

# AI IN LEGAL PRACTICE: THE VIEW FROM THE BAR

Monday 18 May 2026 | 18:00–20:00, followed by a drinks reception | Doughty Street Chambers



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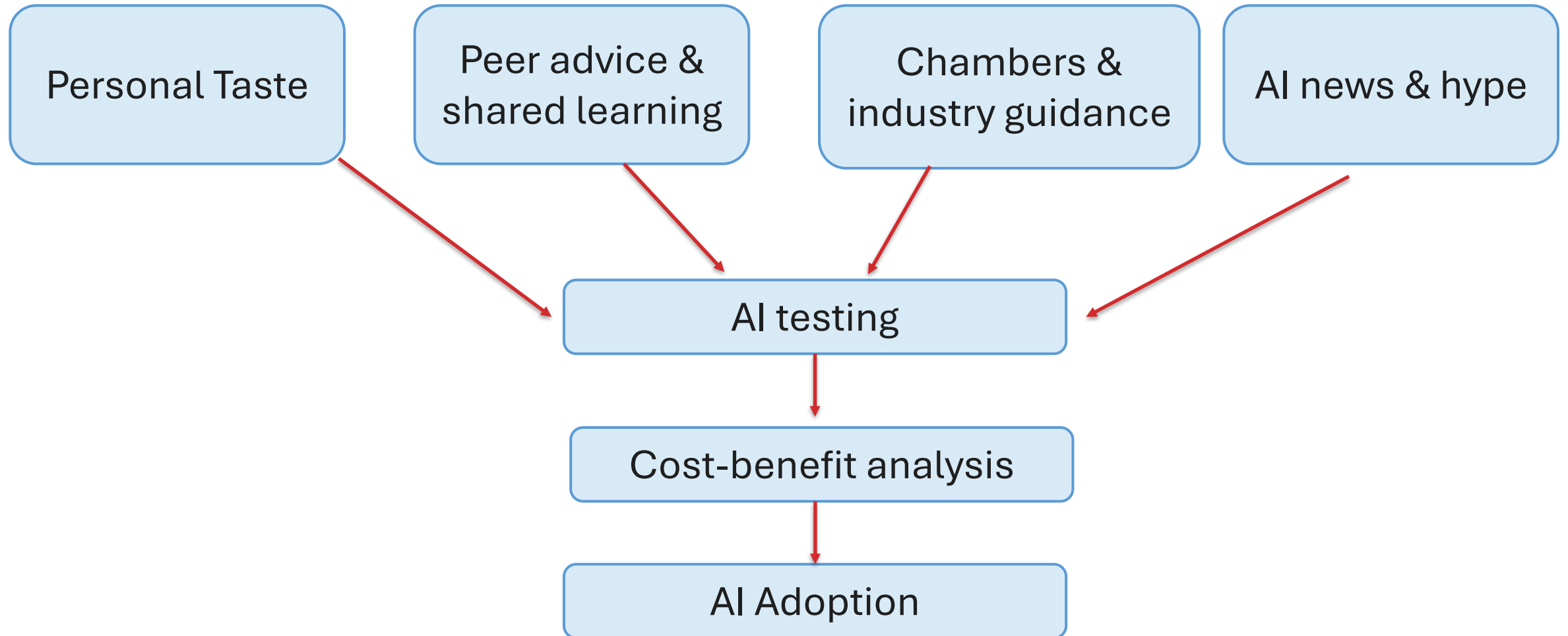


