

February 14, 2026

AILEX Submits First* IETF Internet-Draft Specialized in LegalTech AI

A Technical Specification Defining Verifiable AI Decision Trails for the Legal Domain — Submitted to the International Standardization Process

VERIFIED BY 5 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

AILEX Inc. (Shibuya, Tokyo; hereinafter "AILEX") announces that on February 14, 2026, it submitted an Internet-Draft titled "Verifiable AI Provenance (VAP) Framework and Legal AI Profile (LAP)" to the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), which has been published on the IETF Datatracker.

Following comprehensive investigations by five independent research bodies, no prior IETF Internet-Draft specialized in the LegalTech or Legal AI domain was identified, making this the first technical specification in this field to be submitted to the IETF (*).

Draft Overview

Item	Details
Draft Name	draft-ailex-vap-legal-ai-provenance-00
Title	Verifiable AI Provenance (VAP) Framework and Legal AI Profile (LAP)
Submission Date	February 14, 2026
Category	Experimental (Individual Submission)
Pages	51 pages
Public URL	https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ailex-vap-legal-ai-provenance/

Background

As AI adoption in legal practice accelerates globally, the need for a technical mechanism to prove "how AI reached its conclusions and how attorneys reviewed them" has become increasingly critical.

This technical specification defines a protocol that cryptographically records and enables verification of AI decision rationale in legal practice and the attorney review process. Built on existing IETF security technologies (SCITT, RATS, COSE), it provides a domain-specific profile (LAP) addressing requirements unique to legal practice — compatibility with attorney-client privilege, evidential integrity of decision trails, and selective disclosure mechanisms.

With Japan's civil litigation digitization (mints electronic filing system) launching in May 2026 and similar global trends toward digital transformation in legal services, the demand for AI decision transparency and verifiability in legal practice is expected to intensify.

Results of Five Independent Investigations

To verify whether this draft represents the first IETF Internet-Draft specialized in the LegalTech / Legal AI domain, AILEX commissioned five independent research bodies to conduct comprehensive investigations.

Scope of Investigation

IETF Datatracker: All drafts searched with multiple keywords, including 99 AI-related drafts

IETF Working Groups: SCITT, RATS, AIPREF, OAUTH, COSE, and others + all 39 IRTF Research Groups

International Standards Bodies: ISO/IEC, IEEE, OASIS, W3C, ETSI, CEN-CENELEC, NIST, ITU-T, and UNESCO (9 organizations)

Academic Literature: Google Scholar, arXiv, ACM Digital Library, IEEE Xplore, SSRN

Consolidated Finding

CONSOLIDATED FINDING FROM 5 INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

No prior IETF Internet-Draft specialized in the LegalTech or Legal AI domain was identified across all five investigations.

Confidence Levels by Category (5-Agency Average)

Category	Confidence	Verdict
LegalTech AI-specialized IETF I-D	90.6%	Claimable

Legal AI decision trail standard as IETF I-D	89.4%	Claimable
Attorney review trail protocol standardization	82.2%	Conditional
Verifiable AI decision trail protocols in general	36.0%	Not claimable

Note: The "first" claim is not made for verifiable AI decision trail protocols "in general," as prior generic frameworks (e.g., VAP Framework, Reilly Sentinel Protocol) exist. The claim is strictly limited to technical specifications specialized for the LegalTech / Legal AI domain.

Significance

1. First IETF Technical Specification for the LegalTech AI Domain

In the history of the IETF, this represents the first protocol specification with "Legal AI" as its primary purpose (5-agency investigation, as of February 14, 2026).

2. A Technical Answer to AI "Provability"

Rather than focusing on AI "convenience," this specification provides a technical foundation for AI "provability" within the international standardization process, contributing to enhanced trust in AI-assisted legal practice.

3. Complementary to Existing International Standards

While ISO/IEC 42001 (AI Management System) provides organizational-level governance, this specification provides implementation-level protocol definitions for verifying individual AI decisions.

* Notes Regarding the "First" Claim

*1 Based on investigations by five independent research bodies as of February 14, 2026. The investigation scope includes the IETF Datatracker, 9 major international standards bodies, and academic literature databases. "No prior example was identified" does not mean "no prior example exists."

*2 An IETF Internet-Draft is a work in progress (draft) and does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by the IETF. It is an "IETF Internet-Draft," not an "IETF Standard."

*3 The detailed investigation report "Integrated Report of Five Independent Investigations on Prior IETF Internet-Drafts Specialized in LegalTech AI" is available on our website.

About AILEX Inc.

AILEX develops and provides a LegalTech SaaS platform under the vision of a "Verifiable AI Legal OS" — where every AI generation is recorded and every decision is verifiable. The platform combines AI-powered legal consultation, document generation, fact-checking, and cryptographic audit trails for Japanese law firms.

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IETF Draft: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ailex-vap-legal-ai-provenance/>

Information in this press release is current as of the date of publication.