Can Computers Replace Lawyers, Mediators and Judges?

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By: Dean Dalke

Could computers ever practise law? With today's rapid technological development, what is the extent to which artificial intelligence can play an active role in human legal disputes?

In an article which appeared in the September 2013 issue of The Advocate, DLA Piper litigator Dean Dalke sets out the present and potential future applications of artificial intelligence (most notably electronic discovery) and suggests that a computer could perform some tasks traditionally undertaken by human lawyers or judges now and in the future. He also outlines some of the issues that arise from using computers in the adjudication of disputes, including "constitutional, ethical and philosophical concerns."

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