

ISSUE 9, Spring 2026

ACEDS CANADA

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED E-DISCOVERY SPECIALISTS



**CANADIAN
INSIGHTS**

NEWSLETTER

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ACEDS CANADA

**SPRING 2026
NEWSLETTER**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This is my first President's message for the Toronto ACEDS Chapter, and I would be remiss if I didn't start by thanking Carolyn Anger, our outgoing President.

Carolyn built the Toronto Chapter through two successful terms, and she did it at one of the most uncertain points in recent memory, right at the beginning of the pandemic. Starting a chapter is one thing. Starting and growing one during that period is something else entirely.

What Carolyn, along with the broader board at the time, built is the reason you are reading this today. She didn't just launch the Chapter, she helped turn it into a community. One that people show up for, engage with, and take something from.

"Thank you" feels a bit inadequate, if I'm being honest. But it is genuine. Carolyn, we are all grateful for what you have put into this Chapter. It matters, and it's something we will continue to build on.

At the same time, I'm excited about the board stepping into this next phase. There's a mix of familiar faces and new ones, which I think is exactly what you want. It's a group that represents a strong cross-section of the eDiscovery community, not just in Toronto, but across Ontario and Canada.

So, why take on this role?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's a question I think about a lot and I keep coming back to when I first started in the eDiscovery space.

It wasn't easy to break in. It still isn't.

It's not just the work itself, I mean figuring out where you fit, who your people are, and how you build the connections that help you navigate a career in this field.

When I look back, the thing that stands out most isn't a specific project or technology, it's the people.

Some of the strongest, longest standing relationships I've built in my career came out of those early days. I think back to time spent at gatherings like the Technology in Practice conference, sharing lunch during an educational session, sitting through presentations, and talking through ideas.

Looking back, it wasn't really about the sessions. It was about being part of something. It was about building a network, and more than that, friendships.

That matters. And it lasts.

That's really what drove me to take this on.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's a chance to give something back to a community that played a role in shaping my career. It's a chance to help create space for others, especially those earlier in their careers, to find that same sense of connection.

If we get this right, this chapter should be a place where people can show up, learn something new, meet people they wouldn't otherwise meet, and have conversations that actually stick with them. A place where people can challenge each other, share different perspectives, and, over time, build the kinds of relationships that don't just disappear when an event ends.

That's the goal, anyway.

We are obviously not starting from scratch. Carolyn and the previous board have given us a strong foundation. Realistically, if we can build on that and move things forward in even a small way, that's a success.

I'm looking forward to what's ahead. And more importantly, I'm looking forward to working alongside this community as we continue to build something that people want to be part of.

Thanks, as always, for the support.

Chris



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I'm thrilled to witness our community's agile response to the shifting eDiscovery landscape in Canada. Together we can bring about greater efficiencies and streamlined processes to eDiscovery in Canada.

Lisa Evenson, President Vancouver Chapter

Established in August 2020, the ACEDS Vancouver Chapter became the second Canadian chapter to join with ACEDS. The Chapter Board is committed to enriching the eDiscovery community in Vancouver and beyond by offering diverse educational and networking initiatives.

VANCOUVER CHAPTER



Lisa Evenson
President



Veronica MacInnis
Past President



Catherine Bender
Vice President



Peter Sanford
Treasurer



Tracy McBride
Secretary



Izabella Szilagyi-Mago
Membership



Sonam Sharma
Marketing Director



Bridget Lau
Director at Large



Yvette Kind
Director at Large



Rose Singh
Director at Large



Tiana VanDyk
Director at Large

VANCOUVER CHAPTER



PAST EVENTS

February	Practical AI in eDiscovery (Sponsored by FTI)
March	Beyond Automation: How Generative AI will make Lawyers Better at their Jobs in eDiscovery (Sponsored by PLUSNext)
April	Digital Evidence Beyond Collection: What Matters in Court (Sponsored by Alpha Fox Forensics)
May	AI in Action: Real Workflows and Pricing for eDiscovery and Investigations (Sponsored by OpenText)



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These days it's really about figuring out what the data problem is, and then getting the right mix of people around the table to deal with it.

