

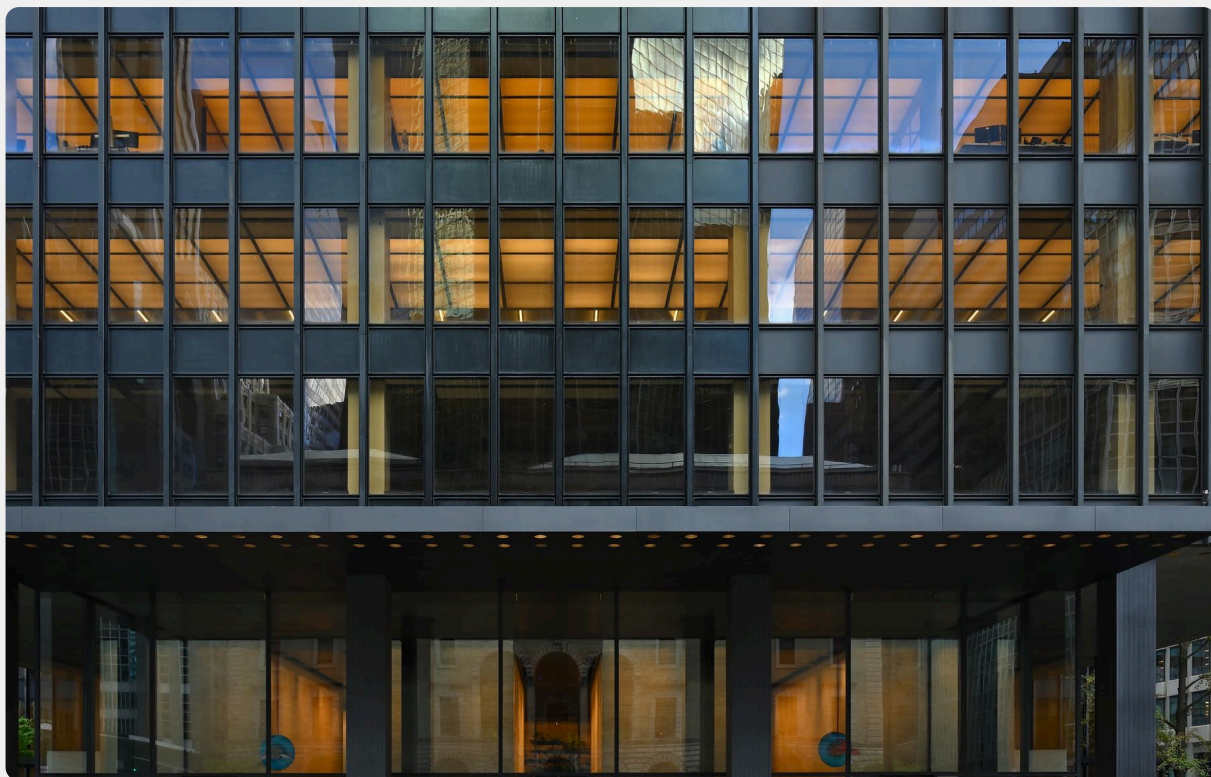
THE 2025 EXECUTIVE BRIEF

# Firm-Wide AI Adoption, Governance, and Control



# Executive Summary

Law firms are adopting AI rapidly, but without a strategy that scales across the firm. Many are deploying isolated tools, introducing unnecessary security risk, and failing to align stakeholders on desired outcomes. This brief outlines how firms with 100+ lawyers can move from experimentation to controlled, firm-specific AI workflow orchestration that enables security, defensibility, and long-term competitive advantage.



# What's Broken in Enterprise AI

AI in law has moved quickly from an experimental curiosity to a strategic imperative. But most large firms are still in the early stages of figuring out what that actually looks like at scale.

For many firms, legal technology resembles a collection of specialized instruments rather than a unified orchestra. Teams stitch together document review platforms, contract analysis tools, and research databases through manual handoffs and improvised workflows. The result is a patchwork of capabilities that, while individually powerful, creates operational complexity.

What's emerging is a familiar pattern: high interest, low alignment, and little ability to govern or scale firm-wide. Tools are deployed without clear governance or risk review. Prompts vary with no

standardization or audit trail. Experimentation remains siloed across Knowledge Management (KM), IT, Risk, and legal teams. Disconnected automations struggle to scale securely.

The pressure to move is clear: [93% of legal leaders expect GenAI to deliver measurable value in the next 12 months](#) (Deloitte). But only [1% of firms report having mature orchestration](#) in place (McKinsey).

That gap is where risk accumulates and where long-term competitive advantage is either built or lost.



