BREAKING NEWS

Newsletter

TARRIFF EDITION

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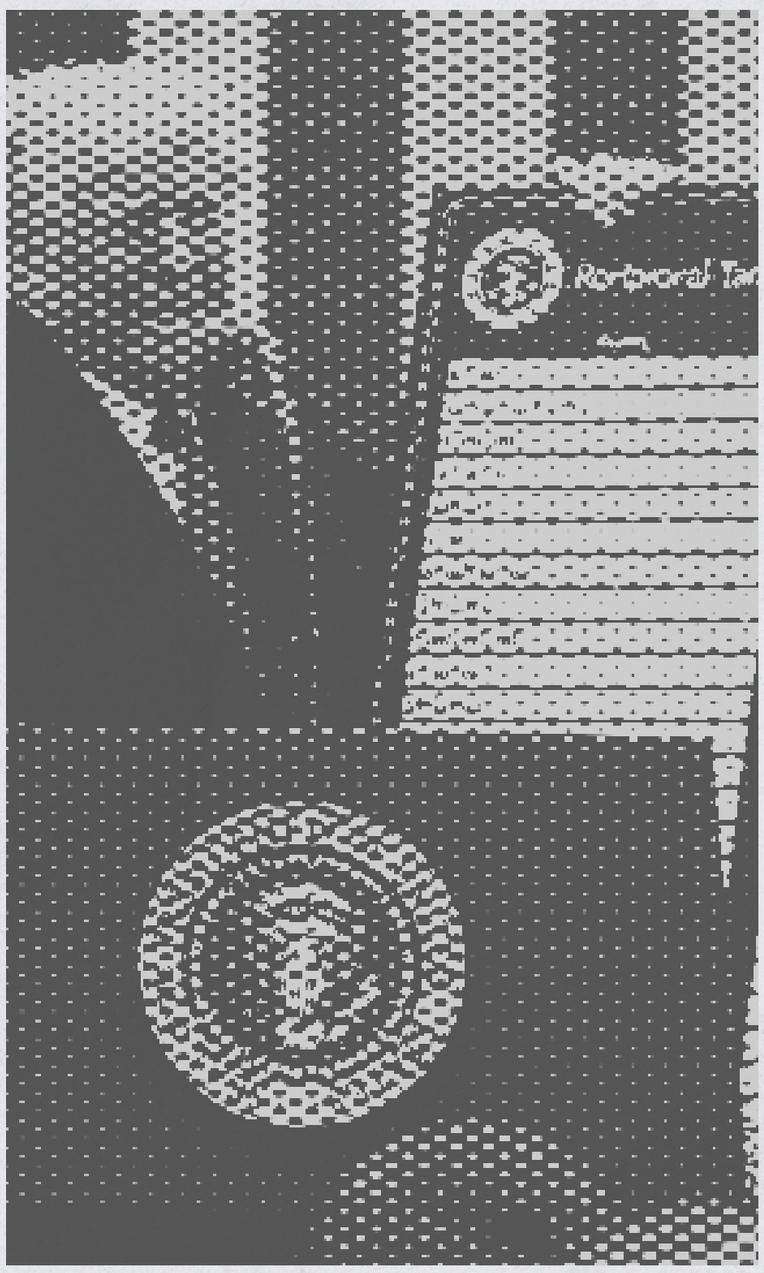
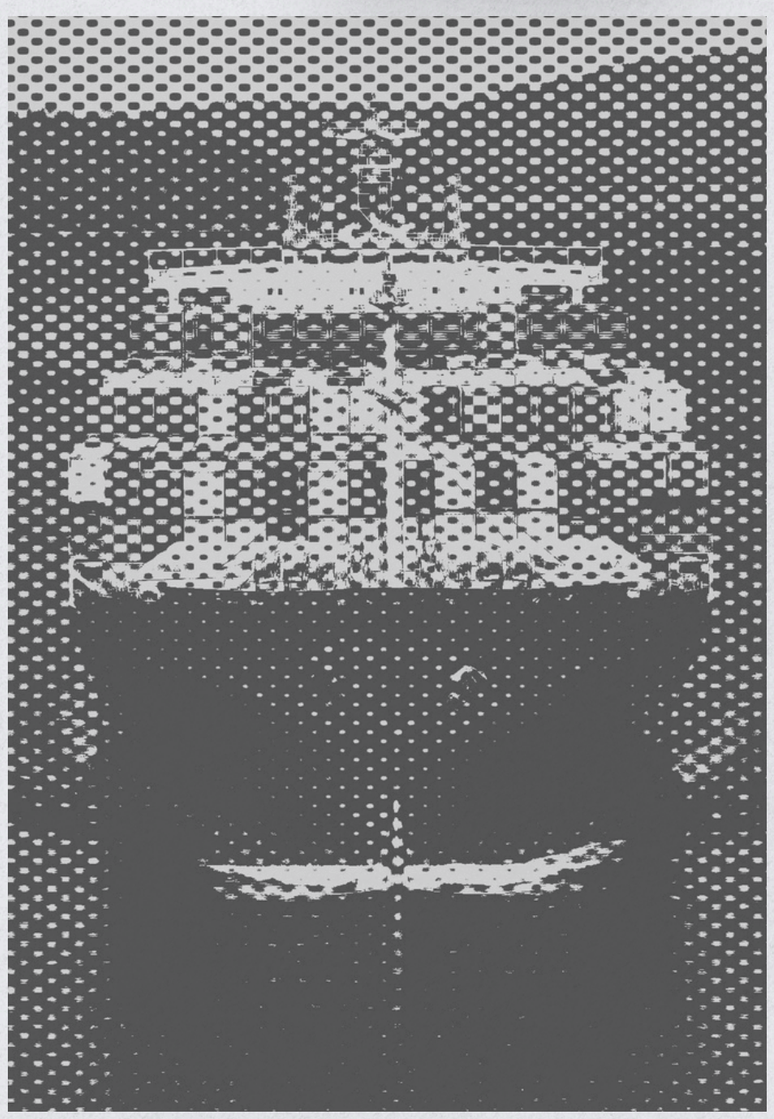
THE WORLD *Tarriffed*

