

DISSERTATION SHOWCASE

Are UK IP laws, especially those governing copyright and patents, evolving in step with advancements in AI? A contemporary legal review.

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LLM International Commercial and Technology Law



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BACKGROUND

My interest in the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property law developed naturally from my professional background in legal, governance and compliance within the technology sector. Throughout my career, I have worked across multiple international jurisdictions, including Cyprus, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the CIS region, where I have been closely involved in navigating complex regulatory and legal frameworks in fast-moving technology environments.

Before joining Yango Group as Head of Special Legal Projects in Dubai, I spent several years at Noventiq, where I developed extensive experience in global compliance and cross-border legal governance. Working in these environments exposed me to the pace at which technology evolves and the increasing challenge for legal systems to adapt alongside it.

As artificial intelligence continues to transform industries and reshape questions of ownership, creativity and innovation, I saw an opportunity to explore a topic that aligned directly with both my professional experience and the commercial technology focus of my degree. The rapid development of AI, and the uncertainty it creates for intellectual property law, made it a timely and important area for research.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project explored whether UK IP laws, especially those governing copyright and patents, are evolving in step with advancements in AI. This topic reflects a pressing and practical legal issue: the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence is outpacing many traditional legal frameworks. Intellectual property law is being tested by questions of authorship, ownership, and originality in the context of AI-generated outputs.

For me, this is not a purely theoretical debate. It directly affects how technology companies innovate, how legal teams advise on risk, and how regulators shape the future of creative and inventive work.

METHODOLOGY

To explore whether UK intellectual property laws are evolving in step with advancements in artificial intelligence, I adopted a combination of doctrinal, comparative and theoretical legal methods.

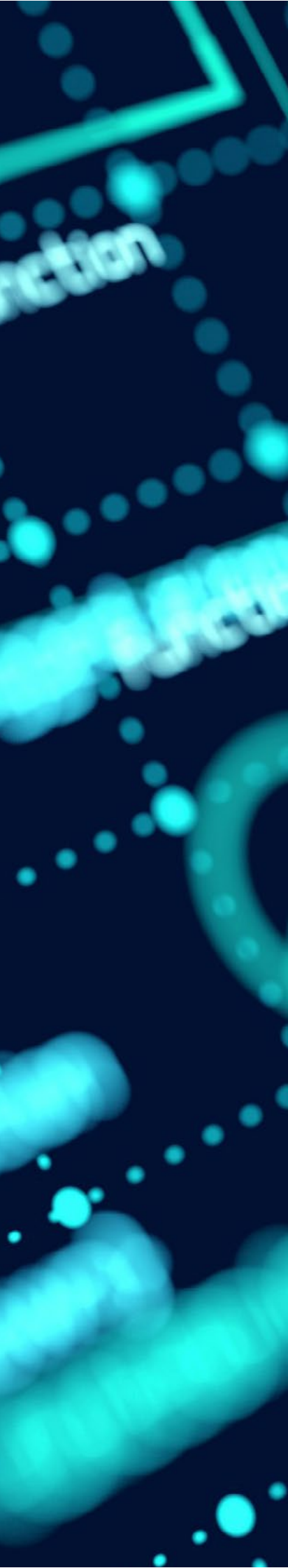
- + **Doctrinal method:** The doctrinal method formed the foundation of my research, allowing me to analyse existing UK intellectual property legislation, case law and recent legislative developments. This was essential in assessing whether the current legal framework remains fit for purpose in the face of increasingly sophisticated AI technologies. Given that some of the relevant statutory provisions date back several decades, it was particularly important to examine how adaptable they remain in a modern technological context.
- + **Comparative method:** To broaden the scope of my research, I also incorporated a comparative approach. By examining developments across selected common law jurisdictions and considering the continued influence of European legal principles, I was able to place the UK's regulatory approach within a wider international context and identify emerging legal trends.
- + **Theoretical method:** Alongside this, the theoretical method allowed me to ground the research in the broader principles and foundations of intellectual property law. This was important in understanding not only how the law currently operates, but also the normative questions surrounding authorship, originality and creativity in an age of AI-generated outputs.

A key part of my methodology was also bridging legal analysis with a functional understanding of artificial intelligence itself. This ensured that my conclusions were informed not only by legal doctrine, but by the technological realities driving these regulatory challenges.

Bringing these methods together allowed me to take a more balanced and practical approach to one of the most rapidly evolving areas of law and technology.



We want to support AI-driven innovation, but in a way that won't be harmful to human beings and society itself.



FINDINGS AND IMPACT

One of the most significant findings was that UK copyright law already contains early foresight mechanisms for AI-generated works, particularly under **Section 9 (3) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988**, which addresses computer-generated works. However, I found that patent law is significantly less developed in addressing AI-generated inventions, creating a clearer regulatory gap. Although this provision predates modern generative AI by several decades, it provides a foundation upon which contemporary legal interpretation and reform can build.

My overall conclusion was that UK IP law is partially prepared for AI disruption but is not yet sufficiently comprehensive and requires **targeted reform**. Within my dissertation I argued that legal recognition of AI-generated works should remain grounded in meaningful human input, to preserve the core principle of human creativity within intellectual property law. Maintaining this principle preserves the fundamental objectives of intellectual property law; rewarding human ingenuity, encouraging innovation and ensuring accountability, while allowing the legal framework to evolve alongside technological progress.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

This research has had direct relevance to my professional practice. It has strengthened my ability to assess emerging regulatory trends in AI and intellectual property, and to anticipate future compliance challenges in technology-driven organisations. It has also enhanced my capacity to **translate legal developments into practical risk considerations** for business and product decision-making in international environments.

