

Press Coverage | September 15, 2026

The 2026 Summer Associate Experience: AI Led the Way

Jasmine McCall, legal talent recruiting manager at Troutman Pepper Locke, was quoted in the September 15, 2026, *Law360 Pulse* article, "[The 2026 Summer Associate Experience: AI Led the Way](#)."

As AI use has quickly grown in the legal industry, Jasmine McCall, legal talent recruiting manager at Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, said the firm's embrace of AI has helped with recruiting students.

"They see that it's not something that we've backed away from," McCall said. For instance, summer associates have always been able to use Athena, the firm's internal generative AI assistant launched in 2023.

The firm focuses on ethics and responsible use of such tools, and ensuring that summer associates understand their own judgment is critical, she said.

"The bottom line is, we want your judgment. How do you look at this?" McCall said. "The systems are created for you to use to improve work or to make things easier, but you are the subject matter expert, not AI."

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McCall of Troutman said summer experiences at her firm give future lawyers the opportunity to do real client work while receiving training and building relationships with attorneys there.

"Our summer program gives our summer associates a pretty candid view of what life looks like as a future associate," she said.