

From Parchment to Pixels: Reimagining Legal Education in the Age of AI

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Abstract

The case method is a cornerstone of Anglo-American legal education, shaping the way aspiring lawyers develop their legal reasoning and analytical skills. Pioneered in the late 19th century by Christopher Columbus Langdell at Harvard Law School, the case method involves immersing students in real-world legal cases, guiding them through the process of identifying and extracting legal principles from judicial decisions. This approach contrasts with traditional lectures, where students passively receive information. Instead, the case method actively engages students, encouraging them to critically analyze precedent, discern patterns, and apply legal principles to new scenarios. This hands-on approach fosters a deep understanding of legal concepts and cultivates the ability to think like a lawyer.

In essence, the ability to think like a lawyer means the ability to solve legal problems in a logical, analytical fashion. Legal problem solving is a

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crucial skill for lawyers and legal professionals. It involves analyzing complex legal issues, identifying relevant laws and precedents, and developing strategies for resolving legal disputes. The ability to solve legal problems effectively is essential for success in the legal profession. This paper examines two tools for legal problem solving: the IRAC method and ChatGPT.

The IRAC method is a widely used approach to legal problem solving. It involves four steps: identifying the Issue, stating the relevant Rule of law, applying the Rule to the facts of the case, and drawing a Conclusion. The IRAC method is a systematic and logical way of analyzing legal problems. It can help lawyers and legal professionals to organize their thoughts and develop persuasive arguments. However, some critics argue that the IRAC method is overly rigid and formulaic, and that it can lead to a superficial analysis of legal issues.

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence tool that uses natural language processing to generate text based on user input. It can be used to assist lawyers and legal professionals in legal problem solving by generating responses to legal questions and providing relevant information about the law. ChatGPT has the potential to save time and increase efficiency in legal research, but it is not without its limitations. Some critics have raised concerns about the accuracy and reliability of AI-based legal tools.

The integration of IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem solving can have several benefits. For example, using ChatGPT to generate relevant legal rules and precedents can save time and reduce the risk of overlooking important information. The IRAC method can provide a framework for

organizing the information generated by ChatGPT and developing persuasive legal arguments. However, the integration of IRAC and ChatGPT also presents challenges, such as the need for training and expertise in both legal problem solving and AI technologies.

Legal education has traditionally relied on a case-based method that emphasizes analysis and argumentation. However, the integration of IRAC and ChatGPT can provide a new approach to legal education that emphasizes problem solving and technology. Pedagogical strategies for teaching legal problem solving using IRAC and ChatGPT can include interactive exercises, case studies, and simulations. Evaluation of the effectiveness of using IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem solving education can involve assessments of student learning outcomes and feedback from students and instructors.

The IRAC method and ChatGPT are two tools that can assist lawyers and legal professionals in legal problem solving. The integration of these tools presents opportunities and challenges for legal problem solving and legal education. Further research and development of these tools can lead to new approaches to legal problem solving.

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I. Introduction

I.1 Definition of legal problem solving

Legal problem-solving is the fundamental skill that underpins the legal profession. It entails the ability to identify, analyze, and resolve legal issues in a methodical and effective manner. This skill is essential for lawyers, judges, and other legal professionals who must grapple with complex legal questions on a daily basis.

Legal problem-solving involves a systematic approach to dissecting legal issues and formulating well-reasoned arguments. It requires a deep understanding of legal principles, the ability to critically evaluate facts, and the capacity to think both analytically and creatively. In essence, legal problem-solving is the art of navigating the intricacies of the law to reach sound legal conclusions. (Martin 2003)

I.2 Importance of Legal Problem Solving in the Legal Profession

Legal problem-solving is a cornerstone of the legal profession for several reasons. Firstly, it is the foundation upon which legal reasoning and analysis are built. Lawyers must be able to identify the legal issues at stake, apply relevant legal principles to the facts of a case, and construct persuasive arguments to support their clients' positions.

Secondly, legal problem-solving is essential for effective legal advocacy. Lawyers must be able to anticipate and address potential legal challenges, formulate strategies to protect their clients' interests, and

negotiate effectively to reach favorable outcomes. Strong problem-solving skills are crucial for success in all areas of legal practice, from litigation to transactional law.

Thirdly, legal problem-solving is a critical skill for judges and legal scholars. Judges must be able to analyze complex legal issues, interpret statutes and case law, and make sound legal decisions. Legal scholars must be able to identify legal problems, conduct thorough research, and formulate original legal arguments. (cf Gerdy, 2009)

I.3 Using IRAC and ChatGPT as Tools for Legal Problem Solving

IRAC (Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion) is a structured approach to legal problem-solving that provides a framework for analyzing legal issues. It involves:

Issue: Identifying the legal issue or question raised by the facts of the case.