Chris Walker, President Toronto Chapter

Established in February 2020, the Toronto Chapter was the inaugural Canadian chapter to join ACEDS. Over the past five years, the Chapter has cultivated a strong membership base. The Chapter Board remains committed to finding new and creative ways to engage with the community.

TORONTO CHAPTER



Chris Walker
President



Carolyn Anger
Past President



Andrea Williams
Vice President



Jasmine Lam
Marketing Director



Stephanie Williams
Membership Director



Anna Traer
Secretary



Ceyda Tocsoy
Treasurer



Eda Bardhi
Director at Large



Danny Chan
Director at Large



Lauren Fishman
Director at Large



Nicola Ladd
Director at Large



Matt Maslow
Director at Large



Daniel Mayers
Director at Large

TORONTO CHAPTER



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| June | The Modern Data Dilemma: Teams, Texts, Hyperlinks and Ephemeral Evidence |
| June | Summer Social: Pride Month Celebration co-hosted with Women In eDiscovery Toronto chapter |
| November | Convergence Conference (in Conjunction with Ontario DEED, and Women in eDiscovery Toronto Chapter) |



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How to Overcome Seven eDiscovery Challenges with Actionable Solutions



The growth of electronically stored information (ESI) has transformed litigation and regulatory investigations, but it has also introduced complexity, rising costs, and operational risk. eDiscovery now represents one of the most resource-intensive components of legal workflows. In fact, U.S. eDiscovery spend is projected to exceed \$40 billion annually, with document review accounting for more than 80% of total litigation costs.

To manage this environment effectively, organizations must address seven persistent challenges head-on. Below, we outline the most common obstacles and the strategies that help overcome them.

1. Data Volume and Complexity

The Challenge: Litigation increasingly involves massive volumes of data across diverse formats - emails, documents, chat platforms, social media, and mobile devices. A recent survey found that 60% of litigation support directors say that the continued growth of case data volume is a challenge for their teams.

The Solution: Reducing volumes early is critical and so is identifying key custodians and collecting from only relevant sources, which helps streamline review. In addition, Technology-Assisted Review (TAR) and predictive coding prioritize relevant documents and reduce manual workloads. Other solutions include using data culling and scalable eDiscovery platforms. Data culling techniques such as keyword searches, date filters, and custodian filters, further limit irrelevant material, while scalable eDiscovery platforms ensure the infrastructure can handle large, varied datasets efficiently.

How to Overcome Seven eDiscovery Challenges with Actionable Solutions

2. Scattered Data Locations

The Challenge: Relevant data is often dispersed across local drives, servers, cloud platforms, mobile devices, and social media. Fragmentation makes it difficult to create a complete and defensible record.

The Solution: Establishing clear data storage policies supports easier identification and preservation. It is also key to leverage centralized data management and archiving solutions, as they improve visibility and control. Finally, modern eDiscovery platforms with multi-source collection capabilities and AI-powered search can be used to help manage fragmented datasets while maintaining integrity.

3. Data Privacy and Security Issues

The Challenge: Sensitive information, including personal and confidential business data, is highly vulnerable during collection, transfer, and review. Compliance with frameworks such as GDPR and CCPA requires strict safeguards.

The Solution: There are several ways to tackle this challenge. First off, robust encryption, access controls, and secure communication channels protect data throughout the process. Then, there are regular audits and monitoring solutions, which strengthen oversight. This is best coupled with recurring employee training, which reduces the risk of accidental breaches. Lastly, partnering with eDiscovery providers that hold strong security certifications ensures consistent adherence to best practices when it comes to evading privacy and security issues.

4. Rising Costs

The Challenge: Expanding volumes, manual review, and outdated practices drive costs upward. Document review alone consumes the majority of litigation budgets. In fact, eDiscovery costs in the US are estimated to reach \$40 billion annually, with document review accounting for over 80% of total litigation spend.