A LEGAL SHOWDOWN





AI SPARKS CONCERN

NAVIGATING THE TARIFF STORM

Can Courts Reverse Trump's Tariffs?

A Legal Showdown Over Presidential Power.

President Donald Trump's recent imposition of tariffs, which includes a 145% rate on Chinese imports and a 10% baseline on other goods1, has sparked debates over presidential authority. Enacted under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), these measures rely on a law granting presidents broad powers during national emergencies.2 However, IEEPA does not explicitly mention tariffs, raising a critical question: Has Trump overstepped his constitutional authority?

The New Civil Liberties Alliance (NCLA) has filed a lawsuit in Florida challenging Trump's recent decisions. Their case is based off three core arguments:

01 Misapplication of IEEPA

At the heart of the lawsuit is the question of whether tariffs fall within IEEPA's scope. The law has historically been used to freeze assets, block transactions, or impose sanctions on hostile entities, not to wage trade wars. The NCLA argues that Trump's tariffs lack a legitimate emergency justification.

02 Seperation of Powers

The Major Questions Doctrine requires Congress to explicitly authorise executive actions with significant and potential economic or political consequences. Trump's tariffs, affecting billions in trade and diplomatic relations, arguably meets this threshold. If courts apply this doctrine, the tariffs could be struck down for lacking "clear congressional authorisation."

References

1. Shear, M. D. (2025, February 2). Trump tariffs and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act: A legal debate. The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/02/us/politics/trump-tariffs-ieepa.html
2. Durkee, A. (2025, April 10). Can Trump's tariffs be undone in court? Why even some conservatives argue he exceeded authority. Forbes. https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2025/04/10/can-trumps-tariffs-be-undone-in-court-why-even-some-conservatives-argue-he-exceeded-authority

03 The Major Questions Doctrine

Like Singapore, the U.S. Constitution establishes the framework for the government and defines the powers and limits of each branch. One of its core principles is the separation of powers, which divides government into three branches: legislative (congress), executive (the president), and judicial (the courts). Each branch has distinct responsibilities and the ability to check the others, ensuring that no branch becomes too powerful or abuses its authority.

Using this basis, the Constitution explicitly grants congress, not the president, the authority to regulate commerce and impose taxes (including tariffs). The NCLA argues that Trump's actions violate the nondelegation doctrine, which prohibits Congress from transferring legislative powers to the executive without clear guidelines. By using IEEPA to unilaterally set tariff rates, the administration has effectively bypassed Congress, a move that undermines the separation of powers.

