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Book Review: Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future

Nekkanti Harshitha Chowdary^a

^aBharati Vidyapeeth New Law College, Pune, India

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INTRODUCTION

Are you a young or aspiring lawyer? This is the ideal time to read Professor Susskind's book to understand the conceivable direction that the legal profession could take in the next ten to twenty years. The focus of *Tomorrow's Lawyers* is the legal profession from a mid- and longer-term perspective i.e. the 2020s and beyond.¹ Young lawyers and aspirant lawyers may not usually have an extensive background in law. They require knowledge of current circumstances, paradigms, as well as projections for the future. He was the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales's Technology Adviser. His primary area of expertise is the future of professional services, specifically how artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies are transforming the legal profession.² As we start our legal careers, the forecasts he made based on his decades of expertise in the legal field will serve as guidance. *Tomorrow's Lawyers'* second edition comprises three

¹ Rose Dellar, 'Book Review: Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future (2nd Ed.) by Richard Susskind' (*London School of Economics*, 20 September 2017) <<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/09/20/book-review-tomorrows-lawyers-an-introduction-to-your-future-2nd-ed-by-richard-susskind/>> accessed 17 January 2024

² Richard Susskind, *Tomorrow's Lawyers An Introduction to your Future* (3rd edn, OUP 2023)

parts of eighteen chapters. This article will discuss Richard Susskind's predictions and look at how they are coming to pass.

PART I: RADICAL CHANGES IN THE LEGAL MARKET

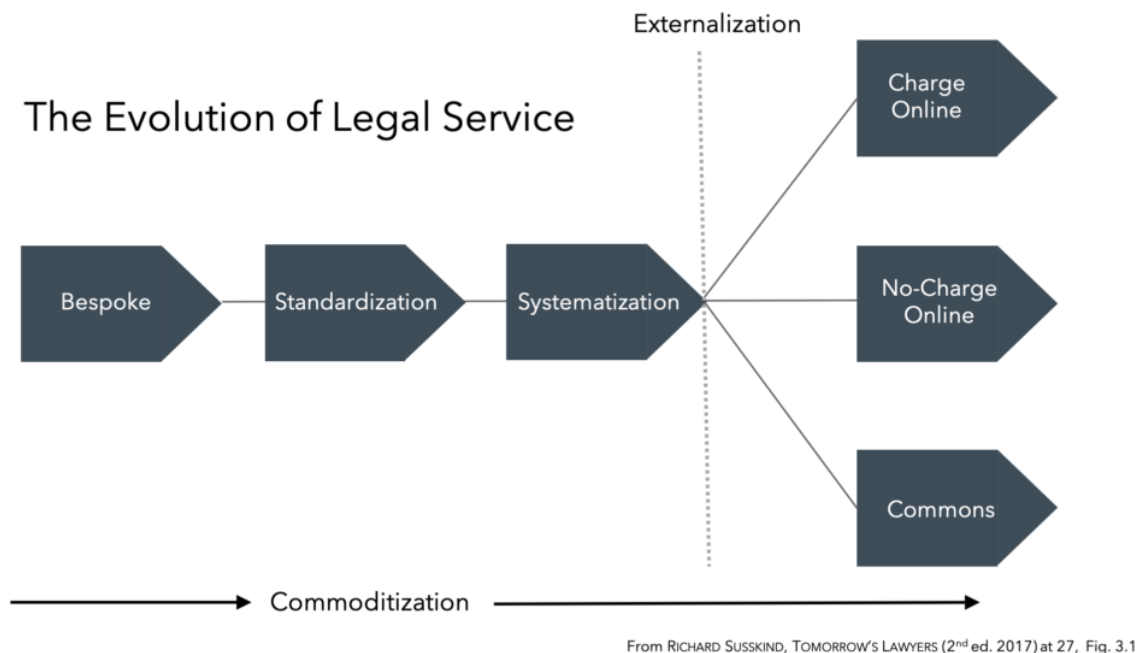
According to Richard Susskind, there are three main drives of changes i.e. more-for-less challenge, liberalization and technology. Whether the clients are big or medium-sized businesses or even private individuals, they all have the same issue: they are unable to pay for legal services when they are provided conventionally. The 'more for less' challenge becomes an inescapable issue as the volume of client legal work increases yet the budget for legal services decreases as a result of the challenging economic climate. Even while legal professionals' expertise serves their customers' best interests, Susskind thinks that traditional working methods are far from effective as they create more client-friendly working methods. He predicts that pervasive, exponentially growing, innovative technologies will come to disrupt and radically transform the way lawyers and courts operate'.³

