BUCERIUS SUMMER PROGRAM IN LEGAL TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

The BSP Legal Technology and Operations provides students with a fundamental, technological understanding of the changes the delivery of legal services and the law itself are facing in the era of their digitization. This understanding is the prerequisite to discover opportunities and properly assess risks in connection with the use of technology in legal contexts.

Access to Justice

Breaking down complexity created by legal concepts and legal processes is a fundamental task of the legal profession. In order to prepare students, we describe positive and negative effects of technology on access to justice in the respective field of study. We determine whether these effects are caused or merely made visible by the use of technology and how to properly address undesired outcomes in the process of creating the technology itself.

Risk

Assessing legal risk is at the core of what lawyers do. As technology transforms the methodology from an expert culture to quantitative analysis, we help students understand the relationship between these approaches. We investigate the precision of new tools for risk description and evaluate risk orientation as an approach to legal issues in general.

Regulation

The provision of legal services is traditionally strongly regulated. As technology enters this market, we determine whether and to what degree the state or private regulators should address technology. We set out a legal framework that assures maximum adoption of useful technology at minimal cost or damage.

Rule of Law

The rule of law is the fundamental principle of modern legal systems. Therefore, we thoroughly examine the effects of the use of technology on it. We explore whether there is an actual risk of a "rule of algorithms" and how to properly design technology that promotes rather than harms the rule of law.

Accountability and Transparency

When technology is used, transparency can be a way to attribute accountability and strengthen trust. However, transparency might conflict with commercial interests and the desire to protect business secrets. In the respective fields, we put an emphasis on efforts to promote transparency and technical solutions to achieve it in an economically viable way and promote transparency as a fundamental value to students.

Discrimination

Yet again, the relationship between technology and discrimination is ambiguous. We caution students against approaches that might perpetuate existing biases and highlight ideas and techniques that prevent discrimination through technology.

(updated: June 4, 2018)