A ruling against Trump could prevent future executives from exploiting emergency laws for policy goals, forcing congress to reclaim its constitutional role in trade and taxation. When we look at the economic impact, removing the tariffs could stabilise markets, lower consumer prices, and improve relations with trading partners. However, it could also reduce leverage in trade negotiations. Conversely, a win for the administration might encourage presidents to stretch IEEPA's limits further, blurring the line between emergency action and executive overreach.

In conclusion, this situation emphasises the need to modernise outdated statutes like the IEEPA, clarifying their scope. It's a reminder that the law is not static; it evolves through clashes between power and principle.

Written by: Shrreya Balasubramanian

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Navigating the Tariff Storm:
Businesses' Secret Weapon Revealed!

How companies use AI to turn tariff challenges into competitive advantage.

In boardrooms across America, conversations have been dominated by a single topic: the Trump administration's sweeping new tariffs. As supply chains buckle and costs soar, an unexpected champion has emerged from the chaos – artificial intelligence.

While many businesses are still reeling from the announcement, forward-thinking companies have already deployed AI solutions to transform this crisis into opportunity. Here's how they're doing it:

Finding New Partners at Lightning Speed

The math is brutal: When your manufacturing partner in China suddenly costs 25% more, you don't have the luxury of spending months on supplier research. To solve this crisis, companies are leveraging AI-powered platforms to rapidly identify alternative suppliers.

For instance, Coupa's procurement AI uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) to extract actionable intelligence from data sources like supplier contracts and performance reviews. NLP models perform named entity recognition to identify key entities such as supplier names, product categories and geographic regions. These entities are then semantically linked using relationship extraction techniques to build a contextual map of each supplier's operational and geopolitical environment.

Beyond extraction, NLP models also perform sentiment analysis and topic modeling on external data, such as industry news to detect early signals of risk. This data is continuously scored and fed into a supplier ranking algorithm that weighs risk indicators alongside traditional metrics.

In doing so, NLP enables the AI to move beyond static supplier data and incorporate real-world context, ensuring that recommendations reflect not just who can supply, but also who should supply dynamically. [1]

Outsmarting Logistics Bottlenecks

As trade flows redirect, port congestion becomes a critical issue, using AI offers a decisive advantage. For example, Uber Freight's machine learning algorithms incorporating tariff-related disruptions into their logistics optimization, dynamically rerouting shipments for maximum efficiency.

The results speak for themselves: Uber Freight has been able to reduce empty miles by 10-15% even amid the current disruption – a difference worth millions to high-volume shippers. This benefits many parties as lower transport costs typically translate to lower product costs.

The Bottom Line: AI as Competitive Advantage

As we enter the second month of the new tariff regime, a clear pattern is emerging: businesses utilizing AI adapt faster, maintain margins, and even gain market share despite the disruption.

For executives still on the fence about AI investments, the current tariff situation offers a compelling case study. The technology has moved beyond theoretical potential to delivering measurable advantages in precisely the kind of complex, fast-moving environment businesses face today.

In the new world of unpredictable trade policy, AI isn't just another technology option – it's becoming the essential foundation for resilient, competitive operations.

Written by: Koh Shengwei and Lee Min

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1. Epstein, S. (2025, January 21). AI in Procurement. Coupa. https://www.coupa.com/blog/ai-in-procurement/
2. Villano, M. (2025, April 10). AI in trucking logistics: Uber Freight uses tech to optimize routes. Business Insider. https://www.businessinsider.com/ai-trucking-logistics-uber-freight-tech-optimize-routes-2025-4?utm_source=chatgpt.com

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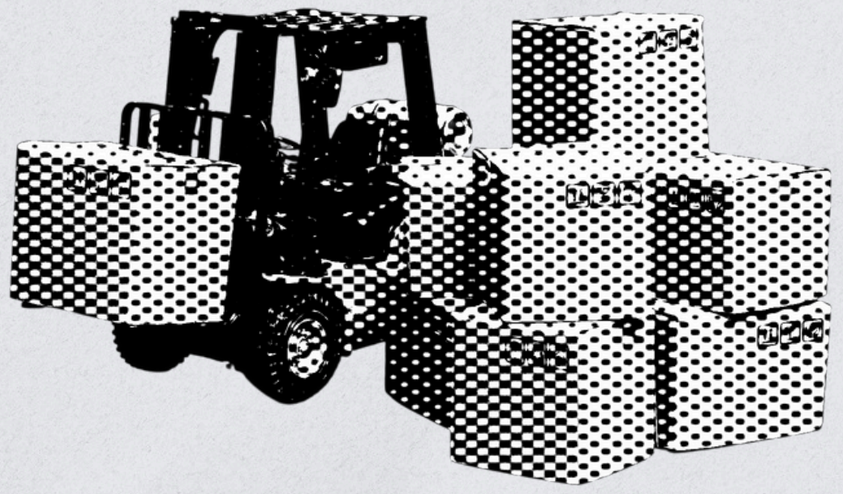
In Recent News...