The Solution: Early Case Assessment (ECA) reduces unnecessary review by culling

How to Overcome Seven eDiscovery Challenges with Actionable Solutions

irrelevant data upfront. TAR and advanced analytics automate document review and accelerate relevance determinations. Strong information governance through clear retention, deletion, and ROT (redundant, outdated, trivial) data reduction policies, limits the data footprint. Cost-effective eDiscovery platforms with transparent pricing models further control spend.

5. Data Migration Complexities

The Challenge: Data migration complexities in eDiscovery stem from the challenge of transferring vast, diverse, and often sensitive datasets across different platforms, formats, or environments while preserving integrity, metadata, and legal defensibility. Legal data, which spans emails, chat logs, cloud repositories, and structured databases, must be migrated without loss, alteration, or corruption, as even minor discrepancies can compromise evidence admissibility or chain of custody. Differences in data schemas, file types, and vendor systems further complicate the process, requiring meticulous mapping, validation, and quality control. Transferring legal data between platforms risks data loss, corruption, or disruption to established workflows also contribute to such complexities. These technical hurdles, combined with confidentiality and compliance risks, make eDiscovery data migration one of the most delicate and resource-intensive phases of modern legal operations.

The Solution: There are a few solutions, such as comprehensive planning, including detailed inventories, mapping, and phased migration, which help minimize risk. Additionally, it is useful to employ rigorous quality checks, as these validate accuracy during transfers. Moreover, incorporating automation reduces manual error, while training ensures smooth adoption. And finally, specialized eDiscovery migration tools and expert support strengthen defensibility and preserve work product integrity to avoid data migration complexities.

6. Communication and Collaboration Gaps

The Challenge: Siloed teams, fragmented platforms, and ephemeral collaboration tools lead to inconsistent communication, duplicated efforts, and potential data loss.

How to Overcome Seven eDiscovery Challenges with Actionable Solutions

The Solution: Solving this starts with defining clear communication protocols and centralized documentation practices support alignment. Then, it's a must to incorporate secure document-sharing and integrated platforms, as they streamline workflows across stakeholders. These improve collaboration, as collaboration improves further when teams foster a culture of partnership with law firms and technology providers, supported by unified systems that connect diverse tools.

7. Lack of Standardization

The Challenge: This refers to the lack of standardization across tools, formats, and processes, which creates inefficiencies, inconsistencies, and legal risks. Each platform may store, process, and export data differently, using distinct metadata fields, file naming conventions, or review protocols, making interoperability difficult. As a result, when data moves between systems or vendors, critical context can be lost, review workflows may need to be rebuilt, and validation becomes more complex. This fragmentation not only increases time and cost but also threatens defensibility, as inconsistencies in how data is handled can raise questions about accuracy and chain of custody.

The Solution: Addressing this challenge requires establishing clear frameworks and protocols that promote consistency across the eDiscovery lifecycle. Organizations can adopt industry standards such as the EDRM (Electronic Discovery Reference Model) to align processes, metadata mapping, and documentation practices. Standardizing file formats (like using native files with load files in common formats such as DAT or CSV) and implementing uniform quality control procedures can further streamline collaboration between internal teams and external vendors.

Additionally, integrating AI-driven validation and audit tools helps ensure data integrity during transfers. By embedding these standards into governance policies and training, legal teams create repeatable, defensible, and more efficient eDiscovery workflows.

Empowering Your eDiscovery Efforts with a Powerful System of Tools and Consultants.

How to Overcome Seven eDiscovery Challenges with Actionable Solutions

Addressing these seven challenges requires more than ad hoc fixes. Consistent policies, advanced tools, and expert guidance create an environment where organizations can control costs, mitigate risks, and accelerate case resolution.

By understanding the challenges that lie in eDiscovery, addressing them proactively and implementing effective strategies, organizations can streamline their eDiscovery efforts, reduce costs, minimize risks, and improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of their legal proceedings.





