LAWTECHNOS MAGAZINE - ISSUE 18 - NOVEMBER 2026

The Arabic-first machine



Can legal AI think in Arabic first? Inside the legal AI labs of Riyadh, 2027 budgets from 212 legal teams, the registrar digitising DIFC evidence, and the month in deals, rulings and people moves.

From the editors

For years, legal AI in the Gulf meant English-first tools with an Arabic layer bolted on. This issue is about something else: models trained to read Arabic pleadings, contracts and judgments first, and legal teams who now have to judge whether those tools can be trusted in court.

We visited the legal AI labs in Riyadh, surveyed 212 legal teams on their 2027 budgets, sat down with the registrar digitising DIFC evidence, and compared six data laws clause by clause. We also carry the month's rulings, launches and people moves, and the next issue's line-up.

In this issue

Cover story: can legal AI think in Arabic first? - page 4

Inside Riyadh's legal AI labs - page 6

GC budgets 2027: 212 legal teams answer - page 8

Interview: the registrar digitising DIFC evidence - page 10

Six data laws, one Gulf - page 12

Contract clauses every AI vendor agreement needs - page 12

DIFC vs ADGM: two regimes, one city pair - page 14

People moves across the region - page 17

What we are reading next month - page 19

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.

Notes and reader space for this sample edition.