NEW SUITS - APPETITE FOR DISRUPTION IN THE LEGAL WORLD

Book review: Michele DeStefano/Guenther Dobrauz (Eds.), Stämpfli Verlag, Bern 2019

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Christina-Maria Leeb is a research assistant at HEUSSEN Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft (practice group IT/IP/Media) in Munich, Germany. Additionally, she acts there as a Digital Business Development Analyst in the "Digitization & Legal Tech" team and holds a PhD in Law (University of Passau, Germany). Her PhD thesis is entitled "Digitalisation, Legal Technology and Innovation - The decisive legal framework and the requirements for a lawyer in the information technology society". Leeb was named "Woman of Legal Tech 2018" by a major commercial law firm, a legal tech company and a thematic blog. In 2019, the Bavarian State Ministry for Digital Affairs included her in the talent program "Bavaria's Women in Digital Professions" as one of 50 women in Bavaria.

REVIEWED BOOK

Michele DeStefano, founder and Content Curator of CEJ, is a Professor of Law at Miami Law and the director and founder of LawWithoutWalls. Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna is a Partner with PwC in Zurich, Leader of PwC Legal Switzerland, a member of PwC's Global Legal Leadership Team directing the firm's global legal practice and the firm's Global LegalTech Leader. DeStefano and Dobrauz are editors of the book "New Suits. Appetite for Disruption in the Legal World" published in June 2019. It combines the expertise of 47 (!) authors, many of whom are already proven experts in the worldwide legal tech scene.

Books related to the digital transformation of law - especially legal tech - have been springing up like mushrooms since about 2018 and continue to do so today.[1] They reflect the great interest of the legal profession in these topics. With *New Suits* a further, particularly impressive volume has been added.

Apart from the well-known American lawyer series, the title recalls the famous works of Richard Susskind, in particular *Tomorrow's Lawyers. An Introduction to your Future* (Second Edit., 2017) and *The End of Lawyers? Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services* (2010). Furthermore, the book already impresses optically with 710 pages and a cover, on which - separated by a blood-red dividing line - on one side a suit-wearer with a tie and on the other side a punk with a Bitcoin button on his leather jacket can be seen. It quickly becomes apparent: In the still very conventional legal book market, signs are yet to be set.

Even the structure is innovative: In Part 1, the question as to why "Lawyers [...] Need New Suits" is posed. Part 2 describes "What New Suits Might Lawyers Need for the Future". Finally, the general question of Part 3 is: "How Will Lawyers Fit into The New Suits of the Future?".

Part 1 consists of eleven single chapters. They describe a colorful bouquet of developments, both with regard to changes in the working methods of legal advisors as well as external factors and new business models. Chapter 1, written by David B Wilkins and María José Esteban Ferrer, starts with Alternative Legal Service Providers. External actors also play a role in Chapter 5, authored by Christoph Küng, where Legal Marketplaces and Platforms are the subject. Karl J Paadam and Priit Martinson devote their important Chapter 10 to developments in the judiciary and administration: *e-Government & e-Justice: Digitizations of Registers, IDs and Justice Procedures*.

One thematic focus is the attorney's working methods and consulting services in selected areas. In Chapter 6, for example, Karl Koller describes the possibilities of using technology in the Practice of Real Estate Transactions, also known as Property Tech (PropTech). Chapters 7 (author: Marc O Morant), 9 (authors: Michael Grupp, Micha-Manuel Bues) and 11 (authors: Christian Öhner, Silke Graf) inform the reader about Gig/Contingent

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[1]   I have attempted a constantly updated list of all (German and English) legal monographs, manuals and volumes in the field of Legal Tech, E-Government & E-Justice under bitly.com/legaltechdokz.

Workforce Models, Legal Automation and Lawyer Bots. Probably the most important chapter in times of the worldwide outbreak of the corona virus (some people might think of #FlattenTheCurve[2] when looking at the graphic on p. 302) is provided by Eva Maria Baumgartner, without having suspected this at the time of its origin. In Chapter 8 ("Virtual Lawyering - Lawyers In The Cloud"), she provides a *Survival Kit for Lawyers in the Cloud Computing Universe*. Baumgartner quite rightly points out that, "with cloud computing, gathering and distribution of information is excessively enhanced, making it more impactful than any other information technology of our time".[3] One might hope that in practice the necessary steps have already been taken using the Survival Kit before law offices were closed and (as in China and Italy) curfews imposed. In any case, the author sees "lots of room for organizations such as the bars and disciplinary organizations to move towards the cloud and help members to clearly understand requirements to be able to move forward with their clients".[4]

Finally, Part 1 also contains more cross-cutting issues: From Innovation (Chapter 3, author: Michele DeStefano) to *Legal Professionals of the Future* (Chapter 4, author: John Flood) to Corporate Legal Departments, in particular *The Changing Role of General Counsel* (Chapter 2, author: Mari Sako).