# What Leading Firms Are Doing

## Leading firms are beginning to orchestrate AI across the business.

Instead of relying on general-purpose tools, they're building firm-specific systems that embed AI directly into legal processes.

The focus is on creating durable infrastructure: workflows that are consistent, secure, and tailored to how the firm actually works. This approach enables scale, increases defensibility, and positions the firm to capture long-term strategic value.

In practice, that looks like:

- **Research:** Structured, AI-assisted workflows reduce review time while maintaining precision and auditability
- **Knowledge:** Workflow automations support consistent precedent reuse, improving quality and minimizing duplication across matters
- **Innovation:** Private deployments protect data integrity and allow firms to build AI capabilities aligned to their unique practice areas and strategic goals

Rather than testing the limits of what's possible with AI, these firms are focused on what's sustainable, defensible, and valuable over time.





# From Isolated Tools to Orchestration

Most firms today are still in “tool mode”: adopting individual AI applications to solve specific problems in isolation. These tools may offer short-term gains, but they don’t scale, and they often create more complexity than clarity. Over time, this scattered approach makes it harder to govern AI use, measure ROI, and scale best practices across the firm.

The next stage of maturity is orchestration: the ability to design, govern, and evolve AI-powered workflows across the firm in a connected, intentional way. Transformative potential lies in orchestrating entire workflows that previously required coordination across multiple tools and teams. This shift creates compounding advantages beyond efficiency gains.

Here’s how the two approaches differ:

	Point Tools	Orchestrated Workflows
Scope	Isolated tasks	End-to-end legal processes
Governance	Tool dependent	Centralized and firm-specific
Infrastructure	Public or shared models	Private cloud, firm-owned assets
ROI	Friction-based, hard to measure	Strategic, measurable, repeatable

*When done well, orchestration creates a single operational backbone for AI, one that legal, KM, IT, and Risk can all trust. It allows the firm to capture efficiencies, reduce risk, and create repeatable systems that compound in value over time.*



# Governance Checklist for CIOs

As AI adoption accelerates, CIOs and IT leaders are being asked to ensure control, but often without a clear definition of where that control begins and ends.

The checklist below is designed to help surface whether your current AI workflows are operating with enforceable governance standards, or if key risks remain unmanaged:

- ☐ Does our firm control how AI workflow logic is deployed and updated?
- ☐ Are workflows embedded with required, reviewable checkpoints tied to legal outcomes?
- ☐ Are prompts and model behavior standardized across use cases and teams?
- ☐ Can the decision-making logic of AI systems be audited and reconstructed if needed?
- ☐ Do AI-generated outputs require review before advancing to clients or courts?
- ☐ Are IT, KM, and Innovation aligned on success metrics and strategic outcomes?

*Answering these questions with confidence puts you in a position to scale safely. Firms that can't answer them are likely running ahead of their governance framework.*



# Market Maturity Map

While AI experimentation is widespread, true AI maturity remains rare. Most firms are still operating in fragmented or siloed environments, without the cross-functional alignment needed to drive lasting value.

This view illustrates how AI maturity is currently distributed across the legal sector:

Stage	Description	% of Firms*
Fragmented	Team-led pilots with little to no oversight or coordination	40%
Tactical Automation	Isolated efficiencies within departments or functions	35%
Operational Orchestration	AI workflows embedded across multiple practice areas	10%
Strategic Integration	AI aligned to firm-wide systems, goals, and governance	<1%

*\*Alexi internal research (2024 – 2025)*

The majority of firms are active, but few have yet built the systems to scale AI securely, consistently, and strategically.

## Shape Your Firm's AI Strategy — Book a Private Executive Workshop

Our Executive Strategy Workshop is a private session led by our CEO, VP of Product, and Director of Revenue. Together with your C-suite, we'll assess where your firm stands today, identify areas of risk, and define a clear path toward secure, scalable AI adoption—tailored to your operating model.

In this workshop we will:

- Evaluate workflow maturity across departments
- Uncover gaps in governance, security, and adoption
- Develop a practical, executive-level roadmap to orchestration

**Available to firms with 100+ lawyers.**



# The ROI of Workflow Orchestration

For large firms, orchestration is a strategic lever: enabling scale, consistency, and long-term value from AI. When workflows are designed with governance and firm-specific logic from the start, they deliver returns that extend far beyond efficiency gains.

Firms regain time for strategic work, smooth out bottlenecks, and create knowledge assets that grow in value. When AI orchestration is done right, it strengthens your firm’s competitive position.

