



# The Dilemma of Law Education Reform in China in the New Normal of COVID-19 From a Perspective of Block Chain Technology (BCT)

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**Abstract.** With the beginning of the “Internet+” era, virtual reality, extensive data analysis, blockchain, and artificial intelligence pose significant threats to the judicial system. This paper discusses methods by which attorneys can respond swiftly to threats. In the rule of law education, for instance, blockchain technology has made curriculum reform and innovation more challenging, requiring professors to move promptly. This paper examines how the widespread COVID-19 has accelerated the development of online courses that circumvent the difficulties of traditional classroom instruction. This paper’s primary argument is that most legal education in the future will be a combination of conventional classroom and online learning. The “Three-level structure” is also how the law school field is improved and kept current at present. Here, traditional classroom instruction is the foundation, the network is the medium level of IT integration, and online education represents the highest level. The data collection was also utilized to modify how law students attend classes. In addition, the paper also suggests that law-focused universities should use a method that combines traditional law and intelligent technology to develop new training and teaching methods. Use extensive data analysis and Internet information technology in educational research, and offer new courses such as internet law, artificial intelligence law, and big data law.

**Keywords:** Blockchain Technology · Law Education Reform · Normalization of COVID-19

## 1 Introduction

A scholar once remarked that since the unanticipated breakout of COVID-19, it is no longer conceivable or necessary to return to the traditional classroom format before the pandemic, as online education has become the primary trend in the development of Chinese education and global higher education (Lu & Hu, 2020). Currently, traditional Chinese teaching techniques are rapidly evolving and reforming towards a “New routine” of blended online and offline instruction (Wenjun, 2021), but they will undoubtedly

experience adaptation fatigue (Licheng, 2021). Therefore, how to entirely reverse the “*Negative*” trend of teaching approaches to face the threats of the post-epidemic age more proactively has become a crucial challenge for higher education. Moreover, online university courses offer a variety of courses and have the most noteworthy features, which can serve as the “*Window*” through which we examine this reform road (Yao, 2021).

Blockchain is a distributed ledger that uses peer-to-peer (P2P) interaction, cryptography (Nakamoto, 2019), and consensus methods, among other technologies (Xu & Viriyasitavat, 2019), to create a platform with immutable data, shared responsibility for system upkeep, and public accessibility to all relevant data (Beck, Czepluch, Lollike & Malone, 2016). As a result, blockchain technology makes decentralized information and asset transfer possible.

Furthermore, Bitcoin’s blockchain technology was first introduced by (Nakamoto, 2008). Bitcoin’s UTXO mechanism (unspent transaction output) does not handle sophisticated state operations, and its script language is not Turing complete. Bitcoin was the first practical use of blockchain technology, debuting in January 2009. However, after ten years, no blockchain application saved the issue, and the trade of cryptocurrencies has seen widespread adoption.

This paper has conducted an in-depth study on how to apply blockchain technology to reform legal education. It is based on the analysis and thinking done regarding the actual development of China’s online education of law courses. The findings of this study will assist law education in resolving the problem posed by the need for change and locating the appropriate solution as quickly as possible.

## 2 Current Conditions and Challenges of Traditional Chinese Law Education

As China’s higher education system has expanded rapidly in recent years, administrators at these institutions have devoted particular emphasis to developing applied and compound legal skills, ensuring a steady stream of fresh faces in the country’s legal and social institutions (Yaozhi & Chuchao, 2021). Today, law education will play a crucial role in developing high-level legal accomplishments, intense training in speculative legal talent, and in-depth research on social reality (Wenjun, 2021). However, due to the rapid expansion of the social economy, science, and technology, the disparity between teaching quality and teaching capacity in traditional higher education laws has become more pronounced. For instance, curriculum and teaching methods lag behind society’s evolution, and legal theory and language of legal science cannot be quickly integrated into contemporary legal studies. The details are as follows:

### 2.1 Mismatch Between Growth Rate and Educational Quality

In the 40 years since the reform and opening, higher legal education in China has proliferated and shown a large-scale development trend (Yao, 2021). Law departments in Chinese higher education institutions, in particular, have increased their enrolment year after year and both laws have increased (Tuan, 2020).

