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I am convinced that technology will be the driving force of the next century and that it will have an impact on the law that can't yet be fully imagined. Now it is affecting peripheral legal activities, but it has not touched the core of what the law actually does in delivering justice.

Whilst most lawyers scoff at the notion of artificial intelligence replacing decision-makers, I don't. Some primary decisions could already be made by the application of computers to basic facts. Already we are seeing some laws adapted in a way which is susceptible to artificial intelligence - motor accident compensation, for example - fixed sums replacing jury verdicts.

We won't be able to turn all problems over to artificial intelligence. Perceptions of what is just change over time. No machine yet devised can be programmed to have a will to do justice. But I don't think lawyers can close their minds to the possibility that technology will come to the rescue of the great legal problem which has been around since Biblical times - cost and delay. Artificial intelligence has a big part to play in the future of decision-making, and it will be demanded by citizens who are insisting on a cheaper and more accessible resolution of their legal problems.