The impact is measurable across multiple areas of practice and operations:

Outcome	Area	Sample Impact
Isolated tasks	Litigation, Advisory	40–70% faster draft generation
Margin improvement	Fixed-fee matters	18–25% increase from reduced rework
Partner leverage	Strategic execution	2–4x more high-value output
Fewer billing issues	Realization rates	10–15% drop in disputes
More matter reuse	KM and collaboration	3–6x increase in document reuse





# What's Coming in 2025–2026

AI adoption is quickly becoming a client expectation. Over the next two years, firms will face rising pressure to show not just what AI tools they use, but how those tools are governed, secured, and aligned with firm strategy. Yet today, only 10% of firms have a formal GenAI policy (Thomson Reuters).

These are key trends to prepare for:

- **Clients will ask how firms govern AI** and expect clear answers
- **Prompt libraries will become standardized**, moving from ad hoc to institutionally managed
- **Outputs will require auditability**, especially in regulated or high-risk matters
- **KM, IT, and Innovation will operate on shared AI systems**, not in silos
- **AI will be expected to contribute to long-term firm differentiation**, not just short-term efficiency

Firms that prepare now will be positioned to lead – not react – when these shifts arrive.



# Infrastructure and Security

For firms with more than 100 lawyers, infrastructure is the foundation for secure, scalable AI adoption. Legal, KM, and IT teams all need confidence that systems are governed, protected, and built for professional use.

That’s why leading firms are turning to dedicated, private AI environments, built to meet enterprise security standards while enabling firm-specific control.

Alexi Private Cloud delivers exactly that:

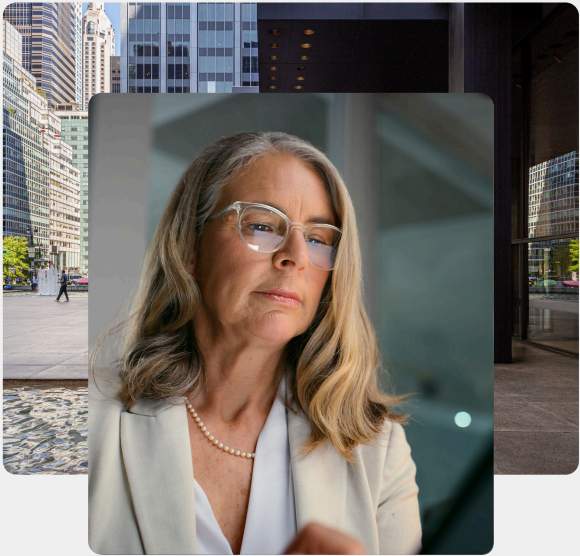
Feature	Description
Deployment	Single-tenant virtual private cloud (VPC)
Residency	Configurable by jurisdiction
Authentication	SSO and SCIM supported
Prompt Logging	Full activity history retained
Model Routing	Workflow-specific, firm-controlled
Data Protection	Firm data is never used for model training
Compliance	SOC 2 Type II. Documentation available on request.*



# IT Highlights

Beyond core infrastructure, CIOs and IT leaders need confidence that AI systems address the operational and compliance concerns that matter most to the firm. The table below outlines common challenges and how Alexi’s Private Cloud resolves them:

Concern	How Alexi Handles It
Shadow usage	Centralized governance and user management
Model exposure	No public model access; explicit routing controls
No audit history	Full prompt and output logging for all workflows
Procurement readiness	Documentation, DPA, and SOC 2 certification in place



# Conclusion: Governance as Architecture

In mature firms, governance is embedded into the architecture of AI systems from the start. This approach enables scale without compromising security, and creates a shared foundation that all teams can rely on.

When governance is built into the system, not layered on top, firms gain:

In practice, that looks like:

- **Alignment between KM and IT** on workflow standards and updates
- **Shared visibility across Innovation and Risk** through unified logging
- **Traceability for partners**, with AI outputs linked back to specific review checkpoints
- **AI workflows defined by firm best practices**, not tool defaults

This is how orchestration becomes operational – turning AI from a tactical tool into part of the firm’s strategic infrastructure.





# Appendix: Sources

Deloitte	<a href="#">How Generative AI is changing legal department functions</a>
McKinsey	<a href="#">Superagency in the workplace: Empowering people to unlock AI's full potential</a>
Thomas Reuters Institute	<a href="#">2024 Generative AI in Professional Services</a>
Alexi Internal Data (2024 to 2025)	Workflow benchmarks and adoption insights



# About Alexi

Alexi is the legal intelligence platform trusted by top firms to orchestrate secure, firm-specific workflows using generative AI. Built for scale, it enables legal teams to surface insight, automate high-effort work, and strengthen results across practice areas. The platform runs in a private cloud environment with full governance and infrastructure control. It helps firms create ownable, defensible AI assets that support long-term strategic advantage.

