Legal Design

Abstract

Legal world found itself in a situation when it is forced by rising demand and new technologies to seek new ways to practice law. It is not sufficient anymore to simply provide bare legal services without acknowledging context and users' actual needs. Some degree of automatization and cost cutting of basic legal work has found its way into the legal practice. In accordance with trends about transparency and publicity of state administration, raises also demand to make law more affordable. Legal world was able to resist changes for a long time due to the lawyers' lack of motivation to do so and clients' ignorance of possibilities base on their lack of legal understanding. However, the situation is starting to change as can be seen on rising numbers of legal innovation start-ups.

There are many possible solutions to these new challenges, and one of them is Legal Design. This discipline tries to implement design methodology into legal services with the goal of creating valuable innovations. Fundamental is human or user-centered approach in order to provide solutions that better suites them. For example, it aims to develop contract from ex post problem solving tool, into relationship building tool. Also for judicial system to not only decide disputes, but also strengthen sense of justice. Design is a discipline that already creates great value in practice of commercial services so it only makes sense to use its possibilities in law.

Paper provides general introduction of Legal Design Discipline. It covers other disciplines that are in the foundation of Legal Design (Proactive Law, Behavioral Law and Economics, Plain Language and Legal Technology), description of design itself with focus on legal use (mindsets, design process, methods) an finally presents examples of practical applications in few legal areas (documents, access to justice and education)

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