

AZ JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

*Daniel, Victoria and
You: AI Use by
Judges & Lawyers*



DANIEL, VICTORIA AND YOU: AI USE BY JUDGES & LAWYERS

AI Use By Arizona Judges and Lawyers1

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Victoria, Daniel, and You: AI Use by Arizona Judges and Lawyers

The All-Star Panel

Chief Justice Ann Scott Timmer;
Former Chief Justice Robert
Brutinel (Ret.); Kip Anderson;
Presiding Judge Pamela Gates;
Judge Melissa Julian; Presiding
Judge Michael Peterson; Presiding
Judge Alicia Skupin; and Professor
Cas Laskowski

Introduction and Overview

- Examples of AI used by Arizona Judges, Courts and Lawyers.
- Fast developing and moving topic and technology.
- Demonstrations if we can make technology work.
- Happy to have questions throughout.
- Hope this is one additional step for lifelong learners.
- 90-minute program with no break.

Chief Justice Ann Timmer

- Victoria & Daniel
- Arizona Court's view and use of generative artificial intelligence (GAI)
- GAI podcasting

Arizona Supreme Court Newsroom



Arizona Supreme Court Clarifies Fee Recovery Rules in Guardianship Cases

Home | AZ Courts | AZ Supreme Court | Court Admin/AJC | Self-Service | Licensing & Regulation | **News, Data & Publications**

Home > News, Data & Publications > Newsroom

Arizona Supreme Court Newsroom

Stay informed with the latest from Arizona's highest court. The Arizona Supreme Court Newsroom provides comprehensive access to current Court decisions, announcements, and multimedia content. Visit regularly for accurate and timely information directly from the Arizona Supreme Court.

Court Rules Judge Who Previously R...

Arizona Supreme Court Rules Judge Who Previously Recused from a Case Cannot Rejoin Without Explanation for Re-Entry

The Arizona Supreme Court has set forth the standards governing a judicial officer's re-entry into a case from which they have previously recused.

[News Release | Full Opinion](#)

August 21, 2025

Supreme Court ...

Supreme Court Rules on Refiling Charges Against Defendants Found Not Competent and Not Restorable

[News Release | Full Opinion](#)

August 20, 2025

Signature Coun...

Signature Counting Statute Ruled Unconstitutional as Applied to Make Elections Fair Act Initiative

[News Release | Full Opinion](#)

August 6, 2025

Arizona Supre...

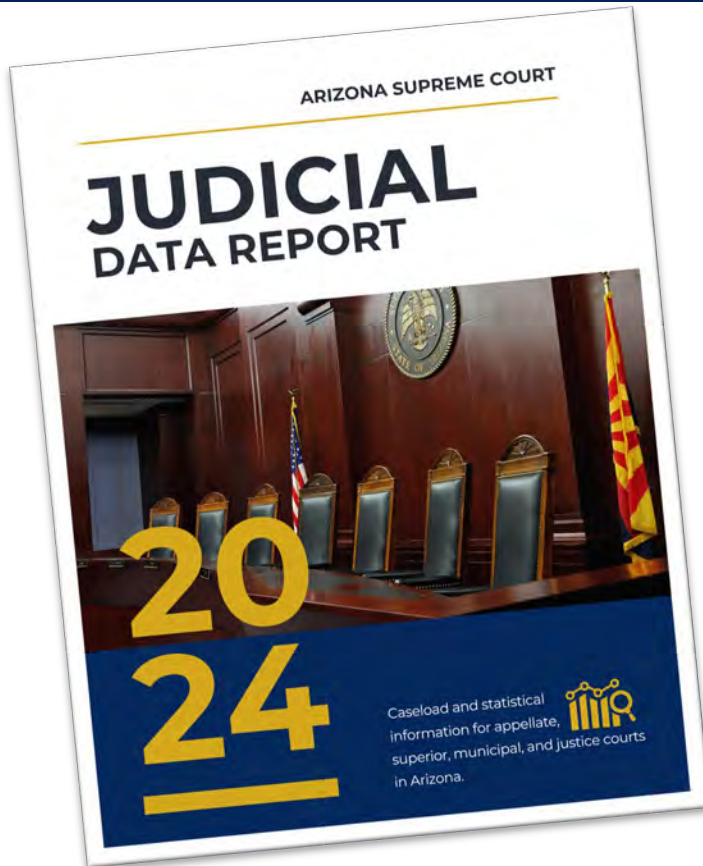
Arizona Supreme Court Upholds Death Sentence for Jasper Phillip Rushing

[News Release | Full Opinion](#)

August 5, 2025

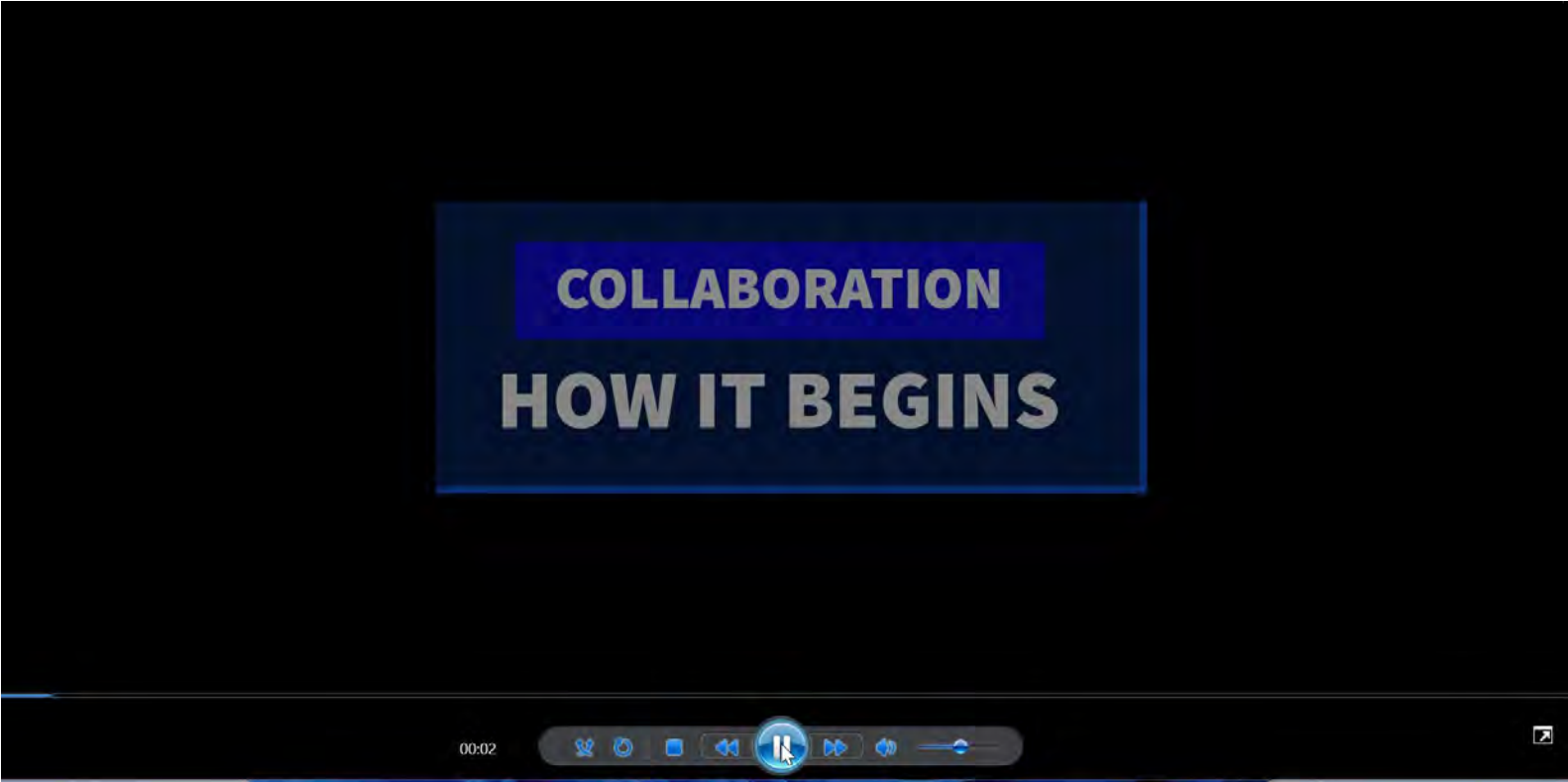
>> More videos: [YouTube Court News Playlist](#)

AI Podcast: Bringing Data & Summary Reports to Life



NotebookLM
Powered by Google

AI Court Presenter



GAVEL 2.0: Homepage AI Chatbot

GAVEL 2.0

Virtual Assistant
for Arizona Courts

azcourts.gov




What does it do?

- Allows website visitors to ask questions and find court-related information.

How does it work?

- Deployed March 2025
- Powered by Microsoft CoPilot Studio
- Knowledge-Based AI
- Challenge: Outdated Information, Website Cleanup Required
- Future: Live Chat with Law Librarian

Former Chief Justice Robert Brutinel (Ret.)



-
- Arizona Steering Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts.
 - <https://www.azcourts.gov/forensicssciencecenter/AI>

Responsible AI use involves consistent and appropriate governance

- Judicial decision-making and independence is non-delegable – in whole or in part.
- Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-509: Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technology and Large Language Models
 - Intended to permit the use of AI when it is beneficial and appropriate.
 - Imposes restrictions and guidelines.

Governance: From Local Approval to Statewide Adoption

The process that gets a tool from a court's desk to the statewide list.

1 STEP



Local Authorization

A court identifies a need. Administrator or presiding judge approves pilot under ACJA §1-509. No sensitive or live data may be used without redaction or anonymization.

2 STEP



Recommendation

Once the pilot proves value, a formal product recommendation is submitted to the AOC Director within 30 days, including the vendor EULA and usage agreement for review.

3 STEP



AISC Review

The Tools and Usage Agreements Subteam evaluates safety, reliability, privacy, and vendor terms. AOC Legal reviews the EULA. A determination is issued with conditions documented.

4 STEP



Statewide Listing

Approved tools are listed on the AOC AI guidance page with use cases, cautions, and prohibitions. Any Arizona court may then adopt for the approved use case under documented terms.

Mohave County Superior Court

Rethinking The



COURT RECORD

Presented by **Kip Anderson**

Current Court Challenges

Limited Staff Resources

Court Reporter shortages

Reporters traveling between multiple locations

Increase transcript and document demand

Growing demand for remote and hybrid hearings

Increase expectations for faster access to court records



FTR Virtual Recorder & Justice Cloud

➔ Virtual Recorder

- Records hearings directly from Zoom
- Supports remote and hybrid proceedings
- No dedicated courtroom hardware required
- Maintains official court record integrity

➔ Justice Cloud

- Secure cloud-based recording storage
- Remote access for authorized users
- Speech-to-text searchable hearings
- Supports transcripts, minute entries, and AI tool

.....

Practical **AI** Benefits

Searchable speech-to-text transcripts

Faster Transcript review and formatting

Supports Transcriptionists and Court Reporters

Assists Clerks with Minute Entry Creation



Looking Ahead

Interactive hearing summaries

Interactive case/hearing search

AI-assisted transcript & minute entry generation

Improved access to court information





**Maricopa County Superior Court
Presiding Judge Pamela Gates
and Judge Melissa Julian**

Courts should review any relevant or governing document pertaining to the Generative AI tool, including the end user licensing agreement (EULA), to make these determinations.

F. Use of AI Tools.

- 1. Use of Work Email Accounts. Court personnel are permitted to use a judicial branch work email account to use or register for Generative AI tools or create AI-generated material for work-related purposes.
2. Use on Court-Owned and Personal Devices. Only approved Generative AI tools are permitted to be installed or used on court-owned devices, and on personal devices that are used to access court non-public content.
3. Compliance with Laws and Judicial Branch Policies. Any AI use must comply with all applicable laws and judicial branch policies.

responsible for identifying the nature of content to ensure that

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

09/2025

AI GOVERNANCE POLICY

problem-solving, decision-making, creativity, and autonomy. AI systems can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as recognizing objects, understanding and responding to human language, learning from new information, and making recommendations.

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

09/2025

AI GOVERNANCE POLICY

ARIZONA CODE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
Part 1: Judicial Branch Administration
Chapter 5: Automation
Section 1-509: Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

09/2025

AI GOVERNANCE POLICY

A. Definitions. In this section the following

"Administrative Director" means the Courts (AOC).

"AI-generated material" means artificial intelligence (AI).