China has witnessed a remarkable increase in the number of law undergraduates (including doctoral and master's students) during the past two decades, based on the longitudinal history of the growth of law. The number of students pursuing a master's degree in domestic law has surpassed 150,000 since 2017 (Endian, 2020). Unfortunately, the quality and curriculum development of elementary law education in China currently lags behind the rapid growth of the country's society, a problem that has a long history. There is an unequal geographical distribution of legal education resources, and most Chinese law schools deliver rigorous and stereotypical small-class instruction.

## 2.2 Incompatibility Between Teaching Methods and Service Requirements

Traditional Chinese legal personnel training techniques are frequently constrained by socialist “*Educational Counterpart*” and “*Specialty Training*” practices. As a result, the content and procedures of conventional Chinese law courses are no longer compatible with the training of legal talent and the demands of the workplace. (Gulimila, 2020). Generally speaking, traditional Chinese law courses emphasize legal themes. Most of the material of law courses consists of fundamental knowledge points, prior theoretical knowledge, and the application of each legal subject. In terms of instructional methodologies, traditional Chinese law courses mostly employ “*Instructing*” and “*Cramming*” classroom instruction, and the instructional effect cannot be measured. In addition, the cross-integration of legal knowledge study and legal professional study is the norm in China's legal education, leading to the decoupling of current legal practice courses from professional knowledge courses, professional knowledge acquisition, and economic and social construction needs (Yuan & Shuangquan, 2019).

## 2.3 Insufficient Integration of Discipline Construction and Technological Development

China's higher education discipline structure has been investigated and modified from various perspectives. However, insufficient integration between professional curriculum design, evaluation systems, scientific development, and interdisciplinary study remains challenging. First, the design and framework of the legal curriculum are not logical, and the development of several majors is unequal. The curriculum framework primarily focuses on fundamental theoretical research and departmental law theory, resulting in uncomplicated undergraduate instruction (Yalin, 2018). Second, the legal education assessment system lacks integration with scientific advancement and focuses more on the academic situation's output, but the effect is more difficult to guarantee.

Moreover, the internationalization of legal education requires immediate improvement (Guo, 2018). Effective development of the globalization of legal education is contingent upon the complete integration of resources at several levels. Furthermore, the evolution of legal education cannot rely solely on law majors; other majors are required. In addition, interdisciplinary law education is undervalued, and it is impossible to fulfill the criteria of the law major by merely mastering legal professional knowledge (Yanfeng, 2018).

## 2.4 Misalignment Between Academic System and Industry Trends

Diverse economic and social pressures on the legal system are necessary for our advancement. Currently, the fundamental legal theory and academic design do not match the legal sector and judicial trend, which presents a predicament and dilemma. After embracing general law instruction within the context of fundamental legal theory and the educational system, legal student employment remains challenging. According to pertinent figures, the undergraduate employment rate reached 92.1% within six months following graduation in 2014. Economic Management majors had the highest employment rate among these majors, while law majors had the lowest (Wei, 2015).

Moreover, even if graduates obtained an internship, they would not be able to fill a post in the short term, as they would require more practical experience and leadership. The entire judicial professional community must confront the new era of Internet justice (Gorkhali, Li & Shrestha 2020); it is not simply a particular industry that must adapt. Traditional legal education has yet to catch up to substantial developments in the courts. Even though some law schools have embraced the shift, they have not yet fully responded. Consequently, the court has influenced and permeated traditional law instruction in numerous ways.

## 3 Impact of Blockchain Technology on Traditional Law Education

Since 2013, the creation of competent courts and intelligent prosecutorial systems has gradually reached a zenith due to the application of substantial data analysis and artificial intelligence technologies to the trial business (Yalin, 2018). The rise of the Internet of the rule of law makes it possible for the practice and emerging research of judiciary authorities based on the Internet of the rule of law and is expected to lead to a revolutionary change in legal analysis. Facing a series of changes by internet judicial technology, law teachers on the general legal higher education platform face challenges. In response to the penetration and impact of Internet judicial technology, it is necessary to deal with new technologies and new methods arising from technological development through the law education mode, to disseminate the ideas of Internet law through legal, cultural research and innovation, to achieve development through the construction of legal disciplines and interdisciplinary, and to distribute legal talent to relevant legal majors in more disciplines.