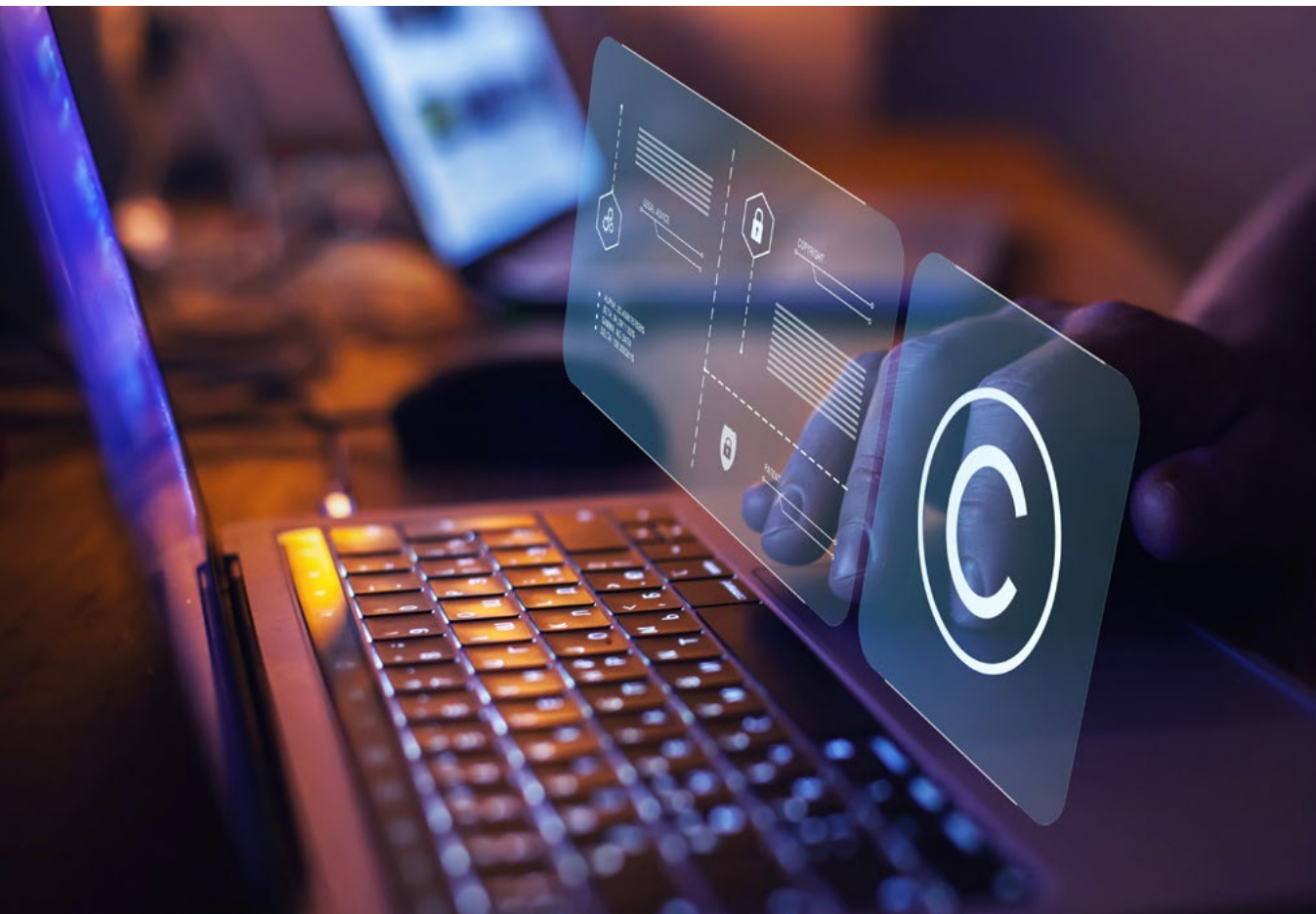
Undertaking this dissertation strengthened both my legal and analytical capabilities. It improved my ability to work with specialist intellectual property terminology and enhanced my efficiency in identifying, interpreting, and synthesising complex legal sources. It also pushed me to think beyond purely doctrinal analysis and engage more critically with the intersection between law and technology. This shift in perspective has been one of the most valuable outcomes of the programme.

The experience has also reinforced the importance of disciplined research and structured argumentation when addressing fast-evolving legal issues such as artificial intelligence.

Completing my dissertation and the International Commercial and Technology Law course have had a clear influence on my career trajectory. They have deepened my understanding of common law principles and strengthened my interest in formally qualifying as a solicitor in England and Wales.

More broadly, the experience has reinforced my commitment to working at the intersection of law, technology, and international business. It has shown me that rigorous academic research can directly inform and enhance practical decision-making in complex regulatory environments.

Overall, the programme has helped me integrate academic legal thinking with senior-level professional practice and has shaped how I approach the next stage of my career development.



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INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGY LAW

Grounded in leading research, the course covers online privacy, financial law, business law and intellectual property, giving you practical insight into commercial law in an international context. Study flexibly from anywhere while balancing your professional commitments.



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