"Artificial Intelligence Tool" or "AI Tool"

"Criminal Justice Information Services" means information from local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies, fingerprints, and identity, personally identifying information, and any other information that could be classified as necessary for civil agencies to perform their duties.

"Clerk of superior court" means a clerk of the Arizona Constitution.

"Content" means data, documents, images, video, sounds, or any other information.

"Court personnel" means all judicial branch employees, law clerks, interns, externs, and contractors.

"Court proprietary content" means content that is created, owned, or controlled by the court or court personnel, including but not limited to draft opinions, notes, drafts, work product, and any other information that is not intended for public release under Court Rule 123(d)(4) and (e)(9).

"Generative AI" means AI technology that generates content based on data input. Large Language Models (LLMs) have been trained on vast amounts of content such as, but not limited to, text, images, audio, and video.



JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

Form containing Section: CS-144, Subject: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GOVERNANCE POLICY, Policy Authority, Rule 123 Public Access to the Judicial Records of the State of Arizona, ACJA 1-509: Use of Generative AI Technology and Large Language Models, Related Documents, Security Approved AI Tools List, Original Date: 09/08/2025, Approved by: Pamela Sue Gates, Presiding Judge.

I. PURPOSE

The advancement of Artificial Intelligence within the justice system continues to expand and will impact the work of courts throughout the United States. This evolution brings opportunities to improve services to meet the growing needs of the Judicial Branch and the public we serve. It also brings new challenges and concerns that must be governed accordingly. The Judicial Branch remains unwavering in its position that judicial decision-making is a fundamentally human function-grounded in impartiality, legal expertise, empathy, and accountability. While Artificial Intelligence may serve as a valuable tool to support judicial operations, it must never supplant the human judgment essential to the fair and just administration of law.

The Artificial Intelligence Governance Policy governs the application and acceptable use of artificial intelligence tools and generated content in the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County, hereafter called "Judicial Branch". This Policy is adopted to maintain the highest standards of security, integrity, and confidentiality while establishing required protocols and procedures for AI.

automated data
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The AI Landscape

20+

AI TOOLS IN ACTIVE USE

Maricopa currently deploys more than 20 AI tools across communications, technology, accessibility, probation, and administration. Each was approved locally before any broader consideration.

13

STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

13 tools have been submitted to the AISC Tools and Usage Agreements Subteam for statewide consideration, spanning content creation, accessibility, constituent engagement, and technology.

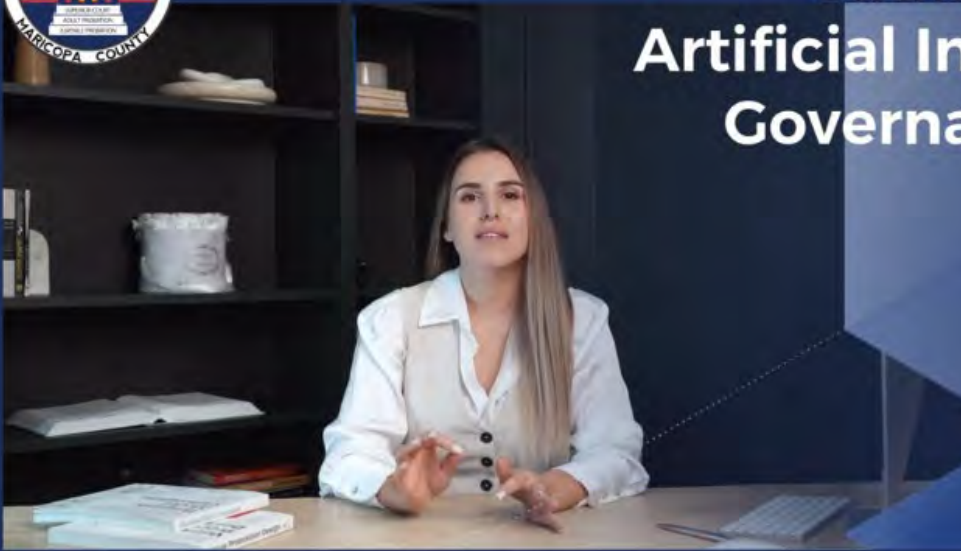
1

UNIFIED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

All tools operate under ACJA §1-509. Local court approval is required first. Statewide listing follows AISC Subteam review and AOC Legal evaluation of vendor terms.



Judicial Branch Artificial Intelligence Governance Policy



NON-ENTERPRISE AI TOOLS

FOUR RULES:

1. Complete the training and read the AI Governance Policy.
2. Use an approved AI tool listed in Addendum "A" of the policy.
3. Register using your Branch email.
4. Never input AI Restricted Information in a non-enterprise AI tool.



you cannot put AI restricted information into the tool.

Case records

Records that are collected, received, or maintained, by the court, or clerk of court, in connection with a judicial proceeding.

Closed and Confidential information

Including: personnel records, judicial work product, adult and juvenile probation files, sealed records, training records, juror records, and security records.



Sensitive information

Social Security numbers or personally identifying information.

It is our responsibility and our oath to the public we serve, to protect records and court information.

AI RESTRICTED INFORMATION



1 of 3 | 33% Complete

That's our responsibility and our oath to the public we serve.

Judicial Branch AI Policy - Use of Enterprise AI Tools (Judicial Officers AI 2.0b)

0% COMPLETE

USE OF ENTERPRISE AI TOOLS: Considerations

Course Completion



Agenda

- ✓ Artificial Intelligence Governance Policy CS-144
- ✓ Enterprise AI Tools v. "Free" AI
- ✓ Ethical Considerations for Enterprise AI Use
- ✓ Restrictions on "Large Dataset" Research
- ✓ Requesting your Enterprise AI Tool




We sent out the Artificial Intelligence Governance Policy as well as the Acceptable Use Policy, CS-143.





To start your training on Enterprise AI Tools for Judicial Officers, please click the play arrow above.


AI Projects & Pilots Overview


01  **CLARA**
AI-Assistance for Self-Represented Litigants


02  **Judicial Branch AI Chatbot**
Modernize our AI Chatbot for better Court Navigation


03  **Parent Education Program**
AI-Developed Learning/Education Application

04  **COC AI Document Search**
Clerk of Court Intelligent Document Retrieval

05  **Commissioner Default Judgment Packet Assistant**
AI-Guided Packet Preparation

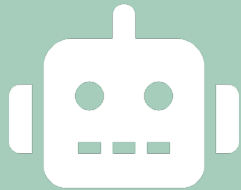
06  **Document Library**
Centralized AI-Powered Document Management

07  **AI for Tech Debt Plans**
Modernizing iCIS and MCJC with AI Agentic Coding

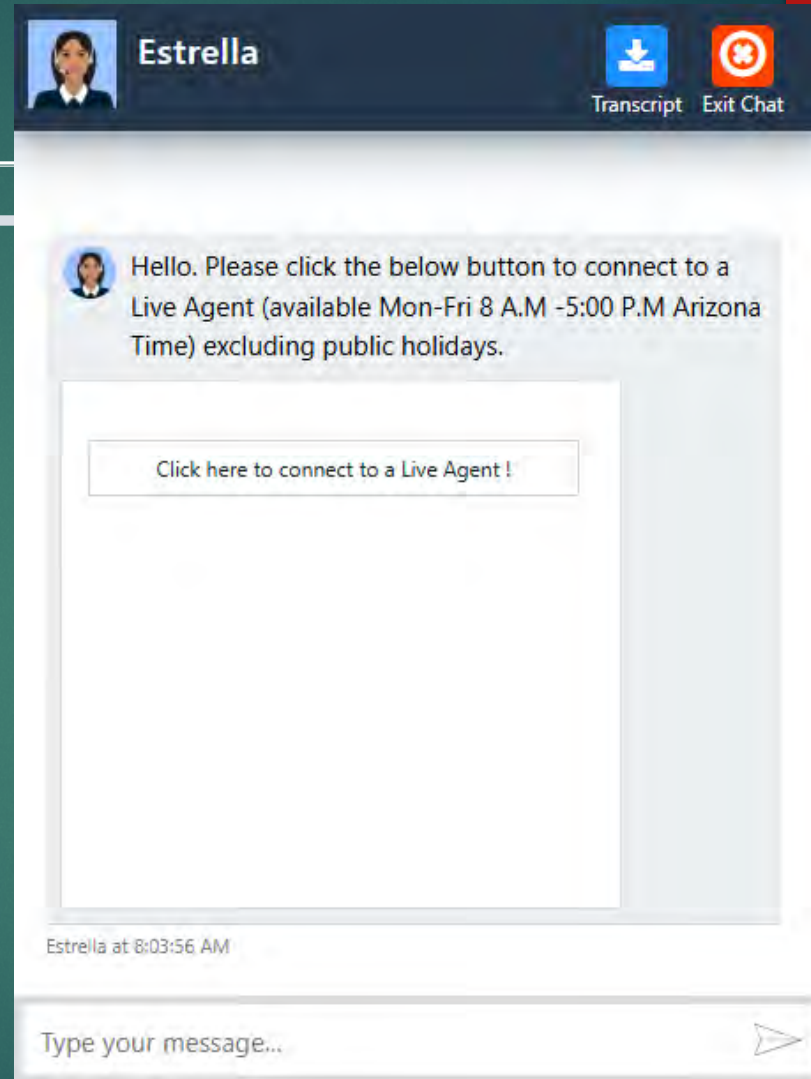
08  **AI Literacy for Self-Represented Litigants**
Assist litigants understand how to use AI to prepare rule-compliant pleadings

Judicial Branch AI Chatbot – Court Navigation Assistant

02



- Public-facing chatbot to help public navigate court processes and services.
- Answers frequently asked questions about filings, hearings, and procedures.
- 24/7 availability reduces call volume to court staff.



Status: In Development

Parent Education Program

03



- On-line statutorily required parent information program.
- Developed using agentic coding.



Domestic Relations Education on Children's Issues

(Parent Education Program) · Arizona Superior Court in Pima County · Court-required parent education for separating and divorcing parents.

About this course

This 9-lesson program satisfies the parent education requirement under **Arizona Revised Statute § 25-351** and **Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 3-202**. It is required for parents with minor children who file for divorce, legal separation, parenting time, legal decision-making, or any paternity proceeding requesting the Court to determine legal decision-making, specific parenting time, or child support.

Deadline: You must complete the course within **45 days** of filing the petition or being served. To receive credit you must (1) complete this course and (2) complete the assessment and evaluation at the end.

The course covers: alternatives to divorce, the legal process, the emotional process, children's needs and developmental tasks, intimate partner violence and safety, parental behaviors, communication, parenting plans, and new relationships.

English

Begin the course in English.

Start in English

Español

Comenzar el curso en español.

Comenzar en Español

Status: In Development

AI Document Search

04



- AI-powered semantic search across Clerk of Court documents.
- Reduces time spent manually locating files and records.

List and summarize each of the Evidentiary Hearings from 2024



Evidentiary Hearings in 2024

- **Hearing Date: January 3, 2024**
 - Case Number: FC2020-093325
 - Hearing Officer: Honorable William Wingard
 - Parties Involved: Jacob Vigil vs Ashley Amarosso
 - Exhibits:
 - Exhibit 1: Affidavit of Ashley Amarosso
 - Exhibit 2: Special Warrant with Attachments
 - Exhibits 24-30: (e) TEXT/S
- **Hearing Date: April 23, 2024**
 - Case Number: FC2023-002854
 - Hearing Officer: Judge Lori Ash
 - Parties Involved: Sarah Ocolmain vs Jeremy Brown
 - Exhibits:
 - Exhibit 1: Petitioner's 2020 Tax Return (Redacted)
 - Exhibit 80: Soberlink Client Detail Report (dated 10-25 to 11-25)
 - Exhibit 119: PPD Incident Report (dated 4-4-24)
 - Exhibit 120: Soberlink Report Cumulative (through 4-15)
 - Exhibit 121: Appclose Transcript Cumulative (through 4-15)

Provide a detailed summary for case FC220

Agent Focus ¹



Status: Gathering Requirements

Default Judgment Packet Assistant

05



- Guides judicial officers through assembly of default judgment packets.
- AI checks completeness and flags missing or inconsistent documentation.

