This short course is designed to provide law students with a quick introduction to Big Data, as it is relevant to the practice of law.
Big Data is a term that you will hear from many sources, describing many things. Simplistically, however, it refers to the collection and use of information that differs from its predecessors in at least three aspects.

To give an example, I use the photograph, a form of data collected by everyone one of us on our ubiquitous smartphones.

**Volume** – the amount of data collected is enormous; this is due in part to at least the number of data collection devices available, both autonomous and human operated.

Consider the fact that, according to Deloitte:

- 2.5 trillion photos were shared or stored online in 2016 globally
- 90% of those photos will be taken using a smartphone
- This will amount to 3.5 billion gigabytes of data

**Velocity** – the data comes faster than ever before. Consider that the number of pictures taken every two minutes is likely more than were taken in the totality of the 19th century!

**Variety** – the data is no longer simply just a picture, thanks to social media, for example, the image is shared with data relating to time, place, and even content of the image.

Given the unprecedented nature of big data and its effect on society there are numerous legal issues that most of you will confront as you begin to practice law, many of these issues will be new both to you and to your colleagues who have been practicing law for decades.

---

**Course Goals**

This course is too short to fully prepare you for all of the potential issues associated with big data and the practice of law or other areas of technology, but it will help you issue spot the real and legitimate concerns and guide you how to deal with them.

---

**Grading**

A final paper. 3000-5000 words

---

**Reading List**

N/A