Furthermore, he suggested strategies for success according to him there are two winning strategies, which he calls efficient strategy and collaborative strategy. Firstly, he emphasised that charging less is an effective way to deal with more-for-less challenges. Secondly an 'alternative fee arrangement' is something that many law firms have recently proposed since they prefer to appear willing. In the third chapter of the first part of his book Richard Susskind offers different stages of legal services: bespoke, standardized, systemisation. By distinguishing these stages he provided a more realistic description of what legal practitioners do. He concludes that legal work that is 'commonplace and routinizable' will be offered online despite the discontent of lawyers. As a result, more people would not otherwise be able to afford legal services.⁴⁵

³ Dominika Mia Mandac, 'A critical review: Tomorrow's Lawyers by Richard Susskind' (2015) 48(98) Faculty of Law University of Split <<https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/226215>> accessed 17 January 2024

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ Richard Susskind, *Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future* (2nd edn, OUP 2017)



He emphasized that future legal work will be broken down into parts and then resolved by identifying the most appropriate source for each duty that might also include 'multi-sourcing'. In the final chapter of the first part, he clearly explained different disruptive legal technologies like document automation, relentless connectivity, electronic legal marketplace, e-learning, online legal guidance, closed legal communities, workflow and project management, embedded legal knowledge, online dispute resolution, document analysis, machine prediction, legal question answering.

PART 2: THE NEW LANDSCAPES

This section is crucial for people who want to pursue careers in the corporate realm because he elaborated on common questions asked by new partners. A lawyer should not only have fine legal knowledge but also other soft skills which Richard Susskind emphasised in this section like quality to build, leadership, knowledge of management, collaborative skills, and empathy.

He believes that the changes he predicts will unfold in three stages denial, re-sourcing stage, and disruption stage. The first, denial, involves attorneys who hold out hope that the 2006 strategy will resurrect once the economy stabilizes. Susskind thinks that will result in the second step, which is resourcing because he finds that to be realistically implausible. The final phase, known

as disruption, will see the introduction of new technology that challenges and supplants the traditional way in which legal work has been done traditionally.

He aimed to demonstrate how the modern legal system is comparable to Kafka's gatekeeper, who forbade a man from entering the legal system.

'Tomorrow's court is to be built on the back of technology' query, which leaves the reader to consider and comprehend the significance of technology in the field of legal services

Globally, there is no denying the growing significance of technology for judges and other legal professionals. His forecast and the existing circumstances are quite similar. Indeed, the judge will not be required to physically preside over the court, nor will the litigant need to appear in person. As a result, valuable court time and personnel will be spared. As of 30.09.2023, there are 25 such courts in 20 States/UTs.⁶ He aimed to demonstrate how the modern legal system is comparable to Kafka's gatekeeper, who forbade a man from entering the legal system. Online services will help non-lawyers to know their rights and access to justice this reduce cost and affordable way to get justice. Susskind asserts that computers cannot and should not completely replace judges in their work, but he does think that the documents they produce can be broken down and sourced from multiple sources to free judges from tasks that can be completed by people with less training. He criticizes the lack of progress and paper-based organization of much of the work as well as the 'inefficient, slow and too costly' court system.

