

Insights, News & Events

# FP'S TOP 2026 PREDICTIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Insights

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Our AI, Data, and Analytics thought leaders have pulled together their top predictions for the new year so that employers can get a running start to 2026. If you want more, [register for our FP Forecast 2026 Webinar here](#).



**TOP PREDICTIONS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

- ✓ Colorado and Virginia Will Take Different Regulatory Paths
- ✓ California's ADMT Regulations Will Make AI Governance a National Standard
- ✓ Bias Audits Will Become a Must-Have for Employers
- ✓ Congress Will Still Be Talking About AI, Not Passing a Comprehensive Law
- ✓ States Will Zero In on Children's Safety in AI Chatbots

**2026**



## Colorado and Virginia Will Take Different Regulatory Paths

[Colorado's landmark AI law](#) will not take effect in 2026, as legislators, regulators, and stakeholders delay things to renegotiate. But Virginia will take another crack at AI lawmaking, this time aiming to [regulate healthcare](#) transparency and exposure.

## California's ADMT Regulations Will Make AI Governance a National Standard

## Related People



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Gearing up for [CPPA regulations to take effect in 2027](#), businesses will need to grapple with risk assessments, cybersecurity audits, pre-use notices, opt-out rights, and annual cybersecurity audits in 2026. And most multistate businesses will choose to comply with this stringent standard by [adopting an AI governance program](#) as table stakes.

## **Bias Audits Will Become a Must-Have for Employers**

Even without a federal AI law, plaintiffs' attorneys are already using the absence of an audit as evidence of negligence or discriminatory design. Learn more about [FP's AI Bias Detection and Mitigation Program here](#).

## **Congress Will Still Be Talking About AI, Not Passing a Comprehensive Law**

[Despite urging from the White House](#) and an [Executive Order pushing lawmakers to reach a deal](#), Congress will not pass a comprehensive federal AI statute in 2026. Instead, employers will face a growing patchwork of state and local laws – and growing expectations that they need to align with recognized frameworks (like [NIST's AI risk management principles](#)).

## **States Will Zero In on Children's Safety in AI Chatbots**

In the absence of federal action, state regulators will increasingly focus on AI systems that interact with minors in 2026, particularly chatbots and companion-style tools. Expect heightened scrutiny around age verification, data collection, content moderation, emotional manipulation, and mental-health impacts. Even companies that don't view themselves as "child-focused" may find their AI tools swept in if minors can access them.

### **Want More?**

- You can read our entire [FP Forecast 2026 here](#), full of predictions spanning many practice areas and industries
- [You can register for our FP Workplace Law Forecast 2026 Webinar here](#).

## **Conclusion**

## **Service Focus**

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