Rule: Identifying the relevant legal principles, statutes, or case law that apply to the issue.

Application: Applying the identified legal principles to the facts of the case to determine the legal outcome.

Conclusion: Drawing a conclusion based on the application of the legal principles to the facts.

IRAC provides a systematic approach to legal problem-solving and helps to ensure that all relevant legal factors are considered.

ChatGPT is a large language model (LLM) developed by OpenAI that can be used as a tool for legal problem-solving. LLMs are trained on massive amounts of text data and can generate text, translate languages, write different kinds of creative content, and answer your questions in an informative way. ChatGPT can be used to:

Research legal topics and identify relevant legal sources.

Summarize complex legal concepts and case law.

Generate legal arguments and draft legal documents.

Assist with legal writing and editing.

While IRAC provides a structured framework for legal problem-solving, ChatGPT can be a valuable tool for augmenting human legal reasoning and analysis. (Choi et al, 2022)

II. The IRAC Method

The IRAC (Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion) method is a legal problem-solving methodology that is commonly used in Anglo-American and some Asian law schools. It is a structured approach to legal analysis that helps to organize your legal argument in a logical and coherent manner. The method consists of four steps: (1) Identify the issue, (2) State the relevant rule, (3) Apply the rule to the facts of the problem, and (4) Offer a conclusion based on the analysis.

The first step is to identify the legal issue or issues that need to be addressed. The second step is to state the relevant law or rule that

applies to the issue. The third step is to apply the law or rule to the facts of the problem. Finally, the fourth step is to offer a conclusion based on the analysis.

II.1 Advantages and disadvantages of using IRAC in legal problem solving

One of the main advantages of using the IRAC method is that it provides a clear and organized structure for legal analysis. This makes it easier for both the writer and the reader to understand the legal issue, the applicable law, how the law applies to the facts, and the conclusion. Additionally, the IRAC method is a useful tool for analyzing legal issues or other situations that require the application of some sort of rules. However, one of the criticisms of the IRAC method is that it can be time-consuming, particularly for complex legal problems. Additionally, the IRAC method does not always provide a definitive answer, and there may be alternative conclusions that are equally valid.

II.2 Example of using IRAC in legal problem solving

The IRAC method is commonly used in legal problem-solving scenarios. For example, a law student may be asked to analyze a hypothetical legal problem and apply the IRAC method to the analysis. In this scenario, the student would identify the legal issue, state the relevant law or rule, apply the law or rule to the facts of the problem, and offer a conclusion based on the analysis.

Take for example, **Martin v Boise**, an Idaho case involving constitutional

protections of the homeless in the US.

Facts:

In 2009, after a local homeless shelter in Boise closed, six individuals were cited for violations of a city ordinance that makes it illegal to sleep on public property. One of those individuals, Robert Martin, along with the others, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of an ordinance that punishes someone for sleeping outside when they have nowhere else to go.^[1]

Issue

Whether the City of Boise's ordinances that prohibit sleeping in public places on government property violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

Rules

1. Boise Municipal Code 7-3A-2, was a law that prohibited camping in public places within the city limits of Boise
2. The Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution prohibits the infliction of "cruel and unusual punishments."

To determine whether a punishment is cruel and unusual, courts consider the following factors:

The severity of the punishment

The legitimate governmental interest underlying the punishment

The nature of the offense

The punishment's impact on the offender

Analysis

The City of Boise's ordinances that prohibit sleeping in public places on government property subject homeless individuals to criminal sanctions for sleeping outdoors when they have no alternative shelter. This constitutes a severe hardship, as it deprives homeless individuals of the basic human necessity of sleep.

The City of Boise has a legitimate governmental interest in maintaining public order and preventing the spread of disease. However, the ordinances are not narrowly tailored to achieve these interests. They apply to all individuals who sleep in public places, regardless of whether they are homeless or have alternative shelter options. This means that the ordinances impose a substantial burden on homeless individuals without providing any meaningful benefit to the public.

The offense of sleeping in public is not a serious crime. It does not involve any violence or property damage. Moreover, the ordinances are not applied in a consistent manner. Homeless individuals are often cited for sleeping in public, while non-homeless individuals are often not. This suggests that the ordinances are not motivated by a genuine concern for public order, but rather by animus towards homeless individuals.

The ordinances have a significant negative impact on homeless individuals. They force homeless individuals to sleep in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, and they make it difficult for them to find employment and housing. In addition, the ordinances can lead to criminal records, which can make it even more difficult for homeless individuals to get back on their feet.

