



San Francisco
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Unpacking California's AI Safety Legislation: UC Law SF Experts Available to Break Down Risks and Benefits of Senate Bill 1047

California lawmakers recently approved legislation that would impose first-in-the-nation safety standards on rapidly advancing artificial intelligence technology. Gov. Gavin Newsom has until the end of September to sign or veto the bill.

Experts at UC Law San Francisco can explain why some lawmakers and advocates support this legislation and why opponents fear it could stifle innovation in an important and growing sector of the U.S. and California economy.



Professor [Robin Feldman](#): *"I appreciate the impulse to pass something addressing AI. I'm optimistic that in implementing the bill, regulators will be sensitive to the following concerns: For national security and economic strength, the U.S. must win the AI race. California is the heart of that effort. We must make sure that any new AI laws and regulations do not unintentionally benefit our international rivals. Even if the West reaches consensus on how to regulate AI, it won't constrain China, Iran, or other potential rivals."*

Robin Feldman is founder and director of the UC Law SF [Center for Innovation](#) (C4i) and the [AI Law & Innovation Institute](#). An expert on intellectual property and innovation, she has published multiple scholarly works at the intersection of law and innovation and provided expertise to congressional committees, federal agencies, and government officials. Reach her at feldmanr@uclawsf.edu.

Visiting Assistant Professor Zac Henderson:

“SB 1047’s intentions are laudable, especially in targeting a narrow class of ‘critical harms.’ But the administrative burden this bill will impose on AI companies—and on small ones in particular—is substantial. I worry that, as a result, this bill will reduce innovation and competition in a critical space already dominated by massive companies that will have no trouble absorbing the associated costs.”



Zac Henderson advises C4i on AI-related legal and regulatory matters. He has designed and implemented AI policies for emerging tech companies and researches the nexus between AI and businesses, national security, and the global economy. Reach him at hendersonzac@uclawsf.edu.



Director of Applied Innovation and Professor of Practice Tal

Niv: *“Despite criticism against it, SB 1047 takes a forward-thinking approach to the urgent need for AI regulation, offering immense opportunities and risks. By leading at the state level, the bill underscores the need for comprehensive federal legislation to create a unified approach to AI safety. This will ensure that a patchwork of state laws doesn’t clip the wings of our brightest innovators.”*

[Tal Niv](#) has served as general counsel at major tech companies and contributed to pivotal discussions about law and technology policies in the U.S. and European Union. At UC Law SF, she teaches Internet Law and AI Law. Reach her at nivtal@uclawsf.edu.

The [University of California College of the Law, San Francisco](#) was established by statute in 1878. While the College maintains a close affiliation the University of California, it is an independent institution. Formerly known as UC Hastings, the College became the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco – or UC Law SF – on Jan. 1, 2023, after AB 1936 was signed into law, striking the name “Hastings” from the school. UC Law SF is the oldest law school in the United States west of the Rockies.

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