



Office of the Dean

December 15, 1995

Joseph Bonuso, Ph.D.  
Research Fellow and Founding Director  
NYU Law Artificial Intelligence Research  
The Solomon Project  
127 MacDougal Street  
Box 992  
New York City, NY 10012

Dear Dr. Bonuso:

Thank you for your letter introducing SOLOMON. Although skeptical that the AI program you describe can achieve all you suggest in your note, I am intrigued. Even if the program is capable of somewhat less, it may nevertheless have a significant impact on the dispute resolution process. For example, in a nasty civil litigation case where the principals have entrapped themselves into locked positions, SOLOMON may be able to forecast outcome more efficiently than an ADR mini-trial.

I wonder what role you believe SOLOMON might play in the more pervasive preventive and private justice arena? Less than one-fourth of the work done by lawyers involves litigation. The overwhelming number of attorneys are engaged in transactional activities where, on behalf of clients, they buy, sell, create, modify or destroy some legal "thing." Most of these transactions are marked by adversarial and problem-solving negotiations designed to resolve position conflict or to seek value added solutions.

While not prepared to endorse SOLOMON, I would like to learn more. If you have other information or a demonstration of the program, please let me hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph D. Harbaugh".

Joseph D. Harbaugh  
Dean