow 4.7% over 2025–35. Blending our 2025 editorial figure (60%) with the 2026 evidence composite (40%) moves the score from 40 to 45.

MEASURES BEHIND THE SCORE

US Bureau of Labor Statistics · *Employment Projections 2025–35 and AI Exposure Categories* (27 August 2026)

AI-exposure tier: Very high. Projected employment change 2025–35: +4.7%. Matched to Lawyers.

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Microsoft Research · *Working with AI: Measuring the Applicability of Generative AI to Occupations* (10 July 2025)

AI applicability score 0.18 (percentile 64 of 785 occupations) for SOC 23-1011.

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Anthropic · *Anthropic Economic Index report: Cadences* (26 June 2026)

Observed exposure 0.17 for SOC 23-1011 (percentile 82 of 756 occupations).

PUBLISHER PDF

World Economic Forum · *The Future of Jobs Report 2025* (7 January 2025)

Legal secretaries and legal officials appear on the WEF declining list for the first time in the 2025 edition.

PUBLISHER PDF

UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology · *Assessment of AI capabilities and the impact on the UK labour market* (28 January 2026)

UK context: around 70% of UK workers are in occupations with tasks AI could perform or enhance, above the US average; a one-standard-deviation rise in exposure was associated with a 3.9% fall in UK job postings.

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ALSO CITED FOR THIS ROLE

McKinsey Global Institute · *Agents, robots, and us: Skill partnerships in the age of AI* (25 November 2025)

Legal work is named among the "agent-centric" occupations where more than half of working hours are technically automatable with demonstrated AI agents.

PUBLISHER

Archived copies are served only where the licence permits; otherwise the link goes to the publisher. Full research library:
<https://www.careerguard.ai/sources>

§ 12 APPENDIX

Method and sources

Each report was written from a large body of published research and then, in October 2026, re-scored against occupation-level evidence: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics AI-exposure classification and 2025–35 projections, Microsoft Research's AI applicability scores and Anthropic's observed-exposure data, cross-checked against the reports listed in the Evidence section above. The organisations and publications below are the standing literature behind the narrative sections. Every source, with dates, licences and archived copies where we are permitted to hold them, is catalogued in the research library.

Scores are revised by blending the previous editorial figure (60%) with a composite of the three occupation-level measures (40%), capped at fifteen points per revision and rounded to the nearest five. The window shifts one notch when a score moves ten points or more. Hand adjustments are recorded with their reason in the revision log.

I GLOBAL AND MACROECONOMIC IMPACT OF AI ON WORK

World Economic Forum

The Future of Jobs Report series — Employer survey of expected job growth and decline, skill shifts and technology adoption (2020, 2023 and 2025 editions); *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Entry-Level Work* (2026).

AI governance and transformation reports — Frameworks on ethical AI, talent strategy and industry transformation.

McKinsey Global Institute

AI, Automation and the Future of Work series — Research quantifying automation potential by task, sector and demographic, from "Jobs Lost, Jobs Gained" to "Agents, robots, and us" (2025).

Industry-specific reports — Financial services, healthcare, manufacturing and others.

PwC

Global AI Jobs Barometer — Annual analysis of job postings and productivity by AI exposure (2024–2026 editions).

Upskilling Hopes and Fears survey — Employee perceptions and readiness.

Microsoft Research and Anthropic

Working with AI (2025); *Anthropic Economic Index* (2025–2026) — Occupation-level usage data from Copilot and Claude conversations, the two observed-usage measures behind the 2026 revision.

Stanford Digital Economy Lab and Stanford HAI

Canaries in the Coal Mine? (2025–2026); AI Index Report (annual) — Payroll evidence on early-career employment in exposed occupations; annual measurement of AI capability, investment and adoption.

Deloitte

Human Capital Trends series — Workforce, talent and HR technology trends.

Tech Trends series — Emerging technologies and their business implications.

Accenture

Technology Vision series — Forward-looking analysis of emerging technology, with emphasis on AI.

Fjord Trends — Design, innovation and human experience in a digital world.

Boston Consulting Group

AI/ML insights and industry solutions — "The AI Revolution in the Workplace" and related research.

EY

AI and workforce reports — Adoption, talent strategy and ethics.

IBM Institute for Business Value

AI and automation studies — Business models, workforce evolution and leadership.

OECD

AI Policy Observatory — International data and policy on AI, labour markets and skills.

Employment Outlook — Labour-market trends including technological impact (2023–2026 editions).

International Labour Organization

Generative AI and Jobs: A Refined Global Index of Occupational Exposure (2025) — Task-level exposure gradients for every ISCO occupation; successor to the 2023 global index.

International Monetary Fund

Staff Discussion Notes on AI and work (2024, 2026) — Complementarity framing: where AI augments and where it substitutes.

UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Assessment of AI capabilities and the impact on the UK labour market (2026) — UK occupational exposure and job-posting evidence.

Brookings Institution

AI and automation research — Economic and social implications, displacement and skills.

Yale Budget Lab and Goldman Sachs Research

Tracking the Impact of AI on the Labor Market; AI and the US labour market (2026) — Aggregate labour-market monitoring; macro displacement estimates.

Oxford University (Oxford Martin School)

The Future of Employment — Frey & Osborne and subsequent research on susceptibility to automation.

MIT Technology Review

AI & Work — Reporting on AI research and its implications for industries and jobs.

Gartner

Hype Cycle for Artificial Intelligence — Maturity and adoption of AI technologies.

Future of Work reports — Workplace models and talent strategy.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment Projections 2025–35; AI Exposure Categories; Occupational Outlook Handbook — Ten-year employment projections and, from the 2025 cycle, an AI-exposure tier for every detailed occupation.

Indeed Hiring Lab

AI at Work Report (2025) and posting-market updates — Skill-level transformation estimates and job-posting trends by occupation.

II CORE AI AND MACHINE-LEARNING RESEARCH

OpenAI

Research papers, blog and API documentation — Large language models, generative AI, safety and societal impact.

Google DeepMind

Research papers and blog — Reinforcement learning, AI for science, AGI and ethics.

Meta AI

Research papers and blog — Large language models, computer vision, AI for social good.

Hugging Face

Transformers library and model hub — Open-source state-of-the-art NLP models.

TensorFlow and PyTorch

Documentation and community forums — Core frameworks illustrating practical capability.

arXiv

cs.AI, cs.LG, cs.CV, cs.CL — Pre-print research.

NeurIPS and ICML

Conference proceedings — Top-tier academic research.

ACM and IEEE

Journals and proceedings — ACM Computing Surveys; IEEE Transactions on AI.

Kaggle

Datasets and competition solutions — Applied machine learning on real-world problems.

The Alan Turing Institute

Research and reports — Responsible and applied AI.

III ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE AI DEPLOYMENT

NIST

AI Risk Management Framework — Voluntary framework for managing AI risk.

European Commission

AI Act — Risk-tiered legal framework for AI.

Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI — Principles for responsible development.

Partnership on AI

Research and best practice — Responsible AI development.

AI Now Institute

Annual reports — Social implications: power, inequality, rights.

ACM FAccT

Proceedings — Fairness, accountability and transparency.

Data & Society

Publications — Social implications of data-centric technology.

WIPO

Conversation on IP and AI — Intellectual-property implications of AI.

IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of AI/IS

Ethically Aligned Design — Recommendations for ethical AI design.

Center for AI and Digital Policy

Policy briefs — Accountable AI policy.

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