### 3.1 Law Education Mode Must Adapt to New Theories and Methods

Blockchain technology has had a tremendous impact on legal education reform (Beck, Czepluch, Lollike & Malone, 2016), which has radically altered the manner of legal education. From the standpoint of teaching knowledge (Guo & Liang, 2016) the critical implication of reforming the teaching mode of internal legal people training in colleges and universities is the depth and breadth of the creative training knowledge graph. Applying blockchain technology in the judicial field requires the foundation of massive data analysis and the use of the technology for empirical research (Lu & Hu, 2020) Judicial talents shall be qualified in both standardization and informatization (Yao, 2021). From

the perspective of the educational method, the analysis and application of blockchain technology will directly affect the application of systematic educational methods in law teaching.

Exploration of the location has thus far begun in intelligent law classes, intelligent network courts, and high-tech law laboratories established by some universities. However, from the standpoint of the educational system, blockchain technology must be implemented across the entire education platform. On the other hand, it is vital to implement diversified training for various learners. On the other, it is essential to construct an open platform for legal information to support legal, scientific, and empirical scientific research and work development (Licheng, 2021).

### **3.2 Innovative Big Data Methods for Legal Advocacy**

Because the law major requires a high level of logical thinking, there will unintentionally be a stereotype that it is inflexible, conservative, and short of innovative in the society of legal talent training. This is also known as unilateral thinking. In the Internet era, it is even more important to use big judicial data to analyze innovative ideas when teaching legal skills. At present, the R&D and application fields of both natural science and the humanities and social sciences have attached great importance to and intensely studied the profound impact of extensive data analysis on each R&D application field and each industry (Yuan & Shuangquan, 2019). More legal research topics cover new technology application fields (such as the Internet, AI, blockchain, and IoT) than ever before, and it is also required that a more proactive attitude should be taken in law education to adapt to the new reform in the R&D and application fields of the judiciary. Law research and development, a significant component of scientific research and practical education operations, should address the Internet's huge issues. These modifications to thought processes are inextricable from the new characteristics of the era of intensive data analysis.

The vast volume of information has profoundly impacted traditional law education's empirical research methods for tiny data samples. Modern legal education research necessitates ongoing innovative thought and large amounts of data to examine social phenomena and forecast outcomes based on complete facts and exhaustive information. The diversity of knowledge exceeds the presentation of information in standard law education research (Yao, 2021). Under the influence of blockchain technology, individuals could gain an expanding variety of information, including primary trial data, trial process data, multiple judgment documents, and trial records. As a result of the great practical significance of massive judicial data, it is vital to employ legal knowledge to alter the mode of thought to foster legal literacy. The trial data, extensive data analysis, and evaluation outcomes following algorithm construction and processing comprise the practical application of judicial comprehensive data analysis.

### **3.3 Integration of Interdisciplinary Education into the Construction of Law Disciplines**

Establishing and enhancing the legal discipline system with Chinese national characteristics is a crucial and fundamental responsibility for promoting the construction and

enhancement of the legal professional system and discourse system and accelerating the growth of China's legal system. The direction of artificial intelligence and legal innovation research necessitates “+*Judicial*” compound skills. Wisdom retains power, and the interaction between different disciplines defines the form of power and the presentation of competence externally and internally. Therefore, it is essential to merge scientific and technological expertise with legal professional knowledge to address the contradiction between the language of science and technology and the discourse of professional expertise in the courtroom (Kishigami, Fujimura, Watanabe, Nakadaira & Akutsu, 2015). The legal community is confronted with significant technological advancements, and it is imperative to overcome the obstacles and actively adapt. In addition, extensive data analysis in the legal profession significantly impacts legal education. Therefore, interdisciplinary building and combined talent training are required.

The interdisciplinary building is also essential to developing extensive data analysis in the judicial field. The ability of a single professional is not enough for today's law education. It is also necessary to form a scientific research team with the corresponding knowledge background of law, computer science, statistics, and mathematics. Compound talents are the primary goal of Chinese law education in the new era. Legal talents must be “*Compound*” and master multidisciplinary knowledge (Gorkhali, Li & Shrestha, 2020). The cross-integration and infiltration of expertise form a comprehensive disciplinary combination rather than a mechanical combination of different disciplinary understandings (Hou, 2017). It also necessitates that law schools devote more attention to the production of scientific and technological graphs by students, the instruction of big data concepts, and the interdisciplinary understanding of numerous fields. However, we may use big data and blockchain technology in legal education by holistically nurturing science & technology and legal talents.

