

Large Language Models (LLMs) have made a significant impact in the field of AI & Law, demonstrating strong potential across a range of legal tasks. While powerful, LLMs are inherently black boxes whose internal reasoning process is uninterpretable and uncontestable. In the domain of law, where proper arguments for a decision are essential, black box LLMs can therefore be insufficient. To address this gap, we propose a neuro-symbolic solution that combines the natural language processing power of LLMs with the sound reasoning capabilities of symbolic AI methods. To illustrate our approach, we create a system that can answer yes/no bar exam questions based on relevant articles from the Japanese Civil Code. In our system, legal articles are modeled as ANGELIC Domain Models (ADMs) using the ANGELIC II methodology, while an LLM is used to assign factors to the ADM. The resulting ADMs then serve as decision frameworks that lead to the final answer. Through two experiments, we demonstrate that our neuro-symbolic system matches the performance of a baseline LLM, while also being contestable, interpretable, and able to offer explanations for its decisions.