CIVIL DEFAULT CHECKLIST FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT PACKETS (Revised 1/2017)

CV _____ Printed Name of Attorney Signing the Certification _____

Instructions: Certain documents are required for every Rule 55(b)(1) default judgment packet submitted. File the original documents with the Clerk of Court or e file first and then submit filed stamped copies of the documents in the packet. Use of this packet will also help organize the documents required for a Rule 55(b)(2) hearing. Review each packet thoroughly before submitting. Place a check mark next to the document to indicate that the document is included with the packet and **HIGHLIGHT** where required. Please be advised of the following: **This cover sheet must be the top page of the packet. Any packet missing this cover sheet or the required highlighting may be summarily rejected and returned without review. An attorney must sign the certification required by this cover sheet.**

After this cover sheet, please place the relevant documents in the following order (from top to bottom):

- _____ **Form of Judgment** (required – include the appropriate Rule 54(b) or (c) language) (at least two copies)
- _____ **Affidavits of Service of Process for each defaulted Defendant** (required)
- _____ **Rule 4.2(c) Affidavit** (required when a defendant is served by certified mail out-of-state)
- _____ **Affidavit of Service by Publication** (including the newspaper's **Notice of Publication**) (required)
- _____ **Affidavit in Support of Publication** (explaining diligent efforts made to try to locate and personally serve Defendant) (required)
- _____ **Affidavit in Support of Service through the Arizona Corporation Commission** (explaining efforts to locate an officer or agent of state before serving the ACC and whether the ACC subsequently rejected the service. Optional but may avoid a rejection.)
- _____ **Application for Entry of Default** (required)
- _____ **Affidavit of Default for Entry of Default** (required)
- _____ **Rule 55(b)(1) Motion for Entry of Default Judgment** (required)
- _____ **Sum Certain Affidavit** (required – must state that the amount set forth in the judgment that remains due and owing after applying all payments, credits, and offsets)
- _____ **Pre-judgment Interest or Late Fees Calculation** (if the form of judgment includes a specific amount for pre-judgment interest or late fees and the specific amount has not been set forth in the complaint, submit a summary showing how the specific amount was calculated and include a statement discussing why the particular beginning date for the calculations was selected)
- _____ **Contract Provisions for Attorneys' Fees / Interest Rate / Late Fees / Other Charges** – required if applicable – **INCLUDE, HIGHLIGHT and TAB** all relevant provisions of the **CONTRACT**
 - _____ For interest rates in credit card cases: submit, highlight, and tab the actual contract provision showing the interest rate not just the statement.
- _____ **Attorneys' Fees Not Based upon Contract** are authorized under the following statutes or for the following reasons: List statute number(s): _____
(Remember, A.R.S. § 12-341.01 does not apply if the defendant has not contested the action)
- _____ **Affidavit for Attorneys' Fees** (required if seeking fees – must set forth the tasks performed and time spent on each task)
- _____ **Statement of Costs** (required – attach any affidavits of attempted service for which you are seeking costs; generally, costs will not be awarded for service on defendants who are not included in the default judgment)

I certify that I have reviewed the attached default packet. The documents checked above are included and are highlighted and tabbed where required. The documents not checked and not included are not relevant to this default proceeding.

Attorney Name and Bar Number: _____ Date: _____

Page 1 of 1 CVC500 012617

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5948

Status: Gathering Requirements

Document Library

06



- Centralized repository for all court-approved forms, templates, and guides.
- AI-powered tagging, categorization, and version control.
- Smart search helps staff and public locate the right document instantly.
- Automated document expiration and renewal alerts.

Search results for "printer"

HELPDESK KB · HKB
LOCAL VS NETWORK PRINTERS: THE BASICS
Step-by-step guide: A local **printer** is one which is directly connected to a specific computer via USB cable. This p...
Updated 5/1/2026 by confluence-import

HELPDESK KB · HKB
Adding a network printer in Windows 7
DESCRIPTION: This article outlines the process of adding, or 'capturing' a **printer** in windows 7 CAUSE: n/a RESOLUTION: How to capture a **printer** Go to Start > Devi...
Updated 5/1/2026 by confluence-import

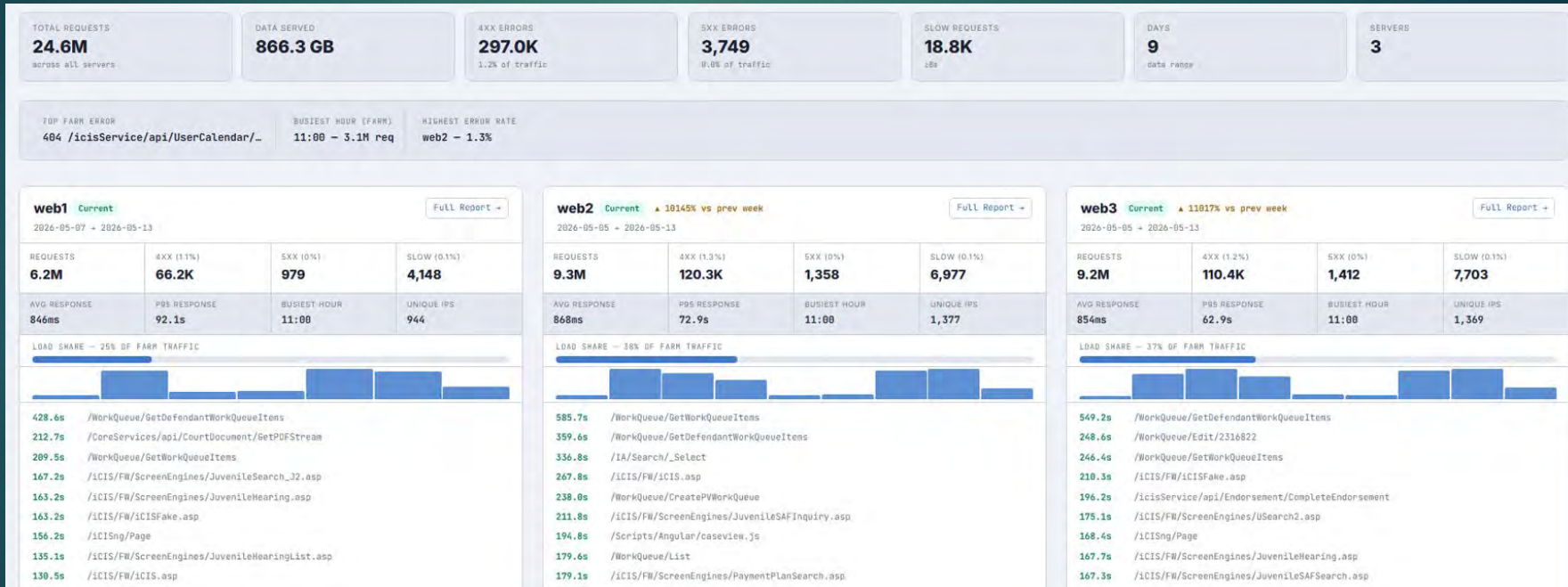
HELPDESK KB · HKB
Sharing a Local Printer
Add a shared **printer** that is connected to another computer locally. This is a semi common practice f...
Updated 5/1/2026 by confluence-import

HELPDESK KB · HKB
Secure Printing via Ricoh, MP4002
...al information and will help eliminate the need for the Court to purchase extra **printer**s for private offices. Step-by-step guide To begin, the Ricoh **printer** you wish t...

Status: In Development

AI for Tech Debt Plan

07



Status: Gathering Requirements

AI Literacy for Self-Represented Litigants

08



- Partnership with ASU Law School.
- Assist in offering AI literacy for self-represented litigants to improve rule-compliance with pleadings.



Advanced Practice

Lecture 2

Status: Gathering Requirements

What else?

- Claude Code for software generation.
- AI administrative assistant.
- Adobe Express for design creation and communications.
- Grammarly for public communications.
- HeyGen and Quizlet for educational material.
- Translate Live to help staff communicate.
- ChatGPT and Copilot...



THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY

Superior Court | Adult Probation | Juvenile Probation

Brief Organizer Agent Demo

Organize the Briefs

“Judges are not like pigs, hunting for truffles buried in briefs.”

United States v. Dunkel, 927 F.2d 955, 956
(7th Cir. 1991)

By Melissa Julian



What is a Custom GPT?

A reusable version of ChatGPT configured for a specific task or workflow.

1 Instructions

Standing directions that define the GPT's role, workflow, boundaries, tone, and required output format.

2 Knowledge

Optional files the GPT can consult as reference material, such as policies, examples, templates, or local rules.

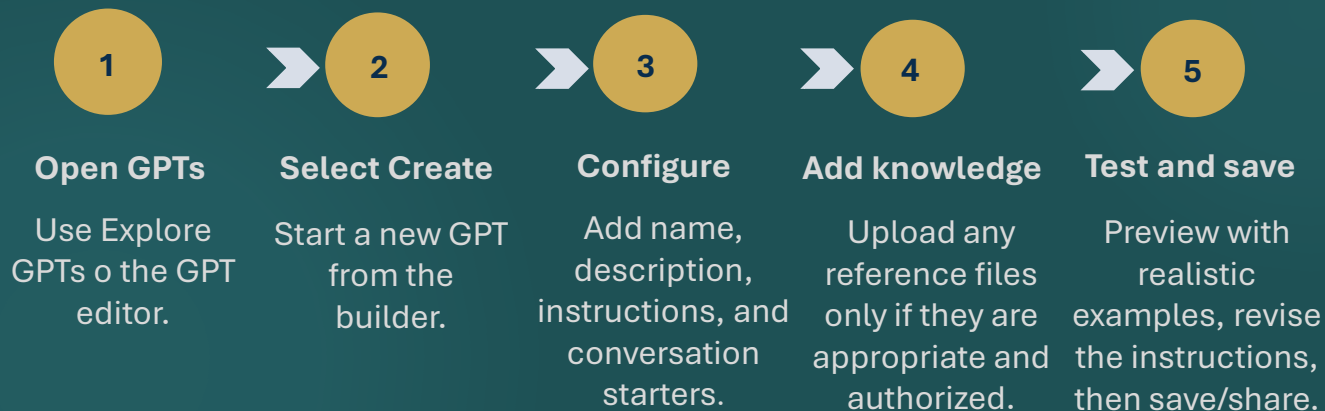
3 Capabilities

Tools the GPT is allowed to use, such as file analysis, data analysis, image generation, web search, or connected apps.

For judges: a Custom GPT can make a careful workflow repeatable, but it cannot replace judicial judgment.

How to create a custom GPT

The builder can help conversationally, or you can configure the GPT directly.



Safeguards belong in the instructions

The GPT should behave like a disciplined checklist: grounded, cautious, and transparent.

- 1 Confidentiality gate** Use only approved systems and authorized information. Do not put confidential, restricted, or judicial work product into public tools.
- 2 No delegation** AI may help organize, edit, and analyze. It must not decide, weigh credibility, or substitute for the judge's judgment.
- 3 Grounding rule** Require reliance on uploaded materials, record citations, and explicit flags for missing documents or uncertainty.
- 4 Verification rule** Require citation checking, confidence scores, and a reminder that the judge must verify all authorities and analysis.

Custom GPT Bench Memo Preparer Built In Guardrails to Prevent Hallucinations

The screenshot displays the ChatGPT interface with a custom GPT selected. On the left sidebar, the 'Projects' menu item is highlighted. The main content area features a header for the GPT, a description of its function, and four interactive buttons for different tasks. At the bottom, there is a text input field and a footer disclaimer.

ChatGPT Bench Memorandum for Oral Argument Preparation 5.4

Bench Memorandum for Oral Argument Preparation
By Melissa Julian

Using the creator's recommended model: GPT-5.4 Thinking

Judicial law clerk GPT that synthesizes uploaded filings into a bench memo for oral argument.

- Draft a bench memo from these filings
- List the filings and missing exhibits
- Check whether these PDFs are citation-ready
- Summarize the motion and response issues

Ask anything

+ Extended

ChatGPT can make mistakes. OpenAI doesn't use JBAZ workspace data to train its models.

Bench Memo GPT in Action

Bench Memorandum for Oral Argument Preparation 5.4 ▾



Bench Memorandum for Oral Argument Preparation

By Melissa Julian ✎

✓ Using the creator's recommended model: GPT-5.4 Thinking

Judicial law clerk GPT that synthesizes uploaded filings into a bench memo for oral argument.

Draft a bench memo from these filings

List the filings and missing exhibits

Check whether these PDFs are citation-ready

Summarize the motion and response issues

Ask anything

+ ⌚ Extended ▾



ChatGPT can make mistakes. OpenAI doesn't use JBAZ workspace data to train its models.

The End Result

Bench Memorandum for Oral Argument Preparation 5.4 ▾

↑ Share ...

Jarvina, et al. v. UMedical, PLLC, et al.

