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Press Release

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JURIX 2022: Saarland University hosts international conference on legal knowledge and information systems

Saarland University's Saarbrücken campus will be hosting one of the world's largest international conferences in the field of legal informatics on 14–16 December. JURIX 2022 will provide a forum for around 100 experts from across the world to discuss and debate issues of current interest in the fields of law, artificial intelligence and information systems. Those interested in attending can register online. Details of the many hybrid workshops that will run during the conference are available on the JURIX 2022 website: https://jurix2022.rechtsinformatik.saarland

Digitalization is playing an increasingly important role in the legal and justice systems. Justice systems need to become more productive and efficient with cases processed more quickly and more cost-effectively. Artificial intelligence can support and, in some cases, automate the work of legal practitioners in law firms, state prosecutors' offices, courts and public sector agencies. Full-text search capabilities, for instance, could significantly simplify the work with case files. AI-based assistance systems could analyse the facts of the case and then identify any relevant statutorily defined elements of an offence or identify court judgments from similar cases. Up until now, this type of work has been done by hand and is correspondingly time consuming.

How and to what extent computers and artificial intelligence can help legal practitioners in their daily work will be one of the central topics at the 35th JURIX conference. The international conference, which is held in a different country each year and attracts academics and researchers working at the interface of information technology and law, will be held in 2022 at Saarland University. The conference has been organized by the directors of the Institute of Legal Informatics at Saarland University, Georg Borges and Christoph Sorge. Saarland University is one of the leading institutions in Germany for legal informatics.

The core focus of this year's conference is legal technology, or 'legal tech' for short, i.e. technologies that can support, and in some areas, automate the work of legal practitioners. The conference will provide a forum for international researchers to share their views on a variety of fundamental research questions, such as how legal norms function and how to implement rules that can be used by computers to link language and legal content and thus train machine learning algorithms accordingly.

Questions of IT security and AI ethics will also be addressed at JURIX 2022 as the law and the judiciary are particularly sensitive areas in which stringent requirements have to be met. Conference attendees will therefore also be discussing where to draw the line regarding the deployment of these new technologies and defining the boundaries surrounding the use of artificial intelligence. Where can AI provide useful assistance? Where and when are decisions best made by a human?

The conference programme also includes papers on other topics at the interface of law and information technology, such as 'Can a military autonomous device follow international humanitarian law?' or 'An argumentation- and ontology-based legal support system for AI vehicle design'. The numerous other presentations and workshops on offer enable attendees to interact with experts on a wide range of topics of current research interest. The JURIX conference also provides an important platform for early-career researchers.

Information and registration: https://jurix2022.rechtsinformatik.saarland

Background:

Since its inception in 1988, the **JURIX Conference**, which takes place annually under the auspices of the JURIX Foundation for Legal Knowledge Systems, has provided an international forum for showcasing research at the interface of law, artificial intelligence and information systems. The conference proceedings will appear in the Frontiers of Artificial Intelligence and Applications (FAIA) series that is published by IOS Press.

The Institute of Legal Informatics is part of the Faculty of Law at **Saarland University**. The institute has four professorial chairs at Saarland University and one at the University of Luxembourg. The institute is managed by its six directors: Georg Borges, Marc Cole, Philippe Cossalter, Maximilian Herberger, Christoph Sorge and

Stephan Weth. With its research focus on legal tech, IT law, security, data protection and privacy and legal informatics, the institute offers a legal, technical and international perspective on many of the key issues at the broad interface between information technology and the law.

Students at Saarland University have the opportunity to specialize in IT law and legal informatics early on in their studies. The Institute of Legal Informatics is one of the very few institutions in Germany offering nationally recognized degree programmes in this area of law. Students can choose between a full Master of Laws programme (LL.M) that focuses on IT law and legal informatics or a certificate programme, which they can complete during their studies. In addition, law students can study IT law and legal informatics in a special two-semester elective as part of their law degree programme. Every year, the institute also runs the international interdisciplinary summer school 'IT Law and Legal Informatics'.

For more than 30 years, the Saarbrücken campus has hosted the annual conference 'EDV-Gerichtstag', which is the largest German conference on legal informatics and the use of IT in the legal sector and one of the most important legal conferences in Germany.

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