

Contract AI

Agentic Workflow Blueprint & ROI Validation | January 2026

Operational Context: 2026

As we move beyond Generative Drafting into Agentic Negotiation, the risk profile of Contract AI shifts from "accuracy of output" to "autonomy of action". This kit provides the governance structure required to deploy self-healing contract workflows while satisfying the EU AI Act's "High-Risk System" requirements (effective H2 2025).

Architect's Note: ROI in 2026 is no longer measured in 'minutes saved drafting', but in 'reduction of outside counsel spend' via autonomous redlining of routine NDAs and MSAs.

Implementation Timeline

W1	Data Hygiene & Taxonomy Execute a full audit of the existing Clause Bank. Remove historical deviations that were approved as exceptions but do not represent the firm's standard position. Sanitise PII to create a clean "Gold Standard" training set (JSON/XML format).
W2	Guardrail Configuration Define "Agent Autonomy Levels". E.g., Level 1 (Drafting Assist), Level 2 (Auto-Redline Standard Clauses), Level 3 (Autonomous Negotiation - Restricted). Configure hallucination thresholds using RAG verification against the firm's Know-How repository.
W3-W4	Pilot: 'Sandbox' Environment Deploy to the "Legal Technologist" cohort. Run 50 historical NDAs through the system blindly and compare the AI redlines against the actual signed versions. Success Metric: >85% alignment with Senior Associate output.
W6-W7	Workflow Calibration Refine the Human-in-the-Loop (HITL) triggers. Ensure that any clause deviations >15% from standard trigger a mandatory Partner review flag.

ANTICIPATING OBJECTIONS

"We can't trust AI with liability caps."

Counter: Implement a hard-coded "No-Go" list. The AI is prohibited from modifying liability caps autonomously; it simply flags them for human review, reducing reading time by 90% without ceding control.

"Does this train on our client data?"

Counter: We are utilising a private instance (Single Tenant). No data leaves our Azure/AWS perimeter to train the foundation model. This is contractually guaranteed in the DPA.

Required Assets for Rollout

- **Communication Plan:** Acknowledge the shift in billable work. Position the tool as a "force multiplier" allowing associates to focus on high-value advisory rather than routine drafting.
- **Data Map (DMS to CLM):** Visualise the flow of data. Ensure metadata tags generated by the AI (e.g., Expiry Date, Jurisdiction) are pushed back into the DMS (iManage/NetDocs) for searchability.
- **Shelfware Audit Protocol:** Establish a baseline of current "Drafting Assistant" tool usage. If the new Contract AI covers these use cases, schedule the legacy tools for cancellation within 90 days.

EVALUATED BY

DATE APPROVED