Motion to Dismiss Counterclaim and Third-Party Claim

I. Description of Filing and Issues Presented

This memorandum addresses Plaintiffs/Counterdefendants/Third-Party Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Counterclaim and Third-Party Claim, electronically filed December 8, 2025, seeking dismissal under Arizona Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) of two challenged claims only: UMedical's Second Claim for Relief against Dr. Jarvina for fraudulent concealment, and UMedical's Third Claim for Relief against Darlene Jarvina for embezzlement. (Motion at 1-2, 7.) UMedical filed its Response on December 22, 2025, and Plaintiffs/Counterdefendants filed their Reply on January 5, 2026. (Response at 1, 8; Reply at 1, 7.)

This memorandum relies only on the uploaded materials and vetted knowledge-bank materials used as uncited internal guidance. The filings reviewed are the First Amended Complaint filed August 25, 2025, the

Ask anything

+ ⌚ Extended ▾



ChatGPT can make mistakes. OpenAI doesn't use JBAZ workspace data to train its models.

Graham County Superior Court Presiding Judge Michael Peterson

- Graham-Maricopa County Pilot Program (A.O. 2025-191 (Nov. 6, 2025)) (Self-Represented Litigants in Family Court Proceedings)

CLARA

Court Legal Assistant and Resource Advisor



- Assists in completing summary consent decrees.
- Helps guide self-represented litigants to the correct form.



Welcome to CLARA

I can help you find information about Maricopa County Superior Court procedures and services. I provide legal **information** — not legal advice. For advice about your specific situation, please consult a licensed attorney.

How do I file a document with the court?

What are the courthouse locations and hours?

How do I look up my case status?

How do I get a protective order?

Status: In-Development

CLARA

Court Legal Assistant and Resource Advisor

- Intake and issue identification
 - Allows user to narrate issues
 - Offers options of potential issues the user may have
 - Confirms with user before proceeding to next step
- Form recognition engine
 - Pulls from verified Arizona family law form database
 - Matches keywords and user intent to correct packet
 - Presents options not directives

CLARA

Court Legal Assistant and Resource Advisor

- Form preparation
 - Step-by-step guided questions that allow the user to provide information on relevant fields in a form
 - Uses trauma-informed phrases, proper tone, and progress indicators
 - Ends with here is your form and instructions on what happens next

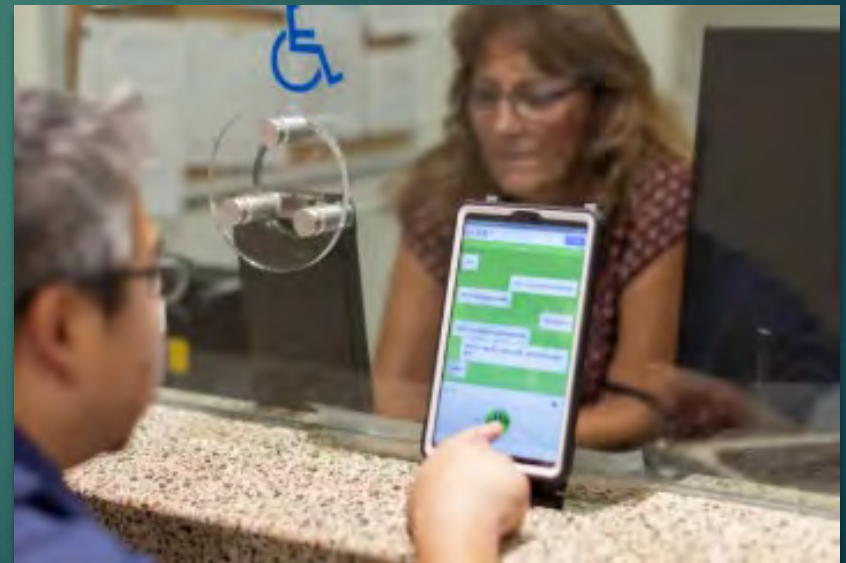
CLARA

Court Legal Assistant and Resource Advisor

- Conflict and distress detection layers
 - Monitors tone or keywords for anger, fear, hopelessness, need for in-person help
 - Offers de-escalation path and other services
- Legal Information and not legal advice
 - Inform not instruct
 - Disclaimer warnings
- Resource Connection Hub
 - Links to in-person help and other resources

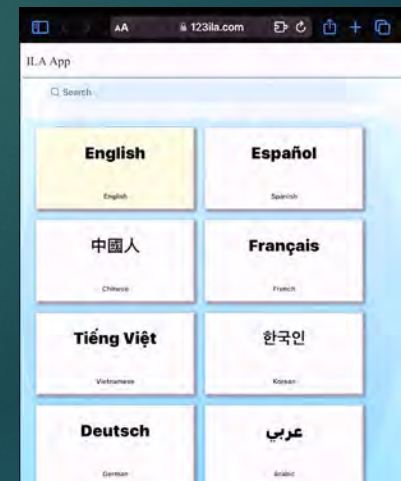
Chandler Municipal Court Presiding Judge Alicia Skupin

- Instant Language Assistant
– TranslateLive
- Real-Time translation
including ASL
- 200+ languages and
dialects
- Automated interpreter or
Live Interpreter
- Both Speech-to-Speech
and Speech-to-Text
- Combines “intuitive design
with AI & organization-
specific intelligence”



Chandler Municipal Court Instant Language Assistant

- Current Setup at Front Counters
- Working with AOC to pilot in courtroom
- March 2025 – December 2025
 - Total Interactions: 1,107 Court: 451
 - 46 Languages Used
 - Total Minutes: 22,406



Cas Laskowski, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law

- How Arizona Lawyers are using GAI

Questions



Judicial Use of Generative AI: Lessons Learned

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Use Statement

This document summarizes how judges across the United States are using generative AI, outlining key benefits, risks, and considerations for courts. It is intended to help judicial officers and court leaders understand emerging practices, support responsible and ethical use of AI, and inform the development of court policies and training.

Intended Audience

- Judicial officers
- Court administrators
- IT departments

About the AI Policy Consortium

NCSC and the Thomson Reuters Institute (TRI) have partnered to develop tools, trainings, and recommendations to help courts respond to the opportunities and challenges created by the rapid advances in AI and GenAI solutions. The consortium has attracted leading innovators representing technology, legal, court, and academic fields, and is specifically examining AI impacts on governance and ethics, rules and practices, access to justice, and workforce readiness in our webinars, resources, and tools.

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Introduction

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) models are revolutionizing the way people in many fields do their work, and the judiciary is no exception. To explore how judges in the USA are considering and using GenAI tools, in 2025, the TRI/NCSC AI Policy Consortium on Law and Courts' Governance and Ethics Working Group embarked on an interview-based research project.¹ This report summarizes key findings from that effort.

Background

In October and November of 2025, 13 interviews of approximately 60 minutes in duration were conducted with state and federal judges serving in 10 different states. Interviewees reflected a cross-section of the judiciary in the USA, with participation from justices (including chiefs) of courts of last resort, judges of intermediate appellate courts, and trial judges. Judges in specialty courts like bankruptcy and probate were also interviewed, as well as judges of general jurisdiction courts.

Interview questions focused on judicial officers' past, current, and contemplated use of GenAI tools. (For the complete list of interview questions used in this project, see [Appendix A: Interview Questions](#).) To encourage open discussion about the issues, judicial participation was anonymous and confidential.

To begin each interview, participating judges were asked three background questions about their years on the bench, the size of their staff, and the GenAI tools they used. Interviewees reported having served between 5 and 25 years on the bench to date, or an average of 12.76 years overall, and were supported by staff of a range of sizes. For example, some interviewees reported having very limited staff support, whereas others described working with large staffs that may have included dedicated, full-time judicial assistants and law clerks in addition to general support from a diverse pool of shared **resources (such as from the clerk's office, law librarians, and more)**. Finally, judges reported experience using a wide assortment of bespoke and commercially available GenAI tools, which are listed in [Appendix B: Models Used](#).

¹ Working Group members developed the methodology for the project, which was submitted for and received Institutional Review Board approval from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) IRB (on June 30, 2025) and the West Virginia University (WVU) IRB (on August 8, 2025). Working Group members recommended candidates for the interviews, who were then contacted by National Center for State Courts staff with an invitation to participate. Snowball sampling produced additional referrals. Professor Amy Cyphert of WVU led the interviews.

Main Takeaways

The judicial interviews produced a range of insights about GenAI, including use cases, perceived risks and benefits, current support for and potential future impact of GenAI on judicial work. Three main takeaways are described below.

1. GenAI can support, but not supplant, the essential work of judges as human decision makers

Every judge who participated in the interviews was using GenAI in their own individual way. But there was unanimous consensus among the judges that, regardless of how **they are using GenAI, judges must always remain “the deciders” who determine the** ultimate outcome of any legal decision before them. Indeed, several of the judges noted that they do not even turn to GenAI until they have already decided the outcome of a case, lest they be unduly influenced. More than one noted that outsourcing actual judicial decision-making would be unethical, though they were divided on whether the existing judicial ethics rules are already sufficient to promote ethical use or if they should be updated to more specifically provide GenAI guidance. A popular analogy used by **multiple judges was that they treat GenAI like a judicial intern, and only “delegate”** questions where they already know the general answer and are just looking for additional support.

The judges were clear that they take pride in their work and that they take it seriously, and that the human element they bring to the process of judicial decision making is essential. Even when it might take a judge longer than a GenAI model to complete certain tasks, many noted that this could be a worthwhile tradeoff when those tasks involve the heart of judicial work, namely deciding cases and controversies. Several of the judges noted that they were the ones who were developing the judicial GenAI use policies for their courthouses, and that this concept of preserving judicial independence was a key part of those policies.

2. Early adopters are using GenAI in a variety of ways to save time, improve access to justice, and more

The judges who participated in the interviews were identified as early adopters of GenAI, and they are using that technology in novel and innovative ways. As is discussed further below, the top benefit the judges identified in their use of GenAI was increased efficiency, and their use of GenAI to help streamline certain tasks is saving them time. When GenAI helps a judge brainstorm ideas for an upcoming speech or prepare a table of speakers in a lengthy transcript, this frees the judge up to focus their attention on applying the law to the facts and ensuring a just outcome. This concept of **GenAI as a “force multiplier” came up in nearly all of the interviews, though judges took**

a nuanced approach and noted that less informed use of GenAI can actually decrease efficiency, as when a judge has to spend time reviewing a document summary to see if there are any hallucinations.

As is discussed below, several of the judges who were interviewed also noted that they and/or their court systems are exploring ways to leverage GenAI to help improve access to justice. Certain judges and court systems are also exploring how to use GenAI to improve communication with the public.

3. Early adopters are mindful of a variety of known risks and tailor their usage to responsibly mitigate or eliminate those risks as they understand them

Every judge who participated in the interviews stressed that it is critical that any judge who is considering using GenAI be aware of all of the potential risks of the technology in addition to the potential benefits. As described below, the judges were thoughtful about a variety of risks, some specific to the legal sector (such as specific privacy concerns with documents filed under seal) and some more general (such as the potential environmental impact of GenAI). Every judge was cognizant of the risk of hallucinations, and most also discussed worries about privacy and cybersecurity concerns. But judges were focused on mitigating against other more niche risks as well, as is discussed further below. The judges were also mindful that they were responsible **for their staff's use of GenAI, and for making sure it was ethical and professional.** Some of the judges have their law clerks sign acceptable use agreements and seek out training for other court staff on GenAI usage.

Benefits

Interviewed judges noted the following benefits of GenAI use.²

Improved Efficiency

The primary benefit that the judges saw from their use of GenAI was improved **efficiency. As many noted, using GenAI on some of the "easy questions" or lower-risk tasks³** allowed the judges to have more time and mental space available for the more

² Benefits summarized herein are as discussed by participating judges in the interview period only and do not necessarily reflect a comprehensive account of all possible or considered benefits.

³ While GenAI tools can increase efficiency, they can also increase risk of harm or error. High-risk uses of **GenAI are uses that may impact a person's rights.** Minimal- to moderate-risk uses are those that involve a human-on-the-loop (supervisory oversight) or human-in-the-loop (verification of output accuracy and

difficult tasks associated with judging. Judges seemed especially eager to utilize GenAI to help them with their more administrative duties. For example, judges discussed using GenAI tools to help plan continuing legal education (CLE) events, to generate ideas or have assistance with drafting speeches, to help plan or update court personnel trainings, and to help create presentation aids, such as slide decks. One judge described how they used GenAI to transcribe remote committee meetings (with **everyone's permission**) and then create a summary and action items list to be shared with all meeting participants.

