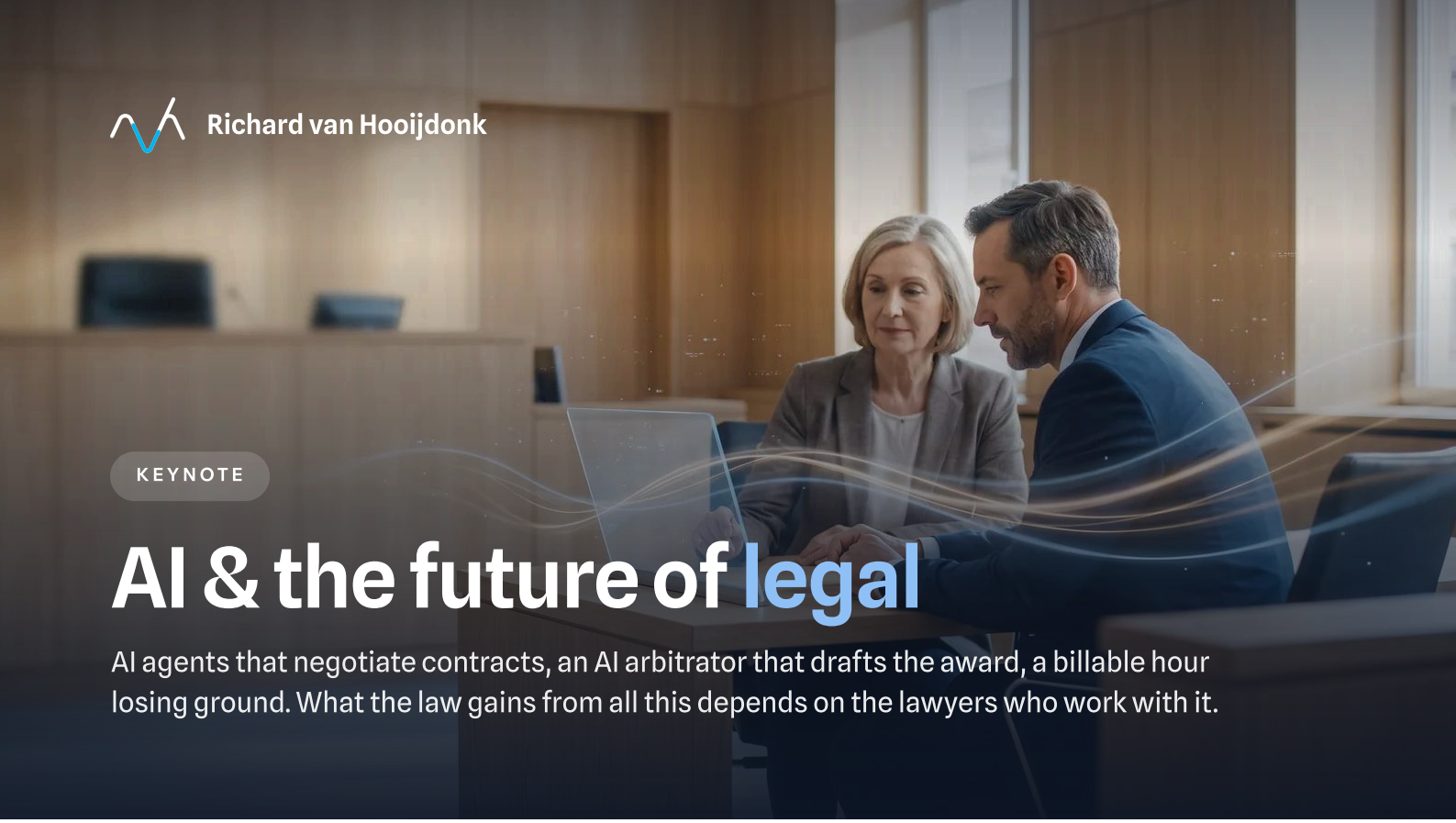


Richard van Hooijdonk

KEYNOTE

AI & the future of legal

AI agents that negotiate contracts, an AI arbitrator that drafts the award, a billable hour losing ground. What the law gains from all this depends on the lawyers who work with it.

How will tomorrow's lawyer learn the work that AI is taking over today?

AI already does a great deal of legal work in case files, contracts and data rooms. In this keynote, futurist and trend watcher Richard van Hooijdonk examines what that means for the role of lawyers, for the billable hour and for the way lawyers learn and practise their profession. AI is part of daily practice for lawyers, in-house counsel and notaries. Language models search legislation and case law, compare contracts with a firm's own standard and help review thousands of documents in the data room during an acquisition. Courts are moving case files and hearings online, notaries execute certain deeds remotely, such as incorporating a Dutch private company (bv), and simple disputes are resolved online. At the same time, there are questions that go to the heart of the profession: what you bill once the research hours disappear, how a junior lawyer learns the trade without the groundwork, and who answers for a text that AI wrote. The keynote shows what is already running, what is being tested and which scenarios lie five to fifteen years ahead: the AI arbitrator, AI agents that conclude contracts, a legal agent for everyone. Which work a firm entrusts to AI, and which stays with the lawyer, becomes a strategic choice.



RICHARD VAN HOOIJDONK

Richard van Hooijdonk is a trend watcher, futurist and international keynote speaker. Many trend watchers and futurists look at the future from a distance. Richard van Hooijdonk lives in it. His team consists of people and AI agents, and he has several chips implanted in his body. He speaks about AI and new technology, the organisation of the future and leadership in the AI era. He takes you into a future you can barely picture today, and shows how you can steer it yourself.

3,000+	650,000+	30+	Bestselling
keynotes	participants	countries	author

What the keynote covers

NOW AI in legal

What AI already does today for lawyers, in-house counsel, notaries and the courts.



