Knowledge Management for the Modern Law Firm

How Artificial Intelligence Unlocks the Competitive Potential of Your KM Investments
Acknowledging the Limitations of KM Investments

Knowledge management implementations take many shapes and forms, but at the core they all serve the same objective: to help professionals deliver value to their clients. For legal work, that could mean finding the best precedent documents for guidance or the most relevant expertise to a case, which in turn speeds the draft of new work product and results in faster, more consistent client deliveries. That is the goal anyway. In reality, it’s an arduous, time-consuming process to track relevant information down.

Time is short, and users often find the quickest way to the best information is to circumvent their KM platforms altogether. Instead, they pick up the phone or send an email request. For law firms to achieve ideal levels of KM responsiveness and usability, several limiting factors need to be addressed:

- **Multi-platform and acquisition integration dilemmas**
- **SharePoint slow-downs**
- **Mobile accessibility**

Partner lateral moves and firm acquisitions are on the rise. That only serves to exacerbate the already difficult chore of integrating data from various internal systems and collective experiences to provide a complete picture for stakeholders. On top of that, SharePoint becomes increasingly time-consuming to use and difficult to maintain as firms expand. And the need to search multiple platforms—from email to intranet to document management systems—makes quick answers difficult to come by. Or nearly impossible if someone is working remotely. Internal systems are rarely easy to access on the go, and isn’t that always when we need answers the quickest?

It is critical that firms overcome the limitations of knowledge management status quo—not just because users want quicker, easier access, but because the information in all the various platforms represents vast opportunity for competitive differentiation, cross-selling, business development, and growth.

There’s no doubting the value firms place on their data. When surveyed, 75% said collecting relevant data was their top concern. In fact, data-related concerns—like finding the right data quickly and leveraging data to meet the needs of clients and lawyers—monopolized the top of the list.
Driving Growth with Advanced Knowledge Management

Picking up the phone for a quick answer is a far cry from synthesizing information across platforms and systems to leverage a firm’s cumulative case work, experiences, and know-how. Obviously, the latter methodology would be most firms’ preference. In fact, the ability to quickly mine quality information from mountains of legal data will be the modern law firm’s hallmark of success. Not only will it deliver better and faster answers, it will support the growth and development aspirations of the firm in many ways:

- **Growing via effective business development and cross-selling**
- **Leveraging the firm’s “know how” as a competitive differentiator**
- **Driving consistency in messaging and execution**

With the rise of machine learning and artificial intelligence the core problems of a knowledge management program are eliminated as systems are now capable of collecting, cataloging, and summarizing massive volumes of data for easy human consumption.

Leveraging cumulative know-how helps firms respond to client demands efficiently, develop consistent messaging, and build proposals faster to win new business. It also deepens the understanding of past and current clients’ needs. These established relationships can represent millions of dollars in potential cross-selling revenue when lawyers and law firms can take steps to proactively identify and address client issues.

With all that in mind, law firms are taking steps to eliminate the shortcomings of knowledge management systems by incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) tools. In this way a firm can advance its KM system into one in which all stakeholders have centralized, secure access to the firm’s collective knowledge and experience regardless of how or where the data resides.
Intelligent Integration

Ikaun drives business development, marketing, and KM efforts by improving the accessibility of your firm’s collective knowledge and experience assets.

- Integrate firm member experiences and skillsets as mergers, new hires, and lateral moves occur
- Provide a complete picture to stakeholders by integrating data from multiple systems
- Promote effective cross-selling by understanding your firm’s competencies and expertise

Artificial intelligence is the future of the modern law firm. Gaining intelligent, integrated access across knowledge assets can mean the difference between capitalizing on high-stakes opportunities or missing out. With an AI-powered knowledge management solution, you can empower your lawyers to build stronger client relationships and win new business to grow your firm.
Ikaun’s Intelligent Knowledge Assistant

IKA, or Intelligent Knowledge Assistant, is a cognitive engagement technology that allows users to ask questions in a natural conversational manner and get answers. The core concept is that IKA will be able to tap into both the Knowledge Catalogs and other internal/external systems to derive answers. In addition, IKA will be the conduit for routing unanswered questions to the appropriate people internally.

IKA can answer questions that are very common in the enterprise. “How do I fill out an expense report?” “Who can help me with expense”, “What is our CRM system”, “Who is our lawyer”… the answer to these questions are found in either a Knowledge Catalog or other internal systems such as an intranet.

IKA also supports complex research scenarios where IKA searches the entire digital ecosystem to provide relevant answers.