Convergence 2025: Reimagining the Future of eDiscovery

ACEDS Toronto | Ontario DEED | Women in eDiscovery Toronto

On December 3, 2025, the Convergence 2025 conference brought together Ontario's eDiscovery community for a full day of conversation, collaboration, and forward-looking discussion. Organized by DEED, ACEDS Toronto, and Women in eDiscovery Toronto, the conference reflected a profession at an important turning point, one shaped by the evolving Ontario Rules of Civil Procedure, rapidly advancing technology, and the growing influence of generative AI.

From the opening remarks through to the closing reception, there was a genuine sense of energy and engagement throughout the day. Attendees came together to discuss change, but to openly explore how the eDiscovery community can adapt, evolve, and continue to lead in a shifting landscape.

A recurring theme throughout the day was preparedness. Discussions focused on how Ontario's proposed rule changes may fundamentally reshape litigation strategy, document review, data collection, and disclosure obligations. Across the sessions, panelists emphasized that the future of eDiscovery will require earlier strategic thinking, more defensible workflows, and even closer collaboration between legal and technical teams. While the changes ahead may feel significant, the tone throughout the day remained optimistic and solutions focused.



AI was, unsurprisingly, front and centre in many of the conversations. Attendees explored both the opportunities and challenges that AI presents in document review and litigation workflows, including transparency, defensibility, validation standards, and ethical considerations. What stood out most was the balanced perspective shared across the panels: AI is not replacing expertise, but rather becoming another tool that, when used thoughtfully, can strengthen workflows and improve outcomes.

One of the day's most memorable moments came during the interactive "Magic Wand" brainstorming session, where attendees broke into groups to imagine the ideal future-state of eDiscovery workflow. The room quickly filled with conversation, whiteboard sketches, and creative ideas, reminding everyone that innovation in this field happens best when people collaborate and share experiences openly.

CONVERGENCE 2026

Thursday November 26, 2026 | Ontario Bar Association Conference Centre, Toronto



We are excited to announce the return of Convergence 2026, taking place on Thursday November 26, 2026, at the Ontario Bar Association Conference Centre in Toronto.

Now in its third year, Convergence continues to bring together the Canadian eDiscovery community for a day of education, collaboration, and connection. The conference is proudly co-hosted by the ACEDS Toronto Chapter, Ontario DEED, and Women in eDiscovery Toronto Chapter.

This Year's Theme

Intelligence Revolution: eDiscovery in the AI Era will explore the evolving impact of artificial intelligence on eDiscovery technology and processes, how eDiscovery professionals can evolve alongside the technology, and the response of regulators and courts.



Following two consecutive sold-out events, we are excited to expand both our programming and capacity for 2026. Attendees can look forward to:

- Multiple breakout sessions
- Enhanced networking opportunities
- High-quality, accessible educational content for the Canadian eDiscovery community

Mark Your Calendars

More details, including speaker applications, registration, and sponsorship information will be coming soon!



INSIGHTS FROM LEGAL WEEK 2026

Lauren Fishman and Tiana Van Dyk

After 39 years at the New York Hilton Midtown, Legalweek made the leap to New York City's Javits Center. The new venue delivered a bright, open, and modern atmosphere, with an exhibit hall that felt noticeably more spacious than in years past.

The move also reshaped hotel planning. Unlike past years, where staying at or near the conference was easy, this year required a bit more strategy. With more distance between lodging and venue, identifying the most convenient hotel locations may take some trial and error over the next few years before clear "go to" options emerge. Many also missed the familiarity of having the conference and hotel in the same place, particularly the ability to quickly pop back to a room between sessions.

One unexpected highlight was the weather. Warm and sunny New York City mornings made the walk from nearby hotels to the convention center enjoyable. That convenience, however, was certainly weather dependent. The distance would have felt less ideal had it been cold and rainy.

The transition to the new space wasn't without a few growing pains. Most notably: coffee. While available, it felt limited throughout the day - something we personally noted, whether it was a universal observation or just our own caffeinated wish list!

INSIGHTS FROM LEGAL WEEK 2026

The new venue also shifted the social geography of Legalweek. The Javits Center is farther from long-standing after-hours gathering spots that attendees have relied on for decades - Faces & Names being a prime example. It will likely take a few conference cycles for new nearby favorites to emerge.

