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Big Law Attorneys Launch Blockchain-Powered In-House Workflow Software

NMBL Technologies and Dragonchain are partnering for new, blockchain-powered workflow and document management tools geared toward in-house that are set to be released next year.

By Victoria Hudgins | November 19, 2018

NMBL Technologies, a legal tech startup, is partnering with blockchain developer Dragonchain to create cloud-based legal workflow and document management products powered by blockchain.

The partnership was announced Nov. 12 and the platforms are scheduled to be released in late 2019.

NMBL's Big Law co-founder, Daniel Farris, who also chairs [Fox Rothschild](https://www.law.com/law-firm-profile/?id=109&name=Fox-Rothschild-LLP) (<https://www.law.com/law-firm-profile/?id=109&name=Fox-Rothschild-LLP>)'s technology group from its Chicago office, said the software will differ from other workflow



programs offered because most platforms are tailored to private practice lawyers, have a limited scope or are task specific.

The NMBL-Dragonchain software will also provide workflow management and legal operation integration specific to all in-house needs, Farris said. He added that the target market for the software is in-house departments of two to 13 lawyers that need technology to “do more with less.”

“We are targeting those in-house lawyers who are decent-size companies, have sophisticated legal issues, are responsible for protecting hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue but may have budgeting restraints and are running lean.”

Farris added the idea for the software stemmed from his legal practice, when he noticed in-house clients all seemed to struggle with a challenge “to be more effective, efficient and have departmental control to do better reporting.”

Farris further explained that blockchain can help with legal workflow and document management because it creates numerous nodes to confirm transactions in real time. Traditionally, he said, multiple law firms were used to confirm transactions to prevent attorney-client privilege violations. But when a transaction is submitted to a blockchain network, various entities can validate it simultaneously.

“The law firms can serve as nodes, [but] the problem is law firms have attorney-client privilege and it makes it difficult to see another firm’s or clients’ transactions,” he added.

Farris also said that blockchain should provide users with greater security and efficiency over their data. He noted that NMBL chose to partner with Dragonchain specifically because of the security and authentication capabilities Dragonchain’s blockchain provides.

The partnership between Chicago-based NMBL and Seattle-based Dragonchain Inc. started after NMBL co-founder Matt Wolf worked with Dragonchain to create software for another company. In addition to Farris and technologists Wolf and Justin Eaton, NMBL's other founders include Chicago-based Fox Rothschild IP and tech partner Christopher Hines and data security associate Nicole A. Poulos.

Although the company was founded in part by Fox Rothschild attorneys, it is a standalone entity not connected to the firm. NMBL was started in 2018 as a way to improve efficiency and technology for in-house counsel, after witnessing firsthand Big Law's slow adoption of technology and change, according to a press release.

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