

Prophet Richard Susskind Predicts the Future of Law; Internet is Key

By Martha Neil

A prophet who serves as something of a Cassandra to the legal profession is on an international tour to promote his latest book.

Initially pooh-poohed when he predicted, in 1996, a central role for the Internet in the provision of legal services, Richard Susskind, an Oxford University-educated lawyer and legal technology consultant, is today given credence as a bearer of bad news for those reluctant to watch the profession change, according to the *Globe and Mail*.

Now that the ubiquity of e-mail is no longer seen as a wild prediction but an established fact, newer cutting-edge changes to what Susskind describes as the classic interface between lawyers and clients include services that allow clients of some major United Kingdom law firms

to download standard contract documents and lawyers in British courts to download standard judicial orders.

Late last year, Toronto attorney Michael Carabash launched a website called **www.DynamicLawyers.com**, that connects counsel to clients who have posted online questions [.]

“I started this business because of what Richard Susskind has been saying,” he tells the *Globe and Mail*. “The profession is changing.”

Susskind’s latest book is titled *The End of Lawyers? Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services*.