PART-3 PROSPECTS OF FUTURE LAWYER

This part is very important for aspiring and young lawyers for elevation to the Bar for Legal Education and Practice. It is very important to understand paradigm shifts in the legal world and Richard Susskind gives a clear picture of it in this part. Many questions often arise in the minds of students hoping to make a fresh start in the legal profession like who will employ new lawyers, what are new job opportunities and so on, Answers to such questions are clearly explained in this book. He expressed his opinion that 'conventional lawyers will not be as

⁶ 'Virtual Courts' (*Department of Justice*, 13 February 2024) <<https://doj.gov.in/virtual-courts/>> accessed 18 January 2024

prominent in society as today', this means the need for expert trusted advisors, enhanced practitioners, the legal process analyst, the legal project manager and other new jobs will increase than traditional lawyers. He said this decade ago if we see today his prediction is true. Not even 20 percent of the NLU students opt to work in the field of litigation⁷ and Litigation takes a backseat as more law professionals move to corporate jobs according to recent news.⁸

Are the law schools preparing students adequately for their future jobs and what are they trained to become?⁹ In the 15th chapter, he expressed his assumptions and concerns; he made readers re-think about training provided to law students in their law schools. Richard Susskind's fear is not wrong, despite living and working in the twenty-first century, new attorneys are being schooled to practice law in the twentieth century. How to handle the unforeseen repercussions of practising law, ways to foster inventiveness, and How to improve your dispute resolution abilities are not taught in law schools A study by the American Bar Association found that 20.6% of lawyers tested positive for risky, damaging, and possibly alcohol-dependent drinking. There was a notable prevalence of depression, anxiety, and stress among attorneys: 28%, 19%, and 23% of them reported having symptoms of these conditions, respectively.¹⁰ In law school, we are taught about the law and how to procedures necessary to navigate the legal system. What we are not taught about is how to deal with the various personalities – the passive-aggressive people, the yellers, the screamers, and the jerks. Technology cannot completely replace humans but today's legal market cannot be imagined without computers. The author proposes that law schools ought to use contemporary technology and explore its possibilities,

⁷ 'Less than 20% NLU students choose to work in litigation: BCI Chairperson' *The Indian Express* (11 March 2023) <<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/not-even-20-nlu-students-choosing-to-work-in-litigation-bci-chairperson-8489651/>> accessed on 17 January 2024

⁸ Puniti Pandey, 'Litigation takes a backseat as more law professionals move to corporate jobs' *Education Times* (20 July 2022) <<https://www.educationtimes.com/article/careers-change-makers/92995899/litigation-takes-a-backseat-as-more-law-professionals-move-to-corporate-jobs>> accessed 17 January 2024

⁹ Mandac (n 3)

¹⁰ Jeena Cho, '10 Things They Don't Teach You in Law School (But Should)' (*Celo*) <<https://www.clio.com/blog/10-things-dont-teach-law-school/#:~:text=In%20law%20school%2C%20we%20are,the%20screamers%2C%20and%20the%20jerk>> accessed 16 January 2024

rather than blindly adhering to outdated techniques. As a result, educational technologies like virtual legal practice and e-learning should be duly considered.

NEW EDITION (2023)

Significant additions in the new edition are substantially expanded to include updated subject matter on the very fast-moving world of technology. Next includes new chapters on the impact of COVID-19, innovation in law, law tech startups, and a model of understanding legal technology. The legal sector has been greatly impacted by COVID-19 a greater number of individuals are anticipating taking online help, it's tough to adjust to a new work Environment.

AUTHOR OPINIONATED

According to Susskind's message, the goal of the law is 'to help to support society's need of the law' not 'to keep lawyers in businesses'. It is something that every lawyer should keep in mind when providing legal services. Attorneys are in an exclusive position that allows them to help individuals, teams, and organizations with their legal problems while advancing justice and the public good. Richard Susskind has a great deal of experience in the legal sector, and his forecasts and insights enable us to have a comprehensive understanding of the legal career.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the final few pages of Tomorrow's Lawyers are the best section of the book. They create a significant viewpoint in a matter of sentences, prompting the reader to consider how legal services reform may contribute to a more equitable and just society. The author analyzed everything logically and supported each point with examples and scenarios from his decades of expertise in the legal field. He gave technology its complete section. Without technology, the world would be unimaginable, and you are aware of its applications in this field. I think that this book will benefit aspiring attorneys. His work serves as a blueprint for developing our careers. I heartily recommend reading this book.