Beyond the physical shift in venue, Legalweek itself reflected an industry increasingly focused on practical application rather than theoretical innovation. Conversations across panels, sessions and the exhibit hall centred on how organizations are actually deploying technology, particularly AI-enabled tools, to address scale, cost pressure and growing data complexity. There was a clear emphasis on workflows that are defensible, repeatable and embedded into day-to-day legal practice, rather than experimental or standalone solutions.

Recurring themes included automation in document review and analysis, more sophisticated use of analytics, and heightened attention to data security, cyber resilience and regulatory risk. Together, these discussions reinforced that the legal technology market has entered a more mature phase: one focused less on novelty and more on execution, value delivery and measurable impact for legal teams and their clients. AI is no longer a tool of the future; it is an essential component to delivering effective, efficient and reliable legal services.

Overall, the move to Javits marks a new chapter for Legalweek. The space shows promise, and with a few logistical refinements - and a bit of collective trial and error - it will elevate Legalweek into its new, refined era.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NICOLA LADD

ACEDS Involvement

I joined ACEDS in 2023 and earned my CEDS Canada certification in 2024. Since then, I have actively engaged in numerous virtual and in-person training sessions, conferences, and networking events, which have fostered meaningful professional connections and supported my continued growth.

I am proud to have accepted a Director at Large role on the Toronto Board for the 2026–2028 term and am excited to contribute more meaningfully to the local eDiscovery community and engage with members at upcoming events.

I have been working as a Litigation Law Clerk for approximately 18 years and in the eDiscovery space for approximately 5 years. Throughout my career I have managed litigation files in various specialized areas from initial case assessment to trial before all levels of court with a focus on document collection, review/analysis and production.

As an eDiscovery & Litigation Case Manager at Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP, I oversee end-to-end eDiscovery projects, applying the EDRM framework and Sedona Canada Principles to ensure defensible, efficient outcomes. I actively incorporate advanced technologies, including TAR and AI, to optimize workflows, reduce risk, and enhance overall project performance.

SAVE THE DATE

CONVERGENCE 2026



Intelligence Revolution: eDiscovery in the AI Era

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2026
Ontario Bar Association Conference Centre, Toronto



HOW LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ARE LEARNING TO TRUST AGENTIC AI

TIANA VAN DYK | MANAGING DIRECTOR, CANADA | EPIQ

Key Takeaway: Legal professionals build trust in agentic AI through validation, defensibility, and expert guidance to ensure reliable results that foster confidence in adopting agentic AI for high-stakes tasks within corporate legal departments.

Agentic AI is reshaping how legal departments manage workflows, reduce costs, and ensure compliance. For corporate legal teams, trust is earned through validation, defensibility, and consistent results. However, for many legal professionals, the idea of trusting agentic AI to take on complex, high-stakes tasks still feels like a leap. The path to adoption is clear. It starts with understanding what trust in agentic AI really means in a legal context.

How Legal Professionals are Learning to Trust Agentic AI



TRUSTING AGENTIC AI STARTS WITH VALUE

Let's begin with the big question: Is agentic AI adding value?

The answer is yes, but with a caveat. Agentic AI reduces the number of people hours required for tasks like document review, contracts analysis, and legal research. However, value isn't just about capability, it's about cost-effectiveness and enhanced decision-making. For example, if agentic AI performs the task effectively but fails to deliver clear advantages over human work, the value proposition falls apart.

That's why legal teams should focus on where agentic AI fits best. Where does it replace expensive, repetitive work? Where does it enhance outcomes without inflating costs? That's where the real value lies and where trust begins to build.

HOW CORPORATE LEGAL TEAMS ARE DRIVING ADOPTION

Corporate legal departments are eager to adopt agentic AI because most are focused on cost reduction and efficiency. Law firms, on the other hand, face a more complex equation. Agentic AI often overlaps with the work lawyers have traditionally billed for, creating tension between innovation, revenue, and efficiency. Add in concerns about data security, regulatory compliance, and professional responsibility, and it's no surprise that there is hesitation in adoption.