### 3.4 Multidisciplinary Legal Majors for Cultivation of Legal Talents

The legal profession has entered the era of big data. The widespread adoption of blockchain technology has altered traditional legal practice. Compound talents well-versed in law and technology are in high demand across industries, and the legal sector is no exception. However, big data pose significant hurdles to the legal system. Public security agencies, law firms, and businesses have imposed demands for legal analysts, legal product clerks, and case trend researchers (Licheng, 2021).

The legal technology sector has also seen a revival in this age of intensive data analysis. Therefore, it is essential to cross-train legal talents from a wide range of backgrounds in preparation for the integration of comprehensive data analysis technology and the traditional judicial industry, and it is also necessary to cultivate legal talents suitable for the development needs of the new era, taking into account the actual situation of the judiciary (Freund, 1973).

At the same time, the increasingly rich types of legal products, especially the birth of intelligent legal products, further tighten the connection between law and technology. In addition, with economic globalization and worldwide digitalization, law teaching will inevitably face significant changes in the development of network technology and the mode of law education. The development of law is closely related to the circulation of big data. Training legal talents in the judicial field with big data will influence many areas

of the legal industry. The new generation of information technology will be applied to the legal field in more ways and cases.

## **4 Specific Measures to Apply Blockchain Technology to Law Education**

The rapid development of the “*Internet+*” era and the application of blockchain technology have affected the original legal concept and legislative system of China and induced new topics such as the reformulation of legislative subjects, the definition of virtual assets, P2P financial services, citizens’ privacy rights, and the legalized management of cyberspace. Society urgently needs to respond to the legal system’s defects and new management problems through legal issues, thus promoting science development. Reversely, scientific development also provides a new development opportunity for China’s law education. In light of the rapid growth of the Internet, cloud computing, Internet technology, AI, and other technologies, institutions providing legal services have adapted quickly. As a result, schools of law that prepare their graduates to work in these organizations cannot afford to ignore this shift, and they need to adapt their curricula to address the issues created by technological progress (Guo & Liang, 2016).

### **4.1 Adoption of Innovative Training Mode for Integrating Law and Intelligent Technology**

Law education must closely follow the development of big data and artificial intelligence technology, and based on the original legal doctrine education and research and analysis, strengthen the full use of big data to carry out law education and scientific research. Significantly since the outbreak of COVID-19, extensive data analysis and law education will directly change the way of traditional individual legal research and help form a collaborative and cooperative development for law education and research. Nowadays, networks, extensive data analysis, and artificial intelligence technology are not only new phenomena in the background of the times but also the means and ways to integrate law education and research, thereby promoting the reform and improvement of law education and research.

It is essential to combine the law with intelligent technology to foster the development of legal talents. Therefore, China is actively carrying out comprehensive reforms like curriculum design, study guidance, and discipline construction to better prepare talents to meet the social development needs of networking, data, and intelligence. This includes a focus on cultivating talents’ excellent legal professional ethics, advanced legal thinking methods, and rich professional legal knowledge.

### **4.2 Application of Big Data Analysis, Blockchain Technology, and Other Technologies for Teaching Innovation**

Legal researchers used sampling surveys and statistics for legal studies in the past. A sampling survey in statistics primarily refers to a statistical procedure in which department



units are randomly selected to be monitored to infer the general quantitative characteristics from the data analysis of these units (Licheng, 2021). However, cloud computing technology is one of the most significant innovations in the era of extensive data analysis. Cloud computing allows the comprehensive revolution of legal statistics research methods and teaching methods (Lu & Hu, 2020).

In other words, it has evolved from a statistical method based on sampling surveys to a new way of conducting statistical research and data analysis based on all data, from a method of inferring the characteristics of comprehensive data based on departmental statistics to a new method of determining the factors of overall statistics based on classification and statistical study of overall statistics (Yaozhi, 2021). These changes in statistical methods will inevitably involve legal research, propelling the innovative development of new legal research methods. Furthermore, by utilizing the significant data resources and virtual technology of cloud computing technology to develop specific models suitable for legal research and calculating and classifying all legal data analysis, legal professionals may obtain more precise results than sampling statistics (Yanfeng, 2018).