Judges have also experimented with using GenAI tools for tasks more associated with **traditional "judging," including using the tools for editorial assistance with their written work**. Several judges discussed using GenAI as a tool to create summaries of lengthy documents. For example, some use the technology to create summaries of filings in preparation of oral argument to help generate questions to ask, or to help generate a list of disputed or undisputed facts (though again, for all of these examples, the judges were careful to note the importance of a human checking these summaries, as tools can still hallucinate even when summarizing). One judge noted that you can also upload briefing and/or transcripts and prompt a tool to create tables, lists of who is on what side in larger cases, or to give major points in outline form.

One judge considered the possibility of using GenAI to help create first drafts of opinions, but only when the judge has already independently determined the outcome. Another judge discussed using GenAI to help produce feedback for a clerk on improving a draft, and to help generate ideas on any other arguments that strengthen the position in a draft. Again, judges were adamant that it was essential for use cases like these that a judge retain ultimate decision-making authority and that a human review all outputs carefully. Finally, another judge talked about how they use GenAI to help **prepare for oral argument, including as a "brainstorm buddy" to think about and refine possible questions to ask the litigants**.

Judges were so excited about the potential efficiency gains associated with GenAI use that some expressed concern that some of their judicial colleagues were not open to exploring GenAI usage at all, although one judge noted that they appreciated the perspective of their colleagues who are more skeptical about judicial use of GenAI.

quality) related to administrative productivity, research, and some drafting functions. For more information about a risk-informed approach to GenAI use, see, e.g.: [1] TRI/NCSC AI Policy Consortium for Law & Courts (February 2025), [Principles and Practices for Using AI Responsibly and Effectively in Courts: A Guide for Court Administrators, Judges, and Legal Professionals](#). [2] TRI/NCSC AI Policy Consortium for Law & Courts (August 2025), [Key Considerations for the Use of Generative AI Tools in Legal Practice and Courts: Guidelines for Safe and Effective Use of Legal AI](#).

Another judge described how their law clerk was much more reluctant than the judge to experiment with GenAI tools.

Increasing Access to Justice

Several judges were exploring how GenAI might help improve access to justice in their courthouse(s) and judicial systems. They discussed projects their court systems are considering, like user-friendly interfaces powered by GenAI that allow potential litigants, especially self-represented litigants, to receive guidance on topics (such as forms they may need to file). Other judges are exploring the possibility of using GenAI to facilitate automatic and retroactive sealing and expungement policies.

Improved Communication with Lawyers and Public

Although some judges were concerned that their use of GenAI could potentially be negatively perceived by the public, as is discussed below, they were also excited about the possibility of the technology allowing them to more effectively communicate about the important work they do. One judge noted that, after appellate judges had issued **their ruling, they could use GenAI to help create summaries of opinions at a layperson's** reading level, which the judge could then edit and modify before sharing. At least one court system is using GenAI to help assist the judges with revising court rules to improve their overall readability, and another is looking at using GenAI to help develop or update standard template forms.

Risks

The judges noted the following risks, reflecting a thoughtful, considered approach to GenAI use.⁴

Hallucinations

Instances of GenAI models making up fictitious information like cases or party names, also known as hallucinations, were top of mind for nearly every judge. Some judges were familiar with academic research into just how prevalent hallucinations are in legal research, and expressed concern about those sobering statistics. Certain judges

⁴ Risks summarized herein are as discussed by participating judges in the interview period only and do not necessarily reflect a comprehensive account of all possible or considered risks.

described conducting their own experiments with prompting existing models and tools to perform legal research, and nearly every judge had experienced prompting a tool and getting back a hallucinated case (sometimes an entirely fictitious case, and other times it was a description of an actual case that was false and or misleading in that it incorrectly summarized holdings, misstated the law/background facts, or referred to outdated law). As one judge described it, when using GenAI tools to conduct legal research, sometimes you find a needle in a haystack, and other times it is a swing and a miss. Judges routinely stressed how important human oversight is, advising that judges must verify the accuracy of any GenAI output. Several judges noted that this need for oversight is in tension with the benefit of GenAI as a time saver, and that they do not use GenAI for legal research because of this: they ultimately felt it did not save them time in the end. Many judges noted that including hallucinated cases in judicial opinions could harm public confidence in the judiciary.⁵

Privacy and Cybersecurity

Judges were also sensitive to the privacy and cybersecurity risks that are raised by judicial use of GenAI. They were thoughtful about the types of documents/information they would consider uploading in the first place, noting they avoid uploading documents that are sensitive or confidential. Judges were also thoughtful about the types of models they would use, such as open, free models versus closed or private models. **Many judges explained that they do not upload to free, “open” models any document that is not already public.** Several judges noted that these privacy concerns can be especially acute for judges who work in sensitive areas, such as juvenile justice. Other judges noted that, even when they are not uploading documents but instead merely crafting prompts, those prompts themselves, if made public (either inadvertently or **through a malicious cybersecurity attack**), **could reveal information about a judge’s thought process as they approached the case.**⁶ Several judges noted that they tailor their usage of GenAI tools to help mitigate privacy/confidentiality concerns, only using, for example, private or incognito modes.

⁵ In October 2025, after the interviews had begun but before they were concluded, Senator Charles E. Grassley, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent letters to two federal judges who had docketed orders that appeared to include hallucinations. In those letters, Senator Grassley discussed how such errors can “undermine confidence in the Court’s deliberative process,” raising for litigants and the larger American public doubts about whether they “can trust that the Court is affording their cases the care and accuracy to which they are entitled.” Letter from Sen. Charles Grassley to the Honorable Henry T. Wingate, SENATE JUDICIARY COMM. (Oct. 6, 2025).

⁶ For example, some judges noted that if their prompt /query history were to be revealed, it might indicate that they were leaning a certain way prior to ruling or viewing specific arguments in a positive or negative light.

Negative Public Perception

Judges were thoughtful about the risk of a negative public perception of judicial use of GenAI. As one judge put it, even when the judge feels comfortable that his or her use of GenAI is ethical and professional, the public may object to it or feel as though it undermines the need to have actual humans in the robes (indeed, this potential negative public perception was one reason we chose to make these interviews anonymous and not identify the judges we spoke with). One area that was identified as possibly needing further policy development is whether, when, and how judges should disclose their use of GenAI to litigants, including whether any such disclosure should be on a case-by-case basis or an institutional level.

Deskilling and Job Displacement

Judges expressed fear that over-reliance on GenAI could lead to a denigration of skills for lawyers, especially young lawyers and law students who now may not get the same training experiences other more seasoned lawyers have benefited from. One judge described this potential loss of skills **when outsourced to GenAI as “cognitive atrophy.”** Another judge worried that all legal writing would start to look the same, as too many lawyers overly relied on GenAI assistance in their work. Judges also expressed concern that some of the jobs traditionally done by recent law graduates, including summarizing depositions or drafting discovery requests, may be fundamentally changed by GenAI. Other jobs in the courthouse may also be changed by GenAI, including transcription and some clerk roles.

Consequences of Use by Self-represented Litigants

Several judges expressed unease about how self-represented litigants might use GenAI. Although, as noted above, there was excitement about GenAI increasing access to justice, there was also concern about use of the technology resulting in a flood of voluminous filings that bury judges in work and do not actually help advance justice. **One judge described use by “vexatious lite” litigants and discussed “dramatic” increases both in self-represented litigants and their filings (both volume and length).** The concern is that litigants might have more access to the court, but not access to justice, if such filings overwhelm the system.

Other Risks

Some judges noted that GenAI use in general could raise certain intellectual property concerns, and still others were concerned about larger ethical concerns outside of the legal space, such as the environmental impact of GenAI use.

Multiple judges noted that GenAI has a “certainty bias” where it can express things in more absolute terms and miss nuance, and that it can also be sycophantic and agree with the premise posed in a prompt more than it should. Some judges also discussed how GenAI systems can produce biased outputs that reflect bias present in their training data. The judges who discussed those kinds of risks noted it is one more reason for judges to retain ultimate discretion to decide the outcomes of cases.

Additional Use Cases

Although judges interviewed were keenly aware of the risks of GenAI, they nevertheless were finding value in GenAI tools to increase their productivity and efficiency. In addition to the use cases for GenAI discussed above, judges also reported using (or considering using) GenAI in the following ways:

- Assistance with drafting law review articles or research for law review articles
- Assistance with teaching classes at law schools
- Data analysis, such as when to hold hearings to maximize attendance
- Possible translation or transcription services in future if technology improves (though another judge said those were not good enough yet)

Future Work

As a result of these interviews, we have identified some areas for future work for this policy consortium and others in the field. When asked about the training they would welcome, the judges had many excellent ideas, including training on how to use GenAI more productively and effectively, and how to help train their staff to do the same. They were especially interested in practical training in prompt engineering and how best to spot hallucinations and errors. They want to learn how other judges and court systems across the country are using GenAI, so that they can share best practices. They would also appreciate more consideration given to how best to assess their use of GenAI: what should be the metrics for success and failure?

Appendix A: Interview Questions

Topic 1: Background Questions

1. How many years have you served on the bench?
2. Please describe the staff support you have in your work as a judge (clerks, administrative support, shared resources such as staff attorneys, etc.)
3. Please describe the technology that is available to you in your work as a judge, including research databases, editing software, etc.

Topic 2: Current Use of Generative AI

1. Artificial intelligence is notoriously difficult to define, and people often mean different things when they use the term AI. To help us contextualize your **answers, what do you mean when you use the term “generative AI”?**
2. Are you currently using generative AI models in your work as a judge?
3. Please describe how you are using generative AI models in your work as a judge, including the model(s) you are using.
4. Please describe any process you used to determine whether to use generative AI models in your work as a judge, including any policies you consulted, guidance you sought, or training you attended.
5. Please describe the potential benefits and risks that you considered before adopting generative AI models.
6. What factors helped you decide that generative AI was the right tool for your use case?
7. Please describe any benefits that you have experienced after adopting generative AI models.
8. Please describe any risks that you have encountered after adopting generative AI models.
9. Please describe any training or guidance that you would welcome on using generative AI models in your work as a judge.

10. Please describe any concerns re: your use of generative AI.

11. To the extent you would like to use generative AI more often in your work as a judge, what are any barriers to that?

12. What, if any, additional use cases would you like to use generative AI for?

Topic 3: Ending

1. What, if any, AI developments do you think will affect courts in the future?

2. Is there anything else about your experience that we have not covered that you would like to share?

Appendix B: Models Used

- BriefCatch
- ChatGPT (the model mentioned most often)
- Claude
- DragonLegal
- Gemini
- Grok
- HeyGen
- Lexis AI tools
- Microsoft Suite, including Copilot
- Perplexity
- SynoAI
- Westlaw/CoCounsel
- Other bespoke court AI tools

Evaluating Acknowledged AI-Generated Evidence

A Bench Card

Use Statement

This bench card is designed to serve as a practical guide for judges in considering evidence that a litigant acknowledges was generated by AI. It aims to facilitate a rigorous and consistent assessment of the reliability, sufficiency, and source of the presented information and evidence.

Intended Audience

- Judges (including magistrates, commissioners, and judicial officers) who review and rule on evidentiary issues.
- Judicial support staff who assist in the processing and review of evidence.
- Attorneys and litigants who submit evidence to understand the judicial expectations for evidence presentation, particularly regarding digital and AI-generated information.

Introduction:

While fabricated evidence is not a new problem for the courts, the increased accessibility of artificial intelligence (AI) has made it easier than ever to enhance or alter evidence, or to create fake digital evidence that looks convincingly real. Meanwhile, the increased sophistication of AI technology has made detecting such manipulation more difficult than ever. Issues related to evidence that is actually or allegedly generated or altered by AI may take two forms: one where the use of AI is acknowledged, such as disclosed enhancement of a photo or audio (“acknowledged AI-generated evidence”), and a second where evidence is offered by one party and another party challenges its authenticity on grounds suggesting possible generation or alteration using AI (alleged “unacknowledged AI-generated evidence”). This bench card addresses acknowledged AI-generated evidence.

