



**Northern
Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Innovative solutions for the legal industry

As the global legal services industry continues to evolve, spawning new delivery models and innovative client services, Northern Ireland offers an exciting range of cost-effective, quality-assured, responsive solutions to pioneering global firms and sector disruptors.

The region's highly competitive cost base combined with an assured pipeline of world-class talent, ICT research excellence and cutting-edge infrastructure, means that Northern Ireland enjoys international recognition as a global tech hub. It is also the number 1 global destination for fintech investment.

With this track record, it is perhaps no surprise that Northern Ireland is home to the global IT departments of major firms and is behind some of the legal sector's most cutting edge technology innovations.

Its ground-breaking research capabilities in analytics, artificial intelligence and cyber security are commercialised world-wide. The region's progressive universities are busy building the next generation of tech-savvy lawyers and its technology leaders are already exploiting next-wave disruptive technologies.

Northern Ireland is a dynamic region not just keeping lockstep with the rapid pace of change but is one step ahead....

Did you know?

- The technology-enabled Northern Ireland operations of major international firms including Herbert Smith Freehills, Allen & Overy and Baker & McKenzie are central to their innovative global client service offerings.
- World-renowned disruptor, Axiom Law, chose Belfast as the location for its European delivery hub.
- Document management specialist, iManage has an R&D support centre in Belfast developing and enhancing the company's flagship governance software.
- NI companies including matter management specialists, Repstor and secure enterprise mobile communications provider, SaltDNA, are delivering solutions for top tier international legal practices.
- In addition to being home to 2 top law schools at Queen's and Ulster University's, Northern Ireland boasts a number of highly specialised ICT-related research centres deeply influenced and embedded into real-world applications with significant industry and cross-cluster collaboration.
- Clusters of expertise have been developed in data analytics, artificial intelligence and cyber security and activity in disruptive technologies including blockchain is growing.
- The region is home to the UK's first Legal Innovation Centre at Ulster University.
- Northern Ireland's start-up and SME tech community is thriving thanks to a highly developed entrepreneurial ecosystem, vibrant networking scene and the active promotion of sector collaboration.

What makes Northern Ireland the 'go to' location for legal technology and innovation?

COST EFFECTIVE



20-30%

Operating costs lower than in the rest of the UK and Europe.

40%

Reduction in typical salaries compared to London. 30% reduction compared to Dublin.

75%

Property costs savings compared to London. 60% when compared to Dublin.

EXCEPTIONAL TALENT



41%

Of staff educated to degree level. (36% in UK, 21% in ROI)

77%

Of IT professionals hold degree level qualification. (50% in UK)

4,000

Graduates in business and technology each year, including over 1,000 post graduate.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT



Tailored support to individual company needs.

Financial incentives

- Investment Support
- Training costs
- R&D expenditure

Non-financial incentives

Technical and advisory support services including:

- Property search and selection
- People and skills development
- Operating efficiencies

A snapshot of legal tech activity in Northern Ireland

Local Firms	International Investors	Research Activity	Law & Tech
<p>Salt DNA develops solutions that leverage multi-layered encryption techniques to secure enterprise mobile communications.</p> <p>Repstor's Custodian matter management product, makes Microsoft Office 365 and on premise platforms truly matter-centric, with high performance Outlook integrated access to content in multiple platforms such as HighQ, iManage, EFS, fileshares and other systems.</p>	<p>Allen & Overy's global IT hub is located in Belfast. The firm's innovative online legal risk management solution, aosphere is developed and delivered by a specialist derivatives compliance team in Belfast.</p> <p>Baker & McKenzie's Global Merger Analysis Platform (GMAP) - an innovative new antitrust & merger data control tool - is delivered from Belfast and used by the firm's team of anti-trust & competitions lawyers world-wide.</p> <p>Axiom's Belfast Centre of Excellence leverages the company's IRIS technology to efficiently deliver commercial, derivatives and regulatory projects for Fortune 500 clients.</p> <p>Herbert Smith Freehills' tech - enabled Belfast operation is the central pillar in the firm's global alternative legal services offer.</p>	<p>Research focus in the fields of data analytics and artificial intelligence at the Knowledge & Data Engineering Centre, and the Centre for Statistical Science & Operational Research at Queen's University and at Ulster University's Artificial Intelligence Research Group and Intelligent Systems Research Centre.</p> <p>The UK's largest research Centre for Secure IT (CSIT) is at Queen's University.</p>	<p>The Ulster University Legal Innovation Centre - a collaboration between the School of Law and the School of Computing & Intelligent System - brings together research into the application and impact of new legal technology and opportunities for the education and training of current and future lawyers in essential legal tech skills.</p> <p>A core focus of the Legal Innovation Centre is research and development on computational law which is a branch of legal informatics focused on the automation and mechanization of legal analysis.</p>

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