01 Legal research with AI

AI searches legislation and case law and cites its sources. In time, an assistant will flag on its own when a new ruling affects a case.



02 Reading and drafting contracts

With your own standard as the benchmark, AI compares contracts, monitors a whole portfolio and estimates which clauses the other side will accept.



03 Due diligence with AI

In an acquisition, AI reads thousands of documents in the data room and maps out the risks and unusual terms.



04 Evidence from digital files

In litigation, AI helps find the relevant emails and documents among millions of items, and places them on a timeline.



05 In-house counsel with AI

AI answers routine questions from across the organisation. In time, the legal team uses AI agents to keep watch over procurement, HR and sales.



06 Compliance that keeps pace

IN PILOTS

AI tracks new laws and regulations and continuously checks policies, contracts and processes against them.



07 Legal AI agents

AI agents handle work in several steps: assembling a case file, drafting a court document, preparing a deed for the lawyer who signs.



08 Legal explanations in plain words

A legal AI assistant explains in plain language what a letter or contract says, and which rules apply to dismissal, a tenancy or a payment demand.



09 Digital justice

Filing, case files and hearings move online. AI helps court staff and judges organise long files and make judgments easier to understand.



10 The digital notary

IN PILOTS

Signing online with a digital identity; AI checks documents, registers and powers of attorney before the notary signs.



11 AI law as a new discipline

The EU AI Act, liability and supervision call for a practice of their own: lawyers who guide organisations through AI rules.



12 Who owns what AI makes?

Copyright in training data and in what AI creates, licences and provenance labels: an area of law that is taking shape now.

COMING NEXT The future of legal

Where law and the courts could stand in five to fifteen years, with AI as the engine.



13 The end of the billable hour

FUTURE SCENARIO

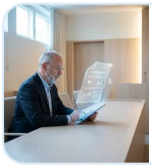
As AI takes hours away, fixed fees become more attractive. Firms then reward their people more for results, shared knowledge and judgement.



14 The law firm as a tech company

FUTURE SCENARIO

Some law firms already work largely with AI. Around 2040, firms will also sell their knowledge as an AI service.



15 The AI arbitrator

FUTURE SCENARIO

Since late 2025, AI has drafted the award in construction disputes at the AAA arbitration institute. Around 2040, that may be normal for small cases.



16 AI agents close the deal

FUTURE SCENARIO

In future, the buyer's and seller's AI agents negotiate price and terms themselves, and conclude the contract within their mandate.



17 A lawyer for everyone

FUTURE SCENARIO

Billions of people lack access to justice. In future, everyone could have a personal legal AI agent that keeps watch, warns and takes action.



18 Knowing the outcome in advance

FUTURE SCENARIO

In 2016, AI already classified four in five outcomes at a human rights court correctly. Around 2040, parties will model their case beforehand.



19 When the AI agent acts alone

FUTURE SCENARIO

Who answers for an AI agent that buys, signs or causes harm on its own is still an open question. Around 2040, the law may settle it.



20 The right to your own thoughts

FUTURE SCENARIO

Brain data is gaining protection of its own. In future, the law may limit what technology is allowed to infer about your thoughts.



21 Property in real time

FUTURE SCENARIO

Around 2040, a whole property chain could complete at once: deeds, payments and registrations together, with the notary in charge.

PEOPLE & ORGANISATION

The legal organisation of the future

What AI asks of roles, teams, leadership and culture in a firm or legal department.



22 The AI-first organisation

AI does the searching, analysis, drafts and outcome forecasts. Lawyers concentrate on advice, strategy and negotiation.



23 Legal engineers and knowledge lawyers

Those roles already exist. They will be joined by lawyers who write mandates for AI agents and predict how cases will end.



24 Lawyer and AI on every case

AI searches, reads and drafts; the lawyer checks, weighs, negotiates and is responsible for the final product.



25 Leadership in legal

Leaders in the legal world take the initiative with AI and new technology, and motivate their people to build tomorrow's firm together.



26 The future academy

Firms train their own people in a future academy. Closed cases become teaching material for working with AI and new technology.



27 Growing with an ecosystem

Tech companies, start-ups, researchers, clients and governments develop AI applications together across borders, and speed up innovation.



28 Legal knowledge as a product

Firms package knowledge in tools that clients use themselves. To build them, lawyers work with designers and developers.

THE OTHER SIDE

The other side: responsibility and risk

Professional secrecy, reliable sources and criminals who use AI: what is at stake when AI works in the law.



29 Data as the foundation

AI only works when data from every part of the organisation is available, reliable and connected. That is the foundation of a firm that works with AI.



30 Confidentiality comes first

Knowledge sits in case files and emails; the duty of confidentiality decides which data AI may see and where it is kept.



31 Sources that do not exist

Language models can invent judgments and sources. Judges respond with fines and referrals, and whoever signs answers for every source.



32 Criminals and the gatekeeper

Case files and purchase money attract criminals. With AI, they hack systems, send phishing mails and use a cloned voice to pose as a client.

DURATION
30, 45, 60 minutes or longer, with time for questions

LANGUAGE
Dutch or English

FORMAT
On location or online

FEE
On request

PLUS

"Richard succeeded excellently in waking up our leaders and setting them on the path to the future: after the lecture, discussions took place across various parts of the organisation about the topics covered, and initiatives have been set in motion."

Aart van Haren Managing director, PLUS

Deloitte.

"A dazzling journey through new technology. The enthusiasm and energy during his presentation, combined with the visuals, provided a successful kick-off to our event."

Patrick Steemers Partner, Deloitte

Interested in a keynote for your legal event?

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