Law education utilizes a single teaching technique, but in recent years, numerous colleges and universities have also embraced multimedia and distance learning (Yanfeng, 2018). However, suppose we continue to adopt a single teaching method of teacher instruction and refuse to follow the development of big data and artificial intelligence technology to introduce a new teaching mode. In that case, there is no doubt that the theoretical legal knowledge taught will fail to adapt to the unique requirements of the era of intelligent technology development and will be eliminated by the market (Tuan, 2020).

Many law firms, for instance, use extensive data analysis to teach cases. Through the judgment documents published on the China Judgments Online website, several judges have provided exhaustive analyses and reasonable explanations of a particular legal phenomenon, such as substantial similarity in the determination of copyright infringement, demonstrating the benefits of such phenomena to judges in deciding cases. Teachers can also use extensive data analysis and network technology to teach in the classroom (Gulimila, 2020).

Legal training shall also guide people to use modern information technology, such as information retrieval software, drawing tool Precess On, VISO, and Baidu Naotu, or learn knowledge management and Evernote. After such training, they can improve their ability to manage information resources and their skills in legal work (Yuan & Shuangquan, 2019). In addition, the modern information technology learned in the university will help them quickly adapt to the intensive legal profession in the legal workplace, thus significantly improving efficiency (Nakamoto, 2019).

### **4.3 Establishment of Information Law Courses and Cultivation of Compound Talents**

Legal extensive data mining will also bring forth a new legal position - legal information data specialist. Legal extensive data mining will involve more legal data to distinguish it from conventional legal digital resources. Through a more significant amount of statistical analysis, it is possible to predict the judgment of a legal phenomenon, make



an analogy to a similar case, and forecast the duration, difficulty, quality of evidence, probability of winning, amount of compensation, and length of sentence.

For legislative departments of legal research, application, and teaching, professionals with extensive legal data mining experience will be scarce resources. Therefore, in addition to teaching students fundamental law knowledge, legal training must also instruct students in data mining abilities to prepare them for careers as legally significant data mining employees (Wang, 2014). Consequently, specific schools and institutions have begun to offer research education in Internet law, including textbooks like *With the Internet, Big Data Mining of Law, Big Data Mining of Judiciary, and Special Research on Legal Issues of the Internet and Artificial Intelligence*.

In addition, colleges and universities are also advised to set up artificial intelligence law majors to cultivate legal talents in artificial intelligence majors. In July 2017, the General Office of the State Council issued the New Artificial Intelligence Plan, which proposed accelerating the cultivation and aggregation of high-end artificial intelligence talents. Furthermore, on April 13, 2018, the Ministry of Education announced the Action Plan 2.0 of Higher Education Informatization Construction, which pointed out the need to build an innovative “*Internet+*” talent training mode. In the traditional Chinese law education system, students can master basic law knowledge only in four years of university.

Consequently, it is difficult for them to adjust to the current condition of new law applications in a high-tech environment using this way of talent development (Gulimila, 2020). Therefore, there will be a demand for legal professionals who understand the law and can apply artificial intelligence techniques in the future. In response to the State Council of China’s New Artificial Intelligence Plan, various domestic and international law schools have built “*Artificial Intelligence + law*” schools, R&D institutes, or laboratories based on their comparative advantages in legal R&D and educational research (Yalin, 2018). To this goal, Southwest University of Political Science & Law developed the Department of Artificial Intelligence Law and a secondary major in Artificial Intelligence Law outside the catalog.

Schools must establish Internet law courses to cultivate Internet legal talent to administer cyberspace properly. Currently, Peking University Law School, East China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Xi’an Jiaotong University, and other universities will establish relevant network law research and development institutions under the supervision of general law majors and computer science majors, or offer Internet law-related courses. The China University of Political Science and Law has created a secondary law concentration in Internet Law. As a vital venue for most individuals, the Internet has exacerbated legal complications. Therefore, the legal management of cyberspace is essential, necessitating that most colleges and universities contribute to research on the routine administration of cyberspace and cultivate more talent in the Internet legal system.

## 5 Conclusion

The era of “*Internet+*” will unavoidably affect the conventional legal education system. Therefore, the reform must be finished as quickly as humanly possible. Due to the implementation of blockchain technology, traditional legal research theories will have new

connotations and manifestations. The era of “Internet+” will lead to the diversification of legal thinking in the legal sector, the integrity of legal thought, the innovation of legal theories and methodologies, and the conscientization of legal thought.

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