

## Legaltech® news

### 2023 Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards Litigation and E-Discovery, Law Firm: Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

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**T**he 2023 Legalweek Leaders in Tech Law Awards honor the best of the best from law firms, corporate legal departments and legal tech providers. The winners continue to not only bring innovative, ground-breaking work to developing new solutions and approaches that solve the real, practical problems the professionals in our industry are still struggling with, they also help to make the legal industry more inclusive and a better place to work.

This year's nominees, finalists, and winners show that change is not just coming to the legal industry—it's already here.

As part of their award entries, we asked our winners a few questions about the innovation challenges they've faced, how legal tech is continuing to grow, what innovation means to them, and more. Throughout the coming weeks, we'll be running Q&As with each of our award winners. You can find all of them here.

Here's what Vanessa A. Lavelly, Partner, and Scott B. Reents, Lead Attorney, Data Analytics and E-Discovery, Litigation, at Cravath Swaine & Moore, this year's winner for Litigation and E-Discovery, Law Firm, had to say.



Courtesy photo

**Vanessa A. Lavelly of Cravath, Swaine & Moore.**

#### **Litigation and E-Discovery, Law Firm: Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP**

##### **Reason for Win:**

Cravath, Swaine & Moore's e-discovery team uses AI to identify documents for production without comprehensive human review, employing the AI search tool Reveal-Brainspace to adapt "sentiment analysis" to evaluate documents for their emotional tenor. They also employ a next-generation NLP tool called AllSearch to search for documents that contain phrases with a particular meaning, even if there is no overlap in the specific articulation.

**Legaltech News: Looking back at some of your most rewarding projects over the past year, what were the biggest challenges you faced, and how did you overcome them?**

**Cravath, Swaine & Moore:** In the last year, the Firm has expanded its use of artificial intelligence (AI) in litigation to the process of identifying the key documents and evidence needed to win cases. The immediate objection to using AI to search for key evidence is the fear that it may miss something important. But no technique is infallible, and traditional techniques, such as using key word searches and/or large numbers of contract attorney reviewers, carry their own risks and weaknesses. AI-based techniques are not necessarily a replacement for traditional techniques, but instead can be an important supplement that can return results more quickly and accurately. When used in this manner, AI is no longer a risk but instead a method to mitigate risk. Designing workflows that recognize this reality has been critical to overcoming hesitation in the use of AI.

Another challenge is training our lawyers to be able to use the AI tools adeptly. AI tools can be complex and require a greater degree of iteration, creativity and judgment than traditional search and review techniques. Cravath has prioritized not only developing the methodologies to support AI, but also training its lawyers in how to make effective use of them.

**Legaltech News: How does your solution/company demonstrate innovation in how it tackles legal issues?**

While technology assisted review (TAR) has long been used to help identify documents that

are relevant to a particular matter, there has been less attention on finding the much smaller number of documents that actually matter to the success of a litigation. Cravath has focused on this problem through two AI-based techniques called “sentiment analysis” and “natural language processing” (NLP). These techniques allow Cravath to go beyond searches for the words that may appear in a document to searches that look for the emotional tenor and even the meaning of documents. Given the enormous volumes of documents produced in many litigations, sentiment analysis and NLP have helped Cravath to find key evidence earlier in the litigation process. Cravath has found success working with leading-edge technologies, including CaseText’s AllSearch and Reveal Brainspace.

**Legaltech News: Looking at the legal world as a whole, what does “legal innovation” mean to you?**

Legal innovation often starts with big ideas, but the most important aspects are the practical applications it presents. Discovering the potential of a tool and using it to get better results for one’s firm and clients is what the heart of legal innovation is about. This is best achieved through spending time getting to know the technology at hand. Once you have a strong understanding of the technology, it will allow you to think creatively about how it can solve the legal problem you have. Lawyers are sometimes reluctant to spend the time and energy to become experts in using technology tools, but understanding them in the abstract only gets you so far. Be prepared to hit roadblocks and experience frustration, but in confronting those obstacles you will better learn what the technology can really offer.