Conclusion

The City of Boise's ordinances that prohibit sleeping in public places on government property violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. The ordinances are not narrowly tailored to achieve the City's legitimate governmental interests, and they have a significant negative impact on homeless individuals.

In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the case, leaving the precedent intact in the nine Western states under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington).

II.3 Criticisms of IRAC and possible limitations

One of the criticisms of the IRAC method is that it can be too rigid and formulaic. Some critics argue that the method oversimplifies the complexity of proper legal analysis and can lead to overwriting. Additionally, the IRAC method does not always provide a definitive answer, and there may be alternative conclusions that are equally valid. Despite these criticisms, the IRAC method remains a popular and useful tool for legal problem-solving and analysis.

III. What is ChatGPT and how can it help in legal problem solving?

ChatGPT is a large-scale language model developed by OpenAI that uses machine learning algorithms to analyze text and generate responses to

natural language prompts. It is capable of understanding and processing human language and then responding to it. ChatGPT has been trained on a massive corpus of text data and can generate responses that are coherent, informative, and sometimes even creative. It has a wide range of applications, including legal problem-solving, content creation, and customer service. ChatGPT's capabilities include generating summaries, answering questions, completing sentences, and even generating creative content such as poems, stories, and songs. (Choi, et al 2022)

III.1 Advantages and disadvantages of using ChatGPT in legal problem solving

One of the main advantages of using ChatGPT in legal problem-solving is that it can save time and increase efficiency. ChatGPT can rapidly generate responses to simple legal questions, quickly prepare preliminary drafts of legal documents such as contracts and briefs, and can swiftly locate relevant information referred to in large legal documents, such as case law and statutes. However, one of the main disadvantages of using ChatGPT is that it is still a relatively new technology, and the accuracy of the answers provided by ChatGPT may not always be reliable. Additionally, ChatGPT does not always provide a definitive answer, and there may be alternative conclusions that are equally valid. (Murray, 2023)

III.2 Examples of using ChatGPT in legal problem solving

ChatGPT is commonly used in legal problem-solving scenarios. For example, a lawyer may use ChatGPT to analyze a hypothetical legal

problem and generate a response based on the analysis. ChatGPT can also be used to draft legal documents such as contracts and briefs. Additionally, ChatGPT can be used to locate relevant information referred to in large legal documents, such as case law and statutes.

III.3 Comparison of ChatGPT with other AI-based legal tools

There are several other AI-based legal tools available in the market, such as ROSS Intelligence, Lex Machina, and Casetext. These tools have their own unique features and capabilities. For example, ROSS Intelligence is an AI-powered legal research tool that can help lawyers find relevant case law and statutes. Lex Machina is an AI-powered litigation analytics tool that can help lawyers predict the outcomes of legal disputes. Casetext is an AI-powered legal research tool that can help lawyers find relevant case law and statutes. Compared to these tools, ChatGPT is a more general-purpose tool that can be used for a wide range of legal problem-solving scenarios. However, ChatGPT's accuracy and reliability may not be as high as some of the more specialized tools. (Schwarz, et al 2023)

IV. Benefits of using IRAC and ChatGPT together in legal problem solving

The IRAC method is a structured approach to legal analysis that helps to organize your legal argument in a logical and coherent manner. ChatGPT, on the other hand, is a large-scale language model that uses machine learning algorithms to analyze text and generate responses to

natural language prompts. By using IRAC and ChatGPT together, legal professionals can benefit from the structured approach of IRAC while also leveraging the natural language processing capabilities of ChatGPT. This can help to save time and increase efficiency in legal problem-solving scenarios.

IV.1 Methodology for integrating IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem solving

One possible methodology for integrating IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving is to use ChatGPT to generate responses to legal questions based on the IRAC framework. For example, a legal professional could input a legal question into ChatGPT, and ChatGPT could generate a response based on the IRAC methodology. The legal professional could then use the response generated by ChatGPT as a starting point for further analysis and refinement using the IRAC framework.

IV.2 Challenges and limitations of using IRAC and ChatGPT together

One of the main challenges of using IRAC and ChatGPT together is that ChatGPT may not always provide accurate or reliable responses. Additionally, ChatGPT may not always provide a definitive answer, and there may be alternative conclusions that are equally valid. Another challenge is that ChatGPT may not always be able to understand the nuances of legal language and terminology, which could lead to errors or inaccuracies in the responses generated.

