
W H I T E P A P E R

DEPLAW

Orchestrated Legal Automation.

Automating Mass Proceedings:

An Architecture Guide for Mass Proceedings.

From single-case logic to scaling 200,000+ cases per year. Technical and organizational requirements for fully automated legal case processing.

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S C A L E

When Manual Processing Fails.

There comes a point where the existing way of working simply stops functioning.

Experience shows this threshold lies at 300 to 500 cases per month. Below that, well-organized teams can still work efficiently. Above it, a gradual quality decline sets in: deadlines get tighter, response times longer, error rates rise, employees burn out.

What typically follows is expensive and inefficient: hiring more staff, outsourcing processes, or both — without solving the root problem.

The root problem is not a staffing issue. It is an automation problem.

Three scaling patterns without automation

1. Linear Growth

Double the volume requires double the staff — costs scale 1:1 with cases.

2. Quality Deterioration

Beyond a certain load, processing depth and error rates systematically deteriorate.

3. Bottleneck Effects

Individual process steps (e.g. document intake, deadline management) clog the entire workflow.

DISTINCTION

What automation really means.

Many vendors speak of automation but mean digitized manual work. This does not solve the scaling problem.

Digitization (not enough)	Automation (what is needed)
Document is received digitally but manually categorized	Incoming documents are automatically classified and assigned using AI
Follow-up is set with a click	Follow-ups are automatically created and resolved based on rules
Brief is sent digitally	Briefs are generated based on context and sent fully automatically
Deadline is entered manually	Deadlines are extracted from documents using AI and set automatically
Status is updated manually	Case status is automatically updated based on events

True automation means: No person needs to actively advance a case anymore. The process runs. Humans decide only where their judgment is truly required.

BOTTLENECKS

The 4 most common bottlenecks in mass proceedings.

1. Document Intake

Hundreds or thousands of documents daily — via email, fax, beA, mail. Each must be opened, read, assigned, and filed. Without automation, this step alone consumes significant staff resources. With AI-based classification, it becomes the trigger point of a fully automatic process.

2. Deadline Management

In mass proceedings, deadline management is the greatest liability risk. A missed deadline with 5 cases per week is an exception. With 500 cases per day, it is a statistical certainty — if deadlines are maintained manually. Automated deadline recognition and rule-based escalation workflows structurally eliminate this risk.

3. Communication with Stakeholders

Status inquiries, dunning letters, acknowledgments of receipt — each communication act costs time in manual processing, which multiplies into enormous effort across thousands of cases. Fully automated communication, triggered by process events, solves this problem without staffing overhead.

4. Process Adjustments and Exception Handling

Mass proceedings are rarely homogeneous. Special constellations, deadline extensions, unexpected objections — all of this creates exceptions. An enterprise platform must be able to explicitly model exceptions — not with manual workarounds, but through predefined alternative paths in the workflow.

„Companies often come to us when the pain is already severe. The earlier processes are orchestrated on a platform, the sooner peak loads and costs can be minimized.“

— Tim Platner, CEO, Legal Data Technology GmbH

MUST-HAVES

What a platform for mass proceedings must be capable of.

Not every legal tech platform is suited for mass proceedings. This checklist helps identify the right system.

Mandatory Criteria

- ✓ **Event-based workflow triggers**
Processes start automatically upon defined events (intake, timer, status change).
- ✓ **Batch processing**
Workflows can be started simultaneously across thousands of cases.
- ✓ **AI integration in workflows**
AI actions can be modeled as defined process steps, not as isolated add-ons.
- ✓ **Explicit exception handling**
Errors, escalations, and special cases are modeled in the workflow.
- ✓ **Audit-proof process history**
Every step, every decision is documented in an auditable manner.
- ✓ **Multi-tenancy**
Different clients, products, or rate plans manageable on one platform.
- ✓ **Workflow versioning**
Process changes are versioned and rollback-capable without disrupting live operations.

Quality Criteria

- ✓ **BPMN standard**
Processes are modeled in an open standard — portable, extensible, cross-system.
- ✓ **Human-in-the-loop as a process component**
Human decisions are explicitly modeled in the workflow.
- ✓ **AI/LLM flexibility**
Different AI models (local, cloud, specialized) are interchangeable and combinable.
- ✓ **Parallel workflow versions**
Multiple versions of a process can be active simultaneously.
- ✓ **Integrated claims management**
Bookings, transfers, and claims tables directly within the platform.

STANDARDS

Why the standard is decisive.

Behind many legal tech automation promises lies a proprietary workflow engine — a tool that only works within its own platform and requires developers for process changes.

The problem with these approaches becomes apparent at the latest by the third scaling step: the process landscape grows to hundreds of workflows. Every change requires coordination. The platform that was supposed to save work itself becomes the bottleneck.

BPMN (Business Process Model and Notation) solves this problem fundamentally: processes are modeled in an internationally recognized standard that is simultaneously visualization and executable code.