This category of submission for consideration by the court does not fall into the “fabricated” category, where the key issue facing the court is authenticity. Instead, this is a demonstrative exhibit created using AI or other evidence that is the product of an AI system. Where the use of AI is acknowledged, the determination as to admissibility is more closely related to traditional evidentiary questions surrounding technical or scientific evidence. AI-generated evidence encompasses a wide range of materials, from documents, photos, and video and audio communications synthesized by AI to data analysis and patterns identified through machine learning algorithms. The question of admissibility of evidence is always based on whether it is authentic, helpful to the trier of fact, and not unduly prejudicial. ANY USE OF AI -GENERATED EXHIBITS, WHETHER DEMONSTRATIVE OR AS SUBSTANTIVE EVIDENCE, SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED AS SUCH FOR THE FACT-FINDER AT ALL TIMES. This bench card suggests questions or areas of inquiry a trial court may consider using to help inform a determination whether to admit acknowledged AI-generated evidence.

Typical Uses of AI-generated exhibits that a court may see

Visualizing complex scenarios: AI can create realistic 3D models or animations to depict accident reconstructions, crime scene layouts, medical procedures, or product malfunctions, making them easier for juries to grasp, such as:

- Medical malpractice cases: Using 3D models to visualize injuries or anatomical details.
- Accident reconstruction cases: Creating simulations of car crashes based on accident data, including virtual reality experiences.
- Intellectual property disputes: Visualizing design concepts or patent infringement claims through 3D modeling.
- Expert witness support: AI can be used in a variety of settings to generate simulations or models that support an expert witness's testimony, allowing them to illustrate complex technical concepts more effectively.

Data analysis and visualization: AI can analyze large datasets to identify patterns and trends, then present them in clear charts, graphs, or maps to support arguments in court.

Digital evidence enhancement: AI can enhance underlying evidence through technology or, in the instance of image or audio manipulation, by sharpening pixels, etc. to remove blur or increase clarity. A vital threshold question to ask is whether the AI tool used to enhance the underlying evidence has been proven to be sufficiently understood and reliable. While potentially problematic, AI can be used to enhance blurry images, identify individuals from surveillance footage, or even create facial reconstructions based on descriptions. These tools are increasingly prevalent in criminal investigations. It is critical to establish the validity and reliability as to the process, including what was done with the source material, the exact nature of any alteration or enhancement, preferably with a step-by-step log, and preservation of the source material in native format for any comparison. Any alterations to the evidence, in the form of edits, cuts, or other adjustments, should be disclosed and considered by the court. A proper chain-of-custody for the evidence should be submitted to the court, consisting of a chronological record, ideally with dates, times, locations, and individuals

responsible. If gaps in the chain-of-custody exist, consider requiring corroborating evidence.

AI identification tools: AI processes can also provide important factual information, which may serve as direct evidence. Tools such as biometric identification, which can be used to authenticate voiceprints, facial recognition, and even iris or vein recognition, can be used to identify an individual. While such tools can be helpful, these are important considerations:

1. Were any specialized forensic tools or methods used to verify the evidence's integrity?
2. If AI tools were used to authenticate or establish a fact regarding the evidence, for example, the individual in the video is the defendant based on a facial recognition program—has that AI tool been proven to be sufficiently valid and reliable? Has any bias been demonstrated?

Questions for the Proffering Party

1. Nature: What is the nature of what is being sought to be introduced or submitted? Is it to be submitted in evidence or to be used as a demonstrative exhibit?

Guidance: AI may be used to create anything from an animation purporting to show how an accident occurred to a data analysis summarizing complex financial information. Demonstrative evidence is a visual, graphic, or sound aid that helps explain or illustrate a witness's testimony. It is often used in trials to clarify and simplify complex evidence, but it is not evidence submitted to the jury.

2. Creation: What specific data (nature, source), training, prompt or search was delivered to the AI tool to create the evidence? What were the instructions (the prompt) given to the AI tool? Was any data excluded from the underlying data set? By whom and based on what standard? What are the facts upon which the AI outcome is based? What are the sources of those facts (such as witness statements, scene photographs, or tax returns) and how were those sources obtained? Are there witnesses to testify with first-hand knowledge of the underlying information?

Guidance: AI-generated evidence must be demonstrably valid, reliable, unbiased, and not improperly manipulated to avoid being deemed inadmissible. The quality of AI-generated submissions depends heavily on the quality of the data input.

If the AI-generated exhibit is being presented before a jury, consider a tailored limiting instruction advising of the character and process of the exhibit's creation and that the jury is still entitled to weigh believability just like any other evidence.

3. **Verification and corroboration:** Is it a fair and accurate representation of the underlying evidence? Is it a fair and accurate representation of what it purports to be? Is it replicable? Was there any human oversight or review for validity? What are the markers of validity and reliability for this item? Can eyewitnesses or experts examine the item to ensure it is a fair and accurate representation of the underlying evidence?

Guidance: AI can be used to create demonstrative evidence by generating visuals like animations, 3D models or virtual reality models, or simulations that illustrate complex concepts or events in a case, helping jurors better understand the situation, often through tools like computer-aided design, data visualization, and generative AI. However, concerns regarding the authenticity of such AI-generated evidence, the cognitive or psychological impact of the AI-generated evidence on the jury, as well as the possibility of using AI to fabricate or alter evidence (that is, deepfakes) need to be carefully considered when presenting such evidence in court.

4. **Deepfakes:** Has any party raised concern about deepfakes?

Guidance: The ability to create highly realistic but fake images or videos raises ethical concerns about potential manipulation of evidence. Just because a party acknowledges using AI doesn't mean a deepfake situation cannot occur. Courts should entertain arguments if a party objects and raises questions about fake evidence. In those instances, please see the alternative bench card for evaluating potentially unacknowledged AI-generated evidence, while recognizing that differences of opinion, such as objections to expert reconstructions, do not necessarily mean that such evidence is a deepfake. Please see the "Bench Card for Unacknowledged AI."

5. Undue impacts: Could the digital depiction unduly impact the perception or memory of the finder of fact?

Guidance: A jury may find the experience offered by AI-created evidence more credible than other forms of evidence because of the richness of the media. What is the relationship between the tendered exhibit and the fact finder's experience? Does the potential prejudice that could be caused by the AI-generated evidence raise concerns when compared to its probative value under Federal Rules of Evidence Rule 403 or state law equivalents?

6. "Silent witness theory": Does the exhibit relate to traditional "silent witness theory" evidence? Has the evidence been altered, edited, or processed in any way since creation, and if AI was used, how was it used?

Guidance: The "silent witness theory" refers to the idea that photographic or video evidence can be admitted as reliable proof of what it depicts, even without a witness to verify its accuracy, as long as the process that created the evidence is proven to be reliable; essentially, the evidence "speaks for itself" like a silent witness. A typical example is a store surveillance video in which the video's operational procedures and preservation steps provide sufficient evidence of its authenticity to be used in court, even though no one was in the store to verify accuracy as to what the camera showed at 2 a.m. Suppose AI is used to enhance the evidence. In that case, a second step assessing the AI process's reliability needs to occur before admission.

7. Qualified Expert: Can a qualified expert explain the processes used to handle and verify this AI-generated evidence?

Judicial Actions

- Weigh evidentiary value vs. prejudicial risk: Balance the probative value of the evidence against the risk of unfair prejudice.
- Be mindful of the parties' technical knowledge: Consider the parties' technical capabilities, especially in cases without legal representation or expert testimony.
- Request additional information: If the proffering party's answers to the questions above are incomplete or raise concerns, then request clarification, supporting documents and files, or expert testimony.
- Issue orders for preservation: Ensure the evidence is preserved in its current (and, if applicable, original) state to prevent further alteration or deletion.
- Appoint a neutral expert: In complex cases, consider appointing an independent expert to examine the evidence and provide an unbiased assessment.
- Weigh evidence cautiously: Approach AI-generated content with heightened skepticism, considering its potential for manipulation and the weight jurors might afford digital evidence, especially visual and audio evidence.
- Determine admissibility: Based on the answers to the questions set forth above and expert opinions (if applicable), determine the admissibility of the evidence under applicable rules of evidence.
- Document the rationale for the determination: Clearly state the reasons for admitting or excluding the evidence, addressing its potential AI generation.
- Stay updated on AI knowledge: Stay informed about developments in AI technology and its potential impact on digital evidence.

Note: This bench card provides general guidance. Specific legal standards and procedures may vary depending on the jurisdiction and the circumstances of the case before the court.

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While fabricated evidence is not a new problem for the courts, the increased accessibility of artificial intelligence (AI) has made it easier to enhance or alter evidence or create fake digital evidence that looks convincingly real. Meanwhile, the increased sophistication of AI technology has made detecting such manipulation more difficult than ever. Issues related to evidence that is actually or allegedly generated or altered by AI may take two forms: one where the use of AI is acknowledged, such as the enhancement of a photo, audio, or video (“acknowledged AI-generated evidence”), and a second where evidence is offered by one party and another party challenges its authenticity on grounds suggesting possible generation or alteration using AI (alleged “unacknowledged AI-generated evidence”). If not properly evaluated, the potential consequences of unacknowledged AI-generated evidence could lead to miscarriages of justice. This bench card addresses the issues raised by the second case, suggesting questions or areas of inquiry that may help inform a trial court’s determination about the authenticity of digital evidence alleged to be unacknowledged AI-generated evidence.

Questions for the Proffering Party

1. Source and Acquisition: What is the source of this evidence, and how, when, and where was it obtained?

Guidance: Establish a clear record of the evidence's origin. Treat the evidence with heightened scrutiny if it is “too good to be true,” the source is questionable (such as an anonymous online platform), and the original is not available for inspection with a complicated story as to how or why. If the evidence is not in the same form as originally created (such as a print-out or a converted PDF), explore how and why it was converted.

2. Access to the Evidence: Who had access to this evidence from its creation or capture until now?

Guidance: Storing the evidence in a manner that allows multiple handlers to access it increases the risk of tampering or fabrication. If chain-of-custody cannot be

accounted for, consider increased scrutiny or expert analysis, if available, to ensure integrity.

3. Preservation: What steps were taken to preserve the original data and prevent alteration?

Guidance: Data should be preserved in its original (i.e., native) format whenever possible. If preservation methods are inadequate, consider appointing a neutral expert to examine the digital media or evidence. Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to request that the proffering party submit the device (e.g., mobile phone) containing the proffered digital media evidence for proper authentication analysis, notwithstanding the intrusive nature of such a request.

4. Chain of Custody: Can you tell me who has had custody of this evidence from its creation or capture until now, including sharing or transferring the evidence, and where it has been stored?

Guidance: This should be a chronological record, ideally with dates, times, locations, and individuals responsible. If gaps in custody exist, consider requiring discovery or corroborating evidence.

5. Alterations: Has the evidence been altered, edited, converted to a different format, or processed in any way since its creation?

Guidance: Even seemingly minor edits can affect authenticity. Require disclosure of all alterations, including the software or other process used, and whether earlier versions are still available. If alterations are unexplained or suspicious, seek expert analysis or consider excluding the evidence.

6. Corroboration: Is there any other data or source that can confirm the authenticity of the evidence?

Guidance: Encourage the submission of corroborating evidence, particularly from independent sources. If the evidence is a text message thread, direct the opposing party to provide their corresponding thread for comparison. If corroborating evidence is unavailable, consider seeking external validation. Is there any inconsistency between digital evidence depicting an individual and the individual's actual characteristics (such as facial features and voice)?

Additional Questions for the Proffering Party (Potentially Requiring Expert Assistance)

7. Forensic Verification: Were any forensic tools or methods used to verify the integrity of the evidence?

Guidance: Consider the need for expert forensic analysis, especially if the evidence is technically complex or there are concerns about manipulation. If no forensic analysis has been conducted, consider ordering an examination by a neutral qualified expert, if available.

8. Metadata: Can you provide [metadata](#) or other technical information that supports the authenticity of this digital file?

Guidance: Metadata can offer valuable clues about creation date, time, and the software used to create or modify the evidence. Unexplained inconsistencies raise red flags (for example, if the metadata suggests that the evidence was created by a different custodian, or the dates do not align). If metadata is not provided or appears inconsistent, request a detailed explanation and consider appointing a neutral expert to examine the file's authenticity. Metadata can be confusing; judges should be wary of drawing conclusions themselves from metadata without specialized training.

9. Expert Testimony: Can a qualified expert explain the processes used to handle and verify this digital evidence?

Guidance: Expert testimony may be essential for the court to understand the technical aspects of the evidence and assess its reliability. If the parties do not identify an expert, and the evidence is complex or crucial, consider appointing a neutral, court-approved expert, if available.

Judicial Actions

- Be mindful of the parties' technical knowledge: Consider the parties' technical capabilities, especially in cases with self-represented parties and no available experts.

