smartContract

AN EBOOK FOR LEGAL LEADERS

Legal teams don’t need more hours. They need more capacity.

smartContract AI: contract intelligence for modern legal teams

How smartContract AI turns buried contract information into answers legal teams can act on.

01 THE CHALLENGE

When legal work becomes administrative work

A contract review request arrives marked urgent. A stakeholder needs a liability clause clarified before a customer meeting. A renewal is due for review, while a compliance question depends on information spread across several agreements. Meanwhile, someone is still hunting for the latest version of an amendment signed months ago.

For many legal teams, this is not an unusual day. It's the reality of supporting growing contract volumes, rising business expectations, and expanding regulatory requirements — all with the same resources.

The challenge is no longer simply reviewing contracts. It's finding the right information quickly enough to manage risk, support decisions, and maintain visibility across an increasingly complex portfolio.

IN THIS EBOOK

- Why legal teams spend more time managing contracts than managing risk
- The hidden cost of limited contract visibility
- How smartContract AI helps legal teams scale capacity, not just save hours
- Why delaying AI adoption makes the problem harder to solve

02 THE QUESTIONS

The answers every legal team spends too much time chasing

Most contract challenges begin with a simple business question, and the answer almost always exists somewhere. The real problem is reaching it quickly enough to support the business while keeping proper oversight. Across the responsibilities your team carries, those questions sound like this:

CONTRACT REVIEW

"Has this language been approved before, and what changed last time?"

RISK MANAGEMENT

"What obligations or liabilities are we exposed to across these agreements?"

COMPLIANCE

"Which contracts are affected by the new regulatory requirement?"

BUSINESS STAKEHOLDERS

"Can legal approve this agreement before the deadline?"

CONTRACT OPERATIONS

"Where is the latest version, and which commitments are still outstanding?"

> **Key takeaway:** The information usually exists. The challenge is reaching it quickly enough to make confident legal decisions and keep the business moving.

03 THE HIDDEN COST

The hidden cost of limited contract visibility

Legal teams don't just manage contracts; they manage the risks, obligations, and decisions connected to them. When contract information is hard to access, the impact reaches well beyond the legal department — delays buried across emails, drives, disconnected systems, and multiple versions affect the whole organisation.

RISK

Critical obligations, commitments, and contractual risks become harder to identify, monitor, and manage consistently.

OPERATIONAL

Reviews take longer, approvals slow down, and business teams wait longer for decisions.

STRATEGIC

Legal spends more time on administrative work and less on negotiations, compliance, and growth.

Why does this keep happening? Not because organisations have too many contracts, but because critical information stays buried across systems, versions, and email chains, with no single source of truth.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SHOWS

39%
believe contracts deliver intended outcomes

~90%
find contracts hard to understand

~9%
of annual revenue eroded

24
systems hold contract data

Source: World Commerce & Contracting (WorldCC), 2025.

> **Key takeaway:** When legal teams spend more time searching for contract information than acting on it, risk management, compliance, and responsiveness all become harder to scale.

04 THE SOLUTION

How smartContract AI turns contracts into legal intelligence

For legal leaders, the value of AI isn't faster review in isolation — it's the right answer before a risk escalates, a deadline slips, or a decision is delayed. **smartContract AI** surfaces those answers the moment they're needed, built for how legal teams actually work.

ANSWERS AT THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Before a review — shows key clauses, deviations, historical language, and risks before review time is spent searching.

Before a compliance assessment — identifies obligations and provisions affected by regulatory change across the portfolio.

Before a decision — locates relevant terms, approvals, and obligations in seconds, so legal can respond faster.

BUILT FOR LEGAL TEAMS, NOT JUST CONTRACT STORAGE

Answers, not document searches — ask a plain-language question, get a direct answer backed by the relevant contract language.

Monitoring that runs on its own — obligations, deadlines, and renewals tracked automatically across the portfolio.

Portfolio-wide intelligence — contract information becomes accessible across every agreement and existing repository, without manual searching.

FROM HOURS SAVED TO CAPACITY GAINED

Gartner predicts that by 2029, around 50% of contract reviews will be handled by self-service systems; in a 2026 in-house survey, 79% already report less time on routine legal work. Hours reclaimed from manual searching become capacity for the work only legal can do.

Key takeaway: smartContract AI helps legal teams spend less time on contract administration and more time managing risk, ensuring compliance, and supporting strategic decisions.

05 THE COST OF WAITING

Why waiting makes the problem harder to solve

Doing nothing feels safe. It isn't. Every quarter, manual processes add to the load: review queues grow, obligations become harder to monitor, and critical information stays buried in agreements that are difficult to search. As volumes rise, the gap between what the business needs and what manual legal processes can support keeps widening.

52% of in-house legal teams are already using or evaluating AI for contract review — with active use nearly quadrupling since 2024.

Teams that rely on manual processes face a widening gap — not only in efficiency, but in visibility, responsiveness, and risk oversight. The longer the wait, the harder it becomes to scale legal operations, and the further ahead the teams that have already operationalised contract intelligence.

Key takeaway: Delay is not neutral. The cost of inefficiency compounds, while the advantage of smartContract AI continues to grow.

06 GET STARTED

Scale legal operations with smartContract CLM

The fastest way to understand what smartContract AI changes for your team is to point it at the contracts you already manage — and watch it track the obligations, risks, and renewals you'd otherwise spend hours chasing.

SEE IT WORK IN THREE STEPS

1

Point it at your contracts

Connect the agreements you already manage — SOWs, vendor contracts, renewals — with no lengthy setup.

2

Ask in plain language

Type a question like "What's our exposure on renewals this quarter?" and get the answer with its source clause.

3

Act before the deadline

Review flagged risks, claim what's owed, and renew on your terms — before anything slips.

WHAT CHANGES FOR YOUR TEAM

More capacity, same team

Reclaim the hours lost to searching and redirect them to higher-value legal work.

Faster answers to the business

Respond to stakeholders in minutes, not days — with answers you can trust.

Lower risk across the portfolio

Surface obligations and non-standard terms before they become problems.

Give your legal team its capacity back.

Less time administering contracts — more time on the work that needs a lawyer.

Turn to the last page to see the teams that trust smartContract — and book your demo →

KNOW MORE ABOUT SMARTCONTRACT

Trusted by legal and contracting teams worldwide

From global enterprises to fast-scaling organisations, legal, procurement, finance, and operations teams rely on smartContract to bring visibility and control to the agreements that run their business.

51+	98%	4.8/5	88%
ORGANISATIONS SERVED	WOULD RECOMMEND	OVERALL RATING	FIVE-STAR REVIEWS

Schedule a demo today

www.smartcontractclm.com

Sources: 1. World Commerce & Contracting (WorldCC), Contract Management research, 2025. 2. Gartner — by 2029, ~50% of contract reviews handled by self-service systems (Gartner General Counsel survey, October 2025). 3,4. LegalOn, 2026 State of AI for In-House Legal (452 in-house professionals): 79% report less time on routine legal tasks; 52% using or evaluating AI (active use ~4× since 2024). 5. Gartner Peer Insights — reviews are the subjective opinions of individual end users and do not represent the views of Gartner or its affiliates.