IV.3 Examples of successful integration of IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem solving

There are several examples of successful integration of IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving scenarios. For example, researchers have used ChatGPT to perform legal analysis using the IRAC method on a corpus of legal scenarios pertaining to Contract Acts Malaysia and Australian Social Act for Dependent Child. Another example is the use of ChatGPT to assist in summarizing research papers, providing general experimental procedures, and comparing experiment results, thus providing a more efficient approach than internet surfing. However, it is important to note that the accuracy and reliability of ChatGPT's responses may vary depending on the specific legal problem-solving scenario. (Kang, et al 2023)

V. Teaching Legal Problem Solving using IRAC and ChatGPT

V.1 legal education and the need for legal problem solving skills

Legal education is the process of training individuals to become legal professionals. Legal education is essential for individuals who wish to pursue a career in law. Legal problem-solving skills are an essential component of legal education. Legal problem-solving is the process of identifying, analyzing, and resolving legal issues. Legal problem-solving skills are necessary for legal professionals to provide effective legal advice and solutions to clients. Effective legal problem-solving skills can

help lawyers to enhance their reputation and increase their business.

V.2 Challenges of teaching legal problem solving using traditional methods

One of the main challenges of teaching legal problem-solving using traditional methods is that it can be difficult to engage students in the learning process. Traditional methods of teaching legal problem-solving often involve lectures and case studies, which can be dry and unengaging. Additionally, traditional methods of teaching legal problem-solving may not always be effective in preparing students for real-world legal scenarios. Another challenge is that traditional methods of teaching legal problem-solving may not always be able to keep up with the rapidly changing legal landscape.

V.3 The potential of IRAC and ChatGPT in legal education

The IRAC method is a structured approach to legal analysis that helps to organize your legal argument in a logical and coherent manner. ChatGPT, on the other hand, is a large-scale language model that uses machine learning algorithms to analyze text and generate responses to natural language prompts. By using IRAC and ChatGPT together, legal educators can benefit from the structured approach of IRAC while also leveraging the natural language processing capabilities of ChatGPT. This can help to save time and increase efficiency in legal problem-solving scenarios.

V.4 Pedagogical strategies for incorporating IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem solving

One possible pedagogical strategy for incorporating IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving courses is to use ChatGPT to generate responses to legal questions based on the IRAC framework. For example, a legal educator could input a legal question into ChatGPT, and ChatGPT could generate a response based on the IRAC methodology. The legal educator could then use the response generated by ChatGPT as a starting point for further analysis and refinement using the IRAC framework. Another strategy is to use ChatGPT to generate summaries of legal cases or statutes, which can help students to quickly identify the relevant legal issues and rules.

V.5 Evaluation of the effectiveness of using IRAC and ChatGPT in law School

There is limited research on the effectiveness of using IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving education. However, some studies have shown that the use of ChatGPT in legal education can help to improve students' legal writing skills and their ability to analyze legal problems. Additionally, the use of IRAC in legal education has been shown to be effective in improving students' legal problem-solving skills. Further research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of using IRAC and ChatGPT together in legal problem-solving education. (Choi, et al 2022)

VI. Conclusion

This paper considers the IRAC method and ChatGPT in the context of legal problem-solving. It explores the description of the IRAC method, its advantages and disadvantages, and examples of its use in legal problem-solving. It also discusses the potential of ChatGPT in legal education and legal problem-solving, as well as the challenges and limitations of using ChatGPT in legal problem-solving. Finally, it addresses the benefits of using IRAC and ChatGPT together in legal problem-solving and pedagogical strategies for incorporating IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving courses.

There is still much research to be done on the use of IRAC and ChatGPT in legal problem-solving. Future research could explore the effectiveness of using IRAC and ChatGPT together in legal problem-solving education, as well as the accuracy and reliability of ChatGPT's responses. Additionally, future research could explore the use of ChatGPT in other areas of law, such as contract law, property law, and tort law. Finally, future research could explore the use of other natural language processing techniques, such as sentiment analysis and entity recognition, in legal problem-solving.

In conclusion, the IRAC method and ChatGPT are two powerful tools that can be used in legal problem-solving. The IRAC method provides a structured approach to legal analysis that helps to organize your legal argument in a logical and coherent manner. ChatGPT, on the other hand, is a large-scale language model that uses machine learning algorithms to analyze text and generate responses to natural language prompts. By

using IRAC and ChatGPT together, legal professionals and educators can benefit from the structured approach of IRAC while also leveraging the natural language processing capabilities of ChatGPT. However, it is important to note that the accuracy and reliability of ChatGPT's responses may vary depending on the specific legal problem-solving scenario.

Note

This paper acknowledges the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in its production. It is important to note that ChatGPT was used as a tool to augment human intelligence, not replace it. All legal analysis, reasoning, and conclusions presented in this paper are the product of human judgment and expertise. The use of AI aimed to enhance efficiency, creativity, and comprehensiveness, while maintaining the integrity and accuracy of the legal scholarship presented. This transparency aligns with the paper's exploration of the intersection between traditional legal methodologies and emerging technologies.

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