

# Robot, Esquire? The Case of *Lola v. Skadden* and its Potential Application and Ramifications on the Concept of the Practice of Law in the Philippines

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Robots have captured the imagination of people since the word was first conceived in 1921. With almost a century having passed, robots have undeniably become more of a reality, rather than something straight out of a science fiction film. Although Asimo and Sophia are what probably first come to mind when one thinks of a robot, a robot can take on numerous forms — from computer software to self-driving cars. The rise of these robots have undoubtedly coincided with the massive strides technology has made in modern times, with three particular technologies being cited as the most significant contributors in robot technology: sensors, actuators, and artificial intelligence (AI).

At the rate things are going, robots will continually become integral parts of society, especially as they begin to perform more complex tasks. The legal profession is one that is deeply rooted in tradition, but the rise of robots undeniably puts the profession in a compromising situation. Indeed, robots will end up being capable of performing tasks entirely independent of humans, and may even be capable of thinking and processing information on its own. This inevitability should keep those engaged in the legal profession on their guard, in order for them to become ready to adapt when the situation arises. If not, obsolescence remains to be a real possibility.