

# Modern Lawyer

Ideas for Legal Leaders

Editor: Alex Davies

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## Featured in this issue

*Collaboration is one of your strategic pillars – now what?*

*The power of physical wellbeing – beyond self-help and mental health practices*

*Transforming and nurturing our humanity in an AI-mad world*

*ESG: society reinstated*



# The human touch

“The measure  
of intelligence is the  
ability to change”



“The proper functioning of society is the reason lawyers exist,” says Jenifer Swallow in this issue. She caveats this statement by questioning whether that lofty aim is currently being achieved. ESG is a major focus of this issue, and not just in the two excellent articles on the subject. Increased emphasis on environmental, social, and governance issues is pervading the general consensus and influencing pretty much every agenda.

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change,” said Albert Einstein, and change is very much a process that we all – as lawyers and as members of society generally – are going through. Artificial intelligence is no substitute for actual intelligence, and as Stephanie Barnes notes in her article, we must remember our humanity in an AI-obsessed world.

A key feature of this humanity is remembering that – unlike AI – we are physical, living, breathing creatures that require more than battery power. A greater awareness of the importance of physical wellbeing will ensure that human lawyers continue to do all the great, compassionate, intelligent work that allows society to function and thrive. Sick lawyers will not do anyone any good.

Another aspect of this humanity is the drive towards inclusion and advancement. In their thought-provoking article, Bendita Cynthia Malakia and Morgan Reams discuss the hidden biases that humans have towards each other, and the damaging effects these can have on people’s health, happiness, and careers. We talk a great deal about the bias that is built into AI algorithms – but we are the root causes of those prejudices. If we are to fully live the principles embedded in ESG, now might be the time to heed Einstein’s words and think about how our collective intelligence is the way we can effect this change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Davies".

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