This is where the opportunity lies. Law firms that embrace agentic AI thoughtfully by layering it into workflows where it makes sense will differentiate themselves and deliver more value to their corporate clients.

WHAT TRUST IN AGENTIC AI REALLY MEANS

Trust in agentic AI is about knowing that your data is secure, and your outputs are reliable, validated, and verified. That last point, verification, is critical. The more the output looks human-generated, the easier it is to

How Legal Professionals are Learning to Trust Agentic AI



assume it's correct. However, it is also easier to verify.

Consider the popsicle analogy, for example. If you add juice into a mold and put it in a freezer (the black box), when you pull it out two weeks later and have a popsicle, you know the black box worked. You can verify the output, even if you don't fully understand how the technology worked. If you went into the freezer two weeks later and pulled out a potato, you would identify that the output wasn't correct.

This analogy captures the idea that content generated by agentic AI is recognizable, even if the technology is complicated, which facilitates our ability to verify it. When outputs look like humans created them, it is easy to blindly trust them. However, that trust is misplaced if users don't verify the output, especially when the task is complex or high stakes.

In this case, a phased approach to adoption generates confidence with time and practice.

A PHASED APPROACH TO BUILDING TRUST

Phase One: Run Agentic AI in Parallel With Your Current Workflows

Compare results and look for consistency. Let agentic AI run alongside your current processes rather than starting from scratch. This gives you a direct comparison between human and agentic AI outputs on the same data. When results align consistently, confidence begins to grow. You're not guessing; you're validating.

Phase Two: Verify Outputs With Low-Risk Tasks

Use agentic AI exclusively but double-check every output. Start with simple, low-risk tasks like summarizing emails, drafting internal notes, or organizing your day. These use cases are repeatable and safe, making them ideal for building confidence without introducing risk.

How Legal Professionals are Learning to Trust Agentic AI



Phase Three: Spot Check in High-Risk Areas

Once you've seen consistent results, begin using agentic AI more actively. This step builds trust through verification. You're not relying on assumptions; you're confirming that the system performs reliably and meets your standards.

As confidence builds, shift your focus to spot-checking. Concentrate on high-risk or sensitive areas and let agentic AI handle the rest. Repetition reinforces reliability. The more you see it work, the more you trust it to deliver.

Phase Four: Fully Integrate With Audit Trails

At this point, you've seen agentic AI work, and you know how to make it work for you. Now you're ready to make agentic AI part of your standard process. You've tested it, validated it, and refined how you use it. Integration isn't a leap; it's the next logical step.

Consider a high-stakes internal investigation with a corporate legal team using agentic AI to autonomously gather trading logs, employee communications, and compliance records. In this case, the agentic AI filters privileged content, builds a timeline of events, flags anomalies, and assesses regulatory exposure. It then drafts a preliminary report while maintaining defensibility and auditability. Legal counsel reviews and validates the outputs — accelerating the investigation without compromising risk controls.

PARTNER WITH EXPERTS

Phase One: Run Agentic AI in Parallel With Your Current Workflows

Agentic AI doesn't operate on its own. It's engineered, tested, and hardened by experts who understand the legal stakes: compliance, defensibility, and data security. The key is to work with trusted providers

How Legal Professionals are Learning to Trust Agentic AI



and partners. Working with experts ensures agentic AI is secure before it ever touches your data. The complicated engineering has been done for you, so you can focus on creating exceptional outcomes. This partnership is how many organizations have successfully become early adopters of agentic AI.

TRUST IS A JOURNEY

Trust in agentic AI isn't something you either have or don't, it's something you build through use, validation, and results.

Start small, use it often, and focus on where it adds the most value. Work with partners who understand the technology, regulatory compliance, and legal context.

When you do, you'll find that agentic AI doesn't just help you do your job, it helps you do more than you ever thought possible.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Tiana Van Dyk
Managing Director, Canada
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Share Your Voice

We are now welcoming submissions for our Fall 2026 Newsletter. Share your voice and contribute to the conversation.



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