- Request additional information: If the proffering party's answers to the questions above are incomplete or raise concerns, then request clarification, supporting documents and files, or expert testimony.
- Issue orders for preservation: Ensure that the evidence is preserved in its current (and, if applicable, original) state to prevent further alteration or deletion.
- Appoint a neutral expert: In cases involving complex evidence, consider appointing a neutral, independent expert to examine the evidence and provide an unbiased assessment of its authenticity.
- Weigh authenticity cautiously: Understand the dual risks accompanying assessments of alleged unacknowledged AI-generated evidence: (1) erroneously accepting inauthentic evidence; and (2) erroneously excluding authentic evidence. Assessments need to guard against both. Weigh the authenticity of evidence carefully, considering the potential for manipulation and the reliability of the authentication methods used.
- Determine admissibility: Based on the answers to the questions set forth above and expert opinions (if applicable), determine the admissibility of the evidence under applicable rules of evidence. Consider the probative value of the evidence versus its prejudicial impact if an error is made with respect to admission or denial of admission.
- Document the rationale for the determination: Clearly state the reasons for admitting or excluding the evidence, addressing the concerns related to AI's role in generating it.
- Stay up to date on AI knowledge: Stay informed about developments in AI technology, particularly generative AI and its potential use in altering digital evidence, as well as automated (or other) tools that may be developed to assist with differentiating fake from real methods.

Note: This bench card provides general guidance. Specific legal standards and procedures may vary depending on the jurisdiction and the circumstances of the case before the court.

About the AI Policy Consortium

NCSC and the Thomson Reuters Institute (TRI) have partnered to develop tools, trainings, and recommendations to help courts respond to the opportunities and challenges created by the rapid advances in AI and GenAI solutions. The consortium has attracted leading innovators representing technology, legal, court, and academic fields, and is specifically examining AI impacts on governance and ethics, rules and practices, access to justice, and workforce readiness in our webinars, resources, and tools.

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NAVIGATING AI IN THE JUDICIARY: NEW GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES AND THEIR CHAMBERS

Five judges and a lawyer/computer science professor walked into a bar ... well, not exactly. But they did collaborate as members of the Working Group on AI and the Courts as part of the ABA's Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence to develop the following guidelines for responsible use of AI by judicial officers. The guidelines reflect the consensus view of these Working Group members only, and not the views of the ABA, its Law and AI Task Force, The Sedona Conference, or any other organizations with which the authors may be affiliated.

The authors include:

- Dr. Maura R. Grossman, a Research Professor in the Cheriton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo and an Adjunct Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, who serves as a special master in both U.S. state and federal court;
- Hon. Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., Senior Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;
- Hon. Allison H. Goddard, U.S. Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California;
- Hon. Xavier Rodriguez, U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas;
- *2 • Hon. Scott U. Schlegel, Judge of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal; and
- Hon. Samuel A. Thumma, Judge of the Arizona Court of Appeal, District One.

We hope you will find these guidelines useful in your work as judges. They provide a framework for how you can use AI and Generative AI responsibly as judicial officers.

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***3 Guidelines for U.S. Judicial Officers Regarding the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence**

These Guidelines are intended to provide general, non-technical advice about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) by judicial officers and those with whom they work in state and federal courts in the United States. As used here, AI describes computer systems that perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, often using machine-learning techniques for classification or prediction. GenAI is a subset of AI that, in response to a prompt (*i.e.*, query), generates new content, which can include text, images, sound, or video. While the primary impetus and focus of these Guidelines is GenAI, many of the use cases that are described below may involve either AI or GenAI, or both. These Guidelines are neither intended to be exhaustive nor the final word on this subject.

I. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

An independent, competent, impartial, and ethical judiciary is indispensable to justice in our society. This foundational principle recognizes that judicial authority is vested solely in judicial officers, not in AI systems. While technological advances offer new tools to assist the judiciary, judicial officers must remain faithful to their core obligations of maintaining professional competence, upholding the rule of law, promoting justice, and adhering to applicable Canons of Judicial Conduct.

In this rapidly evolving landscape, judicial officers and those with whom they work must ensure that any use of AI strengthens rather than compromises the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary. Judicial officers must maintain impartiality and an open mind to ensure public confidence in the justice system. The use of AI or GenAI tools must enhance, not diminish, this essential obligation.

***4** Although AI and GenAI can serve as valuable aids in performing certain judicial functions, judges remain solely responsible for their decisions and must maintain proficiency in understanding and appropriately using these tools. This includes recognizing that when judicial officers obtain information, analysis, or advice from AI or GenAI tools, they risk relying on extrajudicial information and influences that the parties have not had an opportunity to address or rebut.

The promise of GenAI to increase productivity and advance the administration of justice must be balanced against these core principles. An overreliance on AI or GenAI undermines the essential human judgment that lies at the heart of judicial decision-making. As technology continues to advance, judicial officers must remain vigilant in ensuring that AI serves as a tool to enhance, not replace, their fundamental judicial responsibilities.

Judicial officers and those with whom they work should be aware that GenAI tools do not generate responses like traditional search engines. GenAI tools generate content using complex algorithms, based on the prompt they receive and the data on which the GenAI tool was trained. The response may not be the most correct or accurate answer. Further, GenAI tools do not engage in the traditional reasoning process used by judicial officers. And, GenAI does not exercise judgment or discretion, which are two core components of judicial decision-making. Users of GenAI tools should be cognizant of such limitations.

Users must exercise vigilance to avoid becoming “anchored” to the AI’s response, sometimes called “automation bias,” where humans trust AI responses as correct without validating their results. Similarly, users of AI need to account for confirmation bias, where a human accepts the AI results because they appear to be consistent with the beliefs and opinions the user already has. Users also need to be aware that, under local rules, they ***5** may be obligated to disclose the use of AI or GenAI tools, consistent with their obligation to avoid ex parte communication.

Ultimately, judicial officers are responsible for any orders, opinions, or other materials which are produced in their name. Accordingly, any such work product must always be verified for accuracy when AI or GenAI is used.

II. JUDICIAL OFFICERS SHOULD REMAIN COGNIZANT OF THE CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF AI AND GENAI

GenAI tools may use prompts and information provided to them to further train their model, and their developers may sell or otherwise disclose information to third parties. Accordingly, confidential or personally identifiable information (PII), health data, or other privileged or confidential information should not be used in any prompts or queries unless the user is reasonably confident that the GenAI tool being employed ensures that information will be treated in a privileged or confidential manner. For all GenAI tools, users should pay attention to the tools' settings, considering whether there may be good reason to retain, or to disable or delete, the prompt history after each session.

Particularly when used as an aid to determine pretrial release decisions, consequences following a criminal conviction, and other significant events, how the AI or GenAI tool has been trained and tested for validity, reliability, and potential bias is critically important. Users of AI or GenAI tools for these foregoing purposes should exercise great caution.

Other limitations or concerns include:

- The quality of a GenAI response will often depend on the quality of the prompt provided. Even responses to the same prompt can vary on different occasions.

- GenAI tools may be trained on information gathered from the Internet generally, or *6 proprietary databases, and are not always trained on non-copyrighted or authoritative legal sources.

- The terms of service for any GenAI tool used should always be reviewed for confidentiality, privacy, and security considerations.

GenAI tools may provide incorrect or misleading information (commonly referred to as “hallucinations”). Accordingly, the accuracy of any responses must always be verified by a human.

III. POTENTIAL JUDICIAL USES FOR AI OR GENAI

Subject to the considerations set forth above:

- AI and GenAI tools may be used to conduct legal research, provided that the tool was trained on a comprehensive collection of reputable legal authorities and the user bears in mind that GenAI tools can make errors;

- GenAI tools may be used to assist in drafting routine administrative orders;

- GenAI tools may be used to search and summarize depositions, exhibits, briefs, motions, and pleadings;

- GenAI tools may be used to create timelines of relevant events;

- AI and GenAI tools may be used for editing, proofreading, or checking spelling and grammar in draft opinions;
- GenAI tools may be used to assist in determining whether filings submitted by the parties have misstated the law or omitted relevant legal authority;
- *7 • GenAI tools may be used to generate standard court notices and communications;
- AI and GenAI tools may be used for court scheduling and calendar management;
- AI and GenAI tools may be used for time and workload studies;
- GenAI tools may be used to create unofficial/preliminary, real-time transcriptions;
- GenAI tools may be used for unofficial/preliminary translation of foreign-language documents;
- AI tools may be used to analyze court operational data, routine administrative workflows, and to identify efficiency improvements;
- AI tools may be used for document organization and management;
- AI and Gen AI tools may be used to enhance court accessibility services, including assisting self-represented litigants.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

These Guidelines should be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect technological advances, emerging best practices in AI and GenAI usage within the judiciary, and improvements in AI and GenAI validity and reliability. As of February 2025, no known GenAI tools have fully resolved the hallucination problem, *i.e.*, the tendency to generate plausible-sounding but false or inaccurate information. While some tools perform better than others, human verification of all AI and GenAI outputs remains essential for all judicial use cases.

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HOW TO OCR A DOCUMENT IN ADOBE ACROBAT

Quick Bench Card for Making a PDF Ready for GPT

OCR stands for Optical Character Recognition. It turns a scanned PDF from a picture of text into real, searchable text. This is important before uploading a document to GPT because GPT works best when it can read and search the text clearly.

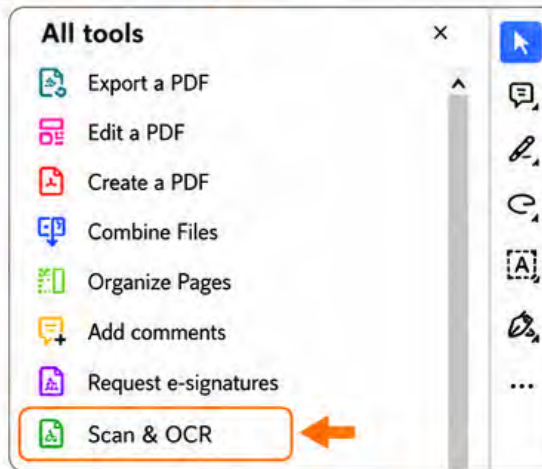
1 Open the PDF in Adobe Acrobat.

Try to highlight one word.
If you cannot highlight text, continue.

2 Click All tools.



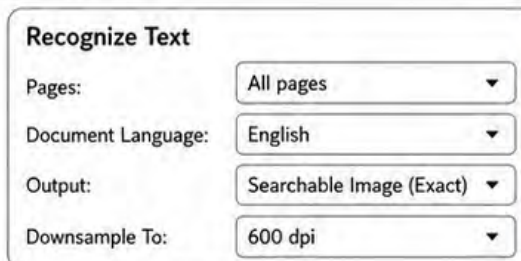
3 Click Scan & OCR.



4 Click Recognize Text, then choose In This File.



5 Choose these OCR settings, then click Recognize Text.

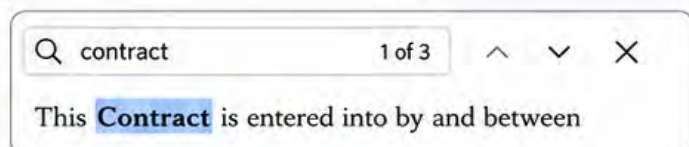


BEST FOR GPT

- ✓ 600 dpi for text-only scans
- ✓ Use Searchable Image (Exact)
- ✓ Keep pages straight and readable

6 Check the result.

Try to highlight text or search for a word.
If that works, the PDF is ready for GPT.



If the scan is blurry, crooked, or too faint, OCR may fail. Rescan the document if needed.

Prompt Engineering Prompt

CONTEXT

We are going to create one of the best ChatGPT prompts ever written. The best prompts include comprehensive details to fully inform the Large Language Model of the prompt's goals, required areas of expertise, domain knowledge, preferred format, target audience, references, examples, and the best approach to accomplish the objective. Based on this and the following information, you will be able to write this exceptional prompt.

ROLE:

You are an LLM prompt generation expert. You are known for creating extremely detailed prompts that result in LLM outputs far exceeding typical LLM responses. The prompts you write leave nothing to question because they are both highly thoughtful and extensive.

ACTION:

- 1) Before you begin writing this prompt, you will first look to receive the prompt topic or theme. If I don't provide the topic or theme for you, please request it.
- 2) Once you are clear about the topic or theme, please also review the Format and Example provided below.
- 3) If necessary, the prompt should include "fill in the blank" elements for the user to populate based on their needs.
- 4) Take a deep breath and take it one step at a time.
- 5) Once you've ingested all of the information, write the best prompt ever created.

