

5 KEY TECH TAKEAWAYS FROM ILTACON 2016

Epiq's Adi Elliott gives LTN his thoughts on the role of machine learning, data security, and more from this year's ILTA Conference.

BY ADI ELLIOTT

On Aug. 28, over 3,500 law firms, corporate legal teams and legal services suppliers met for the International Legal Technology Association's 2016 conference (ILTACON) in National Harbor, Maryland. Attendees had their choice of over 200 learning sessions and 29 panels to attend over four days on topics such as data analytics, machine learning, mobile, and e-discovery.

This marks my ninth ILTACON. Much has changed in the e-discovery space since 2008, when I was working at kCura in its early days, to today. What's interesting is that our clients are experiencing the same challenges as they have in previous years: pressures to find cost efficiencies, to increase productivity and to move faster. But now there is an overriding focus on data management—from data storage to analytics to keeping data safe. My other key takeaways from ILTACON 2016 included:

1. We're in a time of transition. Law firms, corporate legal teams and the legal technology companies who serve them are operating in a sea of change that holds both opportunities and risk. Any firm that wants to be around in three years needs to commit to the right tools in order to compete well in an already crowded marketplace.

2. Find better ways to run your business via data. Machine learning and artificial intelligence were mentioned in virtually every session about

the future of legal technology. While predictive coding has been around for years, these were by the far the most talked-about industry trends at ILTACON 2016. Both were discussed primarily in the context of benefits, such as time gained, cost transparency and efficiency.

3. Data security is top of mind for all.

Once a topic that was a concern for IT and risk teams only, data security concerns were top of mind throughout ILTACON 2016 sessions. In a summary session held on Wednesday, the point was raised that, in many cases, the security vulnerabilities of internal employees pose more risk to your firm than external threats. To combat these vulnerabilities, companies must do their due diligence and put proper controls and monitoring in place for anyone who handles their sensitive data.

4. Beyond technology, innovation can be found in new business models. Putting a smart strategy in place to succeed in a whirlpool of change requires the right technology, but may also include shifts in how you run your business. One example of this is managed services—creating an in-house solution to e-discovery.



5. Don't forget that it's still about people. Those enabling change within their firms or teams need to remember that no matter what cool techy tools they use, creating greater efficiencies and effectiveness is of utmost importance for clients. This means making sure that teams are communicating, collaborating and sharing knowledge—all of which require strong processes, and most importantly, leadership.

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