The topics from Part 1 are closely interwoven with those from Part 2. The distinction is not readily apparent, but this does not affect the relevance of the chapters. There, legal publishers are also heard as a professional group beyond legal consultancy in Chapter 14, written by Simon Ahammer. In parallel with Chapter 6 (PropTech), David Bundi and Marcel Lötscher each devote their Chapters 18 and 19 to the financial industry (Regulatory Technology - RegTech) and the use of RegTech for supervisory agencies (SupTech).

Part 2 also focuses on new basic technologies in general and the working methods of lawyers in particular. In Chapter 15, Rolf H Weber describes *Smart Contracts and What the Blockchain Has Got to Do with It*. David Fisher and Pierson Grider provide a transfer of the Blockchain topic to the legal sector (outside the regulatory framework) in Chapter 16. Especially worth reading in this context is also Chapter 21, authored by Luis Ackermann.

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[2]   *Chow/Abbruzzese*, NBC News, 11/03/2020, https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/what-flatten-curve-chart-shows-how-critical-it-everyone-fight-n1155636.

[3]   Eva Baumgartner, *Virtual Lawyering—-Lawyers In The Cloud, in:* New Suits 223 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).

[4]   Eva Baumgartner, *Virtual Lawyering—-Lawyers In The Cloud, in:* New Suits 223 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).

He is concerned with *Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Legal Systems* and provides readers with valuable advice: "Act now, from a position of strength, rethink your IT strategy, free from preconceptions, and be bold enough to not only consider radical change but actually realize it"[5]. Chapters that are particularly practical, as they concern themselves with day-to-day work, are Chapter 17 (authors: Juan Crosby, Mike Rowden, Craig Mckeown, Sebastian Ahrens) concerning eDiscovery, Chapter 20 (author: Antonios Koumbarakis) concerning Legal Research and Chapter 22 (authors: Christian Öhner, Silke Graf) concerning Automated Legal Documents.

Furthermore, two Chapters follow a more general approach. Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna and Corsin Derungs focus on *Innovation, Disruption, or Evolution in the Legal World* (Chapter 12). In Chapter 13, Matthias Trummer, Ulf Klebeck and Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna cover the *Legal Value Chain*.

Part 3 has a clearer focus, namely on the future-oriented change in job and requirement profiles (mindsets and skillsets) as well as new business models in the law (firm) sector. Under these aspects there are also comments on Legal Procurement (Chapter 25, written by Silvia Hodges Silverstein and Lena Campagna) as well as Restructuring Law (Chapter 26, authored by Tom Braegelmann).

Maurus Schreyvogel opens Part 3 with Chapter 23: *Fix What Ain't Broken (Yet)*. Similar lines are followed by Jordan Urstadt in Chapter 24 (topic: Strategy for Legal Products of Law Firms), Philipp Rosenauer and Steve Hafner in Chapter 27 (topic: Managed Legal Services) and Salvatore Iacangelo in Chapter 30 (topic: Future of Law Firms). Chapters 28, 29, 31 and 32, on the other hand, put more emphasis on the competences and characteristics of the individual. They deal with *Legal Hackers* (authors: Jameson Dempsey, Lauren Mack, Phil Weiss*), New Jobs in an Old Profession* (authors: Noah Waisberg, Will Pangborn), Collaboration and Leadership (author: Michele DeStefano) and - last but not least - Diversity (author: Maria Leistner).

The fact that the book deals with diversity in the legal industry (and what this topic has to do with a lack of innovation and of young talents, too) is exemplary for the far-sighted and outstandingly innovative approach. Often enough it is still wrongly anchored in people's minds: Diversity is not just about gender. Leistner also makes this clear and refers

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[5]   Luis Ackermann, *Artificial -Intelligence and Advanced Legal Systems, in:* New Suits 492 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).

above all to race and age.[6] She convincingly points out that technological changes will assist in attracting more diverse lawyers to teams, "creating the environment that helps them drive: an environment that is not based on selling hours and *presenteeism*, but value adding, with advice being able to be provided 'on the go' and through advanced methods of communication".[7] I look forward to these changes and to such an important chapter being placed further ahead in a new edition of the book.

Overall, a must-read for all those – academics and practitioners alike – who are concerned with the future of legal advice and want to be provided with an "international, multicultural map of the legal jungle (…) by putting together the voices of legal thought-leaders from around the world"[8]. The readers can expect a wide range of topics full of high-quality articles. Comprehensive and fundamental articles provide the necessary basis of knowledge. Thematically more specific articles and particularly beneficial international aspects lead to even the "advanced" legal techies getting their money's worth. After reading this, the legal professionals should get even more excited about fitting their *New Suits*.

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[6]   Maria Leistner, *The Importance of Diversity, in:* New Suits 658 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).

[7]   Maria Leistner, *The Importance of Diversity, in:* New Suits 666 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).

[8]   Michele DeStefano & Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, *Curators' Foreword in:* New Suits 8 (Michele DeStefano, Guenther Dobrauz-Saldapenna, 1st ed. 2019).