What this means in practice

Users model	Domain experts — lawyers, case workers, project managers — model processes graphically, without developer skills.
Single Source of Truth	The BPMN model is the single source of truth: what is modeled runs exactly like that in the system.
Safely adaptable	Process changes are controlled, versioned, and documented — no risky code intervention.
Cross-system	Workflows can be imported and exported between systems — no vendor lock-in trap.

„BPMN is not just a modeling standard. It is the operating system for legal automation — because it unites domain expertise and technology in one language.“

— Tim Platner, CEO, Legal Data Technology GmbH

AI GOVERNANCE

AI as a controlled tool.

Two questions accompany every AI deployment in business-critical processes: What does it concretely deliver? And how does it remain controllable?

In DEPLAW, AI agents are defined process steps within a workflow. Each agent receives clearly defined inputs, performs a task, and passes on the result in a structured manner. No agent makes final decisions. No agent operates outside the modeled process.

What AI agents handle in mass proceedings

Document analysis	Automatically extract parties, deadlines, and amounts in dispute from incoming documents.
Classification	Automatically determine document type and process routing.
Text generation	Create response letters or summaries based on case file information.
Quality assurance	Check outgoing documents for completeness and consistency before dispatch.

Three governance guarantees

- ✓ **No autonomous action**

All agents are part of a human-defined workflow.

- ✓ **Full auditability**

Every AI step is logged and retrievable for compliance reviews.

- ✓ **Human override at any time**

At any point, intervention, review, or correction is possible.

„The AI agent is an instrument in the orchestra — not the conductor. Process logic remains with humans.“

— Sebastian Adams, CTO, Legal Data Technology GmbH

B E N C H M A R K S

Automation in numbers.

The following benchmarks are based on typical values from enterprise projects with legal mass proceedings. They serve as guidance.

Process Area	Manual (before)	Automated (after)
Document Intake & Klassifizierung	6–12 min / document	< 30 sec (AI + workflow)
Deadline Recognition & Setting	3–8 min / brief	Automatic (0 min manual)
Standard Communication	5–15 min / letter	Fully automatically generated
Case Assignment & Routing	2–5 min / case	Rule-based < 5 sec
Status Update	1–3 min / event	Event-based automatic
Escalation Handling	15–30 min / exception	User Task: 2–3 Min
Mass dispatch (e.g. 500 beA briefs)	2–3 working days	1 batch run (< 1 hour)
Overall Automation Rate	5–15%	75–92 %

ROI

A transparent calculation.

Many decision-makers shy away from the investment because implementation costs are visible while savings appear abstract. Here is a transparent calculation.

Sample calculation: Law firm with 800 cases/month

Assumptions: €45/hour staff costs, average 90 minutes manual processing time per case

Monthly manual effort: $800 \times 90 \text{ min} \times €45/\text{h} = €54,000/\text{month}$

With 80% automation rate: $800 \times 18 \text{ min} \times €45/\text{h} = €10,800/\text{month}$

Monthly savings: €43,200

Annual savings: €518,400

Typical break-even time: 3–7 months

Additionally, there are non-monetary gains: error reduction, deadline compliance, scalability without new hires, and higher employee satisfaction.

For legal expense insurers with several thousand cases daily, these figures multiply accordingly.

Is DEPLAW right for you?

DEPLAW is not a solution for everyone. Here is a clear assessment.

DEPLAW is the right choice if you...

- ✓ **regularly process 300+ cases per month**
Hundreds to hundreds of thousands of similar cases annually — with comparable process patterns.
- ✓ **want to fully automate repetitive legal processes**
The link between case volume and headcount needs to be decoupled.
- ✓ **need beA, AI, and document processing in one system**
The existing system landscape consists of disconnected tools with manual handovers.
- ✓ **want to make process changes yourself — without developers**
BPMN enables domain-driven process modeling without programming skills.
- ✓ **need an audit-proof, auditable solution**
For regulated industries, compliance requirements, and external audits.

DEPLAW is not (yet) the right choice if you...

- ✗ **run a small firm with < 50 cases/month**
In this case, the automation effort often exceeds the benefit.
- ✗ **primarily handle complex individual cases without process repetition**
DEPLAW is optimized for volume and recurrence, not for individual mandates.
- ✗ **are only looking for simple case management without process automation**
Traditional law firm software may be the better choice here.

„Who is DEPLAW not suitable for? We answer this openly — because honest assessment is the foundation of good partnerships.“

— Tim Platner, CEO, Legal Data Technology GmbH

TAKE ACTION

What happens next?

A decision for DEPLAW starts with a conversation. We listen first — and then concretely demonstrate what the platform can deliver for your specific processes.

The onboarding process

30 Minutes	Initial contact & fit assessment — open, without sales pressure
90 Minutes	Individual demo tailored to your industry and processes
Follow-up	Technical deep-dive — architecture, integration, data privacy
Optional	Joint profitability assessment — realistic, not optimistic
Start	Pilot project or direct start depending on your preference

Three questions we answer in the initial meeting

- What is the automation potential for your specific processes and case volume?
- How long does implementation take, and what are realistic milestones?
- What does DEPLAW cost, and what is a realistic return on investment?

Your contact

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DEPLAW — Orchestrated Legal Automation.

One system. All processes. Fully automated.