AI-Powered Warehouses Set New Standards for 2025 Operations

https://www.globaltrademag.com/ai-powered-warehouses-set-new-standards-for-2025-operations/



Warehouses globally are adopting AI-driven technologies to boost efficiency and reduce operational costs. Advanced AI simulations, including digital warehouse twins, enable companies to design optimal layouts and manage fluctuating demand. Moving forward, warehouses will increasingly rely on AI for predictive logistics, automated sorting, and robot-assisted picking, significantly transforming warehouse roles toward oversight and strategic planning.

Written by: Koh Shengwei and Lee Min

Guidelines for lawyers using AI in works amid concerns over user info, search history being stored

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/new-guidelines-for-lawyers-using-ai-concerns-over-models-storing-user-info-search-history-minlaw

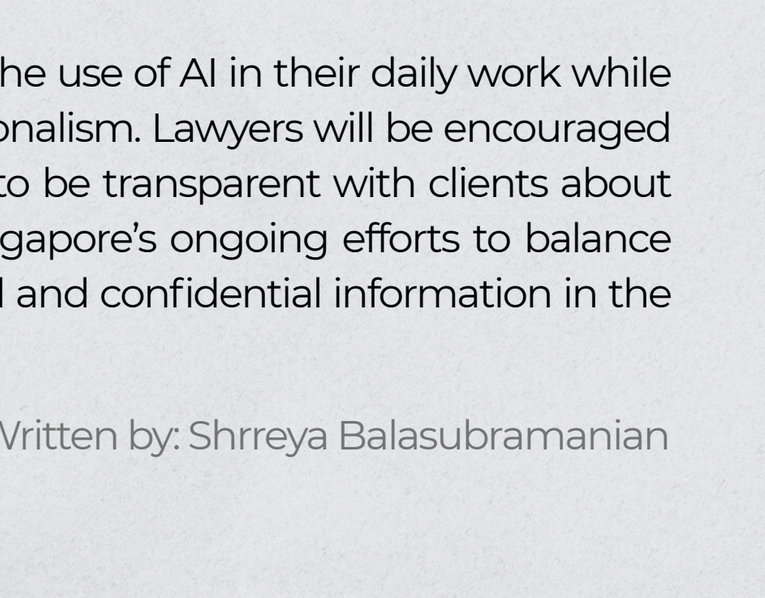
Singapore's Ministry of Law is set to introduce new guidelines for lawyers using artificial intelligence, following concerns about privacy and the security of client information. Recent discussions have highlighted that some AI tools could potentially store user data and search histories, raising the risk of sensitive client details being exposed.

These upcoming guidelines aim to help lawyers navigate the use of AI in their daily work while maintaining high standards of confidentiality and professionalism. Lawyers will be encouraged to choose AI services with strong privacy protections and to be transparent with clients about how AI is being used in their cases. The move reflects Singapore's ongoing efforts to balance technological innovation with the need to protect personal and confidential information in the legal sector.

Written by: Shrreya Balasubramanian

GE2025: Surge in AI-generated videos related to elections after polls called

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/ge2025-deepfakes-ai-generated-tiktok-politicians-disinformation-5078011?cid=internal_sharetool_iphone_22042025_cna



Following the issuance of the Writ of Election for GE2025, Singapore has seen a spike in AI-generated videos related to the elections, particularly on TikTok. A new law, in effect for the first time this election, bans digitally generated or manipulated content that misrepresents what election candidates say or do, regardless of whether the content is favorable or unfavorable. Out of the 73 AI-generated videos, 11 directly feature manipulated visuals of prospective candidates, potentially violating the law. This number rises to 27 when including videos that combine genuine candidate footage with AI elements like avatars or text-to-speech voiceovers, yet only four of these were clearly labeled as AI-generated. Authorities are monitoring the situation, but no takedowns have yet occurred. Experts warn that the ease of creating deepfakes poses a significant threat to election integrity, urging voters to remain vigilant and skeptical of sensational online content.

Written by: Hazel Goh Jie Ying

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