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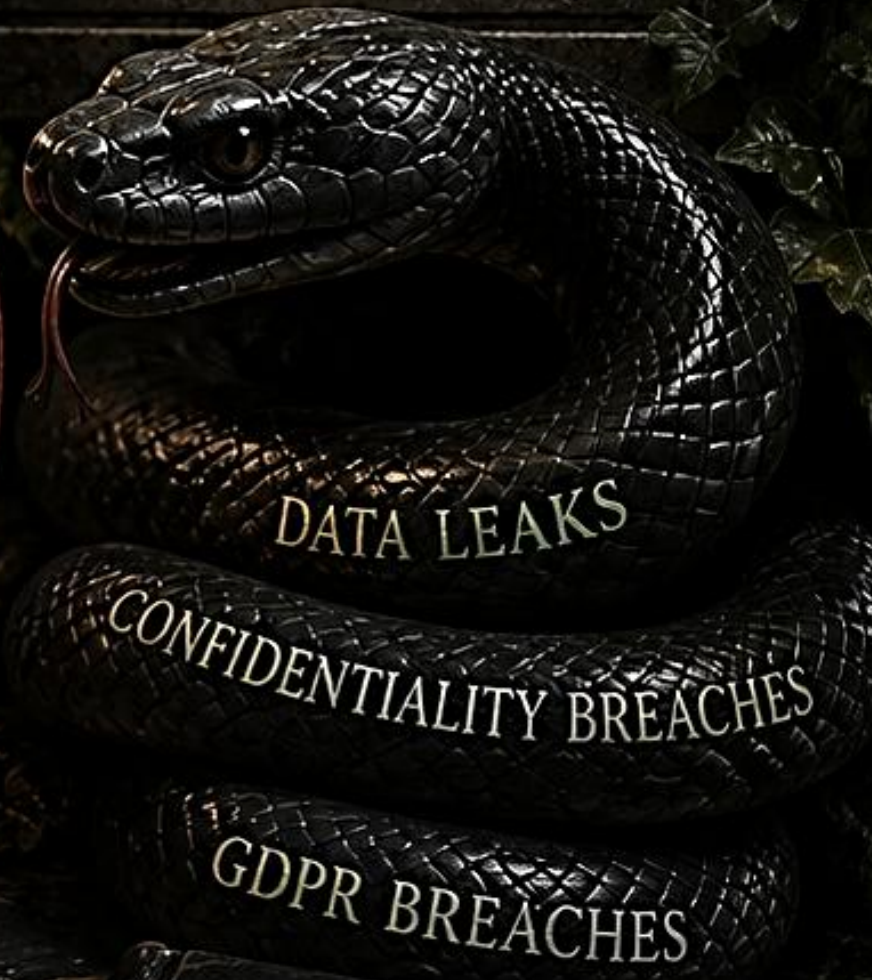
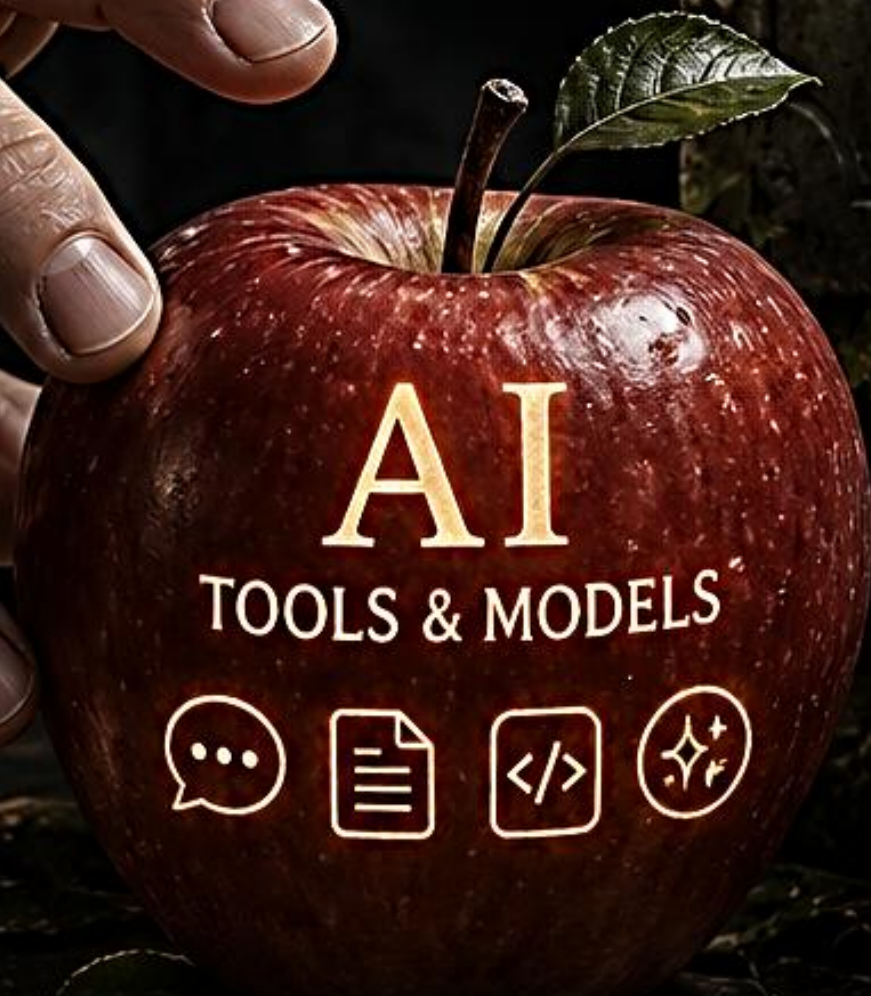
# Barrister AI Adoption: What Drives the Decision



# Overview of key AI tools being used in DSC

Tool	Chambers Approved?	£	Key benefits	Notes / constraints
Microsoft Copilot for M365	Approved (with restrictions)	MEDIUM	Very affordable, secure, user friendly – all prompt windows accessible within office 365 environment	Configured to access only the license-holders own emails and documents.
Thomson Reuters CoCounsel Core	Approved	HIGH	Grounded in proprietary legal texts, security guardrails, ability to now switch between models.	Contractual controls prohibit model providers retaining/using data for training; encryption in place. Tool positioned for document review, research and timeline creation at scale.
Lexis+ AI	Approved	HIGH	Grounded in proprietary legal texts, security guardrails, ability to now switch between models.	Uploaded documents are purged at end of session; options to manage/delete conversation history. Used for drafting, conversational search, legal summaries and document analysis.
Adobe Acrobat AI Assistant	Proceed with caution	LOW	Quick way to interrogate individual PDF documents	Data protection concerns: use of multiple cloud providers (incl. outside EU) and content moderation/flagging that may result in session data being reviewed (including manually) by Adobe employees; assessed as high GDPR risk for sensitive case papers.

INSTANT GRATIFICATION.  
REAL RISK.



- THE PROMISE
- Instant answers
  - Draft in seconds
  - Summarise anything
  - Boost productivity
  - Save time
  - Endless possibilities

THE CONSEQUENCES

CONFIDENTIALITY BREACH

BARRISTER'S  
DUTY

# Key Rule

If you use public chatbots such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude — even paid versions — do not enter confidential client material.

# Summary

- **AI Adoption is socially and institutionally shaped, not just technical** — personal preference, peer norms, and formal guidance together determine uptake.
- **Usage is already happening** — there are identifiable tools in circulation, so the discussion is about *safe practice*, not hypothetical futures.
- **Confidentiality is the hard line** — public chatbots (even paid) are not the place for client-confidential material.
- **Professional duties already cover this** — data protection and professional conduct obligations apply directly, with clear expectations about use and safeguards.
- **The threat landscape is moving fast** — new entrants and systems like Mythos make risks more concrete.

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