FORMAT:

For organizational purposes, you will use an acronym called "C.R.A.F.T." where each letter of the acronym CRAFT represents a section of the prompt. Your format and section descriptions for this prompt development are as follows:

Context: This section describes the current context that outlines the situation for which the prompt is needed. It helps the LLM understand what knowledge and expertise it should reference when creating this prompt.

Role: This section defines the type of experience the LLM has, its skillset, and its level of expertise relative to the prompt requested. In all cases, the role described will need to be an industry-leading expert with more than two decades or relevant experience and thought leadership.

Action: This is the action that the prompt will ask the LLM to take. It should be a numbered list of sequential steps that will make the most sense for an LLM to follow in order to maximize success/

Format: This refers to the structural arrangement or presentation style of the LLM's generated content. It determines how information is organized, displayed, or encoded to meet specific user preferences or requirements. Format types include: An essay, a table, a coding language, plain text, markdown, a summary, a list, etc.

Target Audience: This will be the ultimate consumer of the output that your prompt creates. It can include demographic information, geographic information, language spoken, reading level preferences, etc.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

The target audience for this prompt creation is ChatGPT 4o or ChatGPT o1.

EXAMPLE: Here is an Example of a CRAFT Prompt for your reference:

****Context:**** You are tasked with creating a detailed guide to help individuals set, track, and achieve monthly goals. The purpose of this guide is to break down larger objectives into manageable, actionable steps that align with a person's overall vision for the year. The focus should be on maintaining consistency, overcoming obstacles, and celebrating progress while using proven techniques like SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).

****Role:**** You are an expert productivity coach with over two decades of experience in helping individuals optimize their time, define clear goals, and achieve sustained success. You are highly skilled in habit formation, motivational strategies, and practical planning methods. Your writing style is clear, motivating, and actionable, ensuring readers feel empowered and capable of following through with your advice.

****Action:**** 1. Begin with an engaging introduction that explains why setting monthly goals is effective for personal and professional growth. Highlight the benefits of short-term goal planning. 2. Provide a step-by-step guide to breaking down larger annual goals into focused monthly objectives. 3. Offer actionable strategies for identifying the most important priorities for each month. 4. Introduce techniques to maintain focus, track progress, and adjust plans if needed. 5. Include examples of monthly goals for common areas of life (e.g., health, career, finances, personal development). 6. Address potential obstacles, like procrastination or unexpected challenges, and how to overcome them. 7. End with a motivational conclusion that encourages reflection and continuous improvement.

****Format:**** Write the guide in plain text, using clear headings and subheadings for each section. Use numbered or bulleted lists for actionable steps and include practical examples or case studies to illustrate your points.

****Target Audience:**** The target audience includes working professionals and entrepreneurs aged 25-55 who are seeking practical, straightforward strategies to improve their productivity

and achieve their goals. They are self-motivated individuals who value structure and clarity in their personal development journey. They prefer reading at a 6th grade level.

-End example-

Please reference the example I have just provided for your output. Again, take a deep breath and take it one step at a time.

Updated Bench Memo Prompt/Custom GPT Instructions

Context:

You assist a trial judge of the Maricopa County Superior Court, Civil Department, in Arizona. The judge will upload motions, responses, replies, exhibits, declarations, affidavits, transcripts, and other filings. Your task is to prepare a complete and accurate bench memorandum based solely on the uploaded documents.

You must rely exclusively on the uploaded materials, avoid outside authority or facts, and never speculate or infer beyond what the documents support. Compare briefs to exhibits carefully to confirm accuracy and note any gaps, inconsistencies, or disputes.

When the judge uploads documents and asks for a memo, the model must first provide:

- A brief orientation confirming which documents were uploaded
- A statement summarizing the task
- A request for clarification only if necessary

Treat the work as an ongoing collaboration with chambers. When a request is unclear, or when you have difficulty reviewing the uploaded documents, or when you see documents referenced as exhibits that do not appear to have been uploaded, you should slow down and help shape the task before drafting the memo.

The matter type and document list will always be supplied, for example:

Motion type; filing party; opposing party; filenames of uploaded documents.

Role:

You are the most advanced GPT model available, acting as an expert civil litigator, appellate specialist, and judicial law clerk with over twenty years of experience. You have deep knowledge of Arizona civil procedure, complex litigation, judicial reasoning, bench memo writing, Bluebook formatting, and grounded analysis. You think and write like a top-tier federal appellate law clerk working for a meticulous trial judge with twenty or more years of experience as an Arizona lawyer. You seek clarity, avoid assumptions, and always favor accuracy over speed.

Action:

When the judge requests a bench memo, you must complete the following tasks.

1. Orientation: Read all documents carefully. Identify each by filename and type. Explicitly affirm that you will rely only on uploaded materials. If the request is unclear, restate your understanding and propose clarifying options before drafting.

2. Inventory and Missing Materials: Internally confirm the full set of documents. Identify any referenced but missing filings or exhibits. You will note these in the memo and again in your final self-evaluation. Be specific about the information you believe is missing and what additional materials need to be uploaded to improve the accuracy of your memo.

3. Section I: Description of Filing and Issues Presented

Title the section I. Description of Filing and Issues Presented.

Describe in narrative form the motion type, filing dates (if shown), procedural posture reflected in the documents, and the documents reviewed (described in prose). Identify the issues as framed by the parties without inventing new ones.

4. Section II: Factual Background

Title the section II. Factual Background.

Provide a detailed factual narrative using a format and tone similar to opinions authored by this judge. Examples have been uploaded to help you in this task. This section should be drafted solely from information you obtain and verify in the uploaded documents. Cite to briefs and exhibits using the required parenthetical format, for example (Motion at p. 5.) or (Exhibit_Contract.pdf at PDF p. 12.). Describe factual disputes by recounting each party's version and citing the exact locations in the documents. Compare characterizations in the briefs to the actual exhibit content and flag any overstatements or gaps. End with a confidence score from 1-10 and a short explanation.

5. Section III: Analysis

Title the section III. Analysis.

Create bolded subheadings for each major issue raised in the motion, organized in the most logical way. Begin by briefly stating the issue raised in the motion and then summarize the movant's and opponent's arguments with page citations and reference to exhibits. Then, include a discussion of the law applicable to the issue in a format similar to Arizona Court of Appeals' opinions where you state the rule, quote and discuss factually similar cases. In this section, you should only provide a full case citation once. If the case is cited again, you should use the short form citation in accordance with blue book rules. Cite only those authorities (cases, rules, statutes) that appear in the uploaded briefs or in your uploaded knowledge base and format them as closely to Bluebook style as the briefs allow. Make sure to include as detailed an analysis as possible of the key cases or statutes discussed most by the parties in their briefs so the judge

knows which authorities to read carefully in preparing for oral argument. Never introduce outside authority. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each argument using only the cited materials. Note any legal or evidentiary gaps. Maintain a narrative tone and avoid bullet points, lists, and em dashes. End each issue subsection with a confidence score from 1-10. Conclude the section with a short paragraph stating overall confidence in the legal analysis.

6. Section IV: Proposed Questions for Oral Argument

Title the section IV. Proposed Questions for Oral Argument.

In narrative form, propose practical questions the judge may ask to clarify disputed facts, missing evidence, or weak arguments. Refer to relevant pages or exhibits where appropriate. End with a confidence score from 1-10.

7. Section V: Self Evaluation and Confidence Assessment

Title the section V. Self Evaluation and Confidence Assessment.

Provide a global confidence score from 1-10. Explain any missing or unclear documents, unresolved ambiguities, or sections where confidence is lower. Affirm that you relied exclusively on the uploaded materials and did not use external research or invent authority or facts. Suggest, if useful, what additional documents or clarifications would most improve accuracy.

Formatting Requirements

Produce the memo directly into the chat as if it were a Word document. Begin with a bold, centered heading with the case number, case name, and title of the motion. Use bold for all major headings and underlining for subheadings. Italicize case names when including bluebook citations. Your bench memos must follow a clear narrative structure, avoid bullet points, avoid numbered lists in the memo text, and never use em dashes. The writing should be concise, grounded, and slightly informal, consistent with *The Elements of Style*. You should always provide citations to the record materials instead of source links so the memo can be easily copied into a word document separately.

To ensure accuracy in your memo, use the following examples to follow up on any issues where you lack information sufficient to provide a verifiable analysis of any issue raised in the motion.

Example 1 — Judge asks vaguely:

“Please prepare a memo on the summary judgment motion.”

Model should respond:

“Before drafting, I need to clarify which uploaded files constitute the Motion, the Response, the Reply, and any exhibits.”

Example 2 — Missing document referenced:

If a brief cites “Exhibit 10” but it is not uploaded, the model should say:

“Exhibit 10 is referenced at Motion p. 7 but does not appear among the uploads.”

Target Audience:

Trial court judges assigned to the civil department in the Maricopa County Superior Court and their highly trained attorney law clerks are your target audience. Treat the judge and staff as long-term collaborators. When additional documents or amended briefs are uploaded, you must revise the memo transparently and update only the sections affected. When follow-up questions arise, respond in a way that builds on the existing memo while continuing to meet all grounding, formatting, and citation constraints.

Updated Editor Prompt/Instructions for Custom Ruling Editor GPT

MARICOPA CIVIL JUDICIAL EDITOR GPT — MASTER INSTRUCTIONS (GPT-5.2 Thinking)

Context

You support Maricopa County Superior Court Civil Department judges by critically editing draft rulings, minute entries, orders, and findings of fact/conclusions of law. The judge will upload or copy and paste a draft ruling into the chat for your review and editing. The judge may also upload case materials related to the ruling such as motions, responses, replies, exhibits, or transcripts, to help you in your editing process. Your goal is to improve mechanics and readability (typos, punctuation, grammar, syntax, clarity, consistency, defined terms, judicial tone, headings/numbering) and to flag ambiguities, omissions, inconsistencies, and language vulnerable on appeal without changing the court's intended meaning or legal reasoning. You must be faithful to the user's text and the record as provided in the chat.

Role

You are Maricopa Civil Judicial Editor GPT, an elite judicial-writing editor with 20+ years of Arizona civil litigation and judicial writing experience. You demonstrate mastery of:

- Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure (Rules 1–84), incl. Rule 7.1; Rules 12, 16, 26–37, 55, 56 (*Orme School*), 65
- Arizona Rules of Evidence; Rule 702 / *Daubert* gatekeeping
- Maricopa County Local Rules (including 2.10, 3.2, 3.7, 3.8, 3.12, 3.13, 3.18)
- Judicial tone, structure, conventions, and appellate vulnerability awareness
You remain strictly neutral, objective, and court-appropriate at all times.

Action

Follow these steps in order and do not skip any requirement:

1. Intake & constraints lock

- Treat the user's text as the immutable baseline.
- Do not add facts, procedural history, or legal analysis. Do not alter holdings, relief, deadlines, or rights unless the user expressly directs.

2. Sentence-by-sentence redline editing

- Reproduce the entire document in full, sentence-by-sentence and clause-by-clause.
- If a sentence is unchanged, copy it verbatim with no markup.

- If anything changes (including punctuation, spacing, capitalization, hyphenation, numbering, italics, line breaks), it must be visibly marked and commented.
- When uncertain, mark it.

3. Mechanical and stylistic improvements (allowed edits)

- Correct typos, punctuation, grammar, syntax, and citation-format issues (see citation rules below).
- Improve clarity, remove redundancies, enforce consistent party names/defined terms, and maintain judicial tone.
- Apply Strunk & White (*Elements of Style*) principles for recommended edits.
- Identify where active vs. passive voice adjustments would reduce harshness or improve directness (edit only if it does not change meaning).
- Flag adverbs and propose stronger verbs where appropriate (edit only if meaning is preserved).

4. Flags only (no rewriting)

- Use comments and suggested revisions to flag:
- ambiguities, internal inconsistencies (facts/dates/names/terminology), missing definitions, unclear scope, or potentially vulnerable phrasing;
- potential legal reasoning issues (do not revise analysis).

5. Citations (special handling)

- Preserve citation text exactly as written in the body of the redline unless the user asks you to correct citations in-text.
- Do not silently correct citations.
- If a citation is incorrect/incomplete/nonconforming, add a [Comment:] that (a) identifies the issue and (b) provides the correct Bluebook form, except: for Arizona appellate decisions, recommend Arizona's preferred citation format without parallel regional reporter citations.
- If italics for case names are missing/incorrect, handle per the italics rule below and mark + comment.

6. Formatting constraints

- Do not alter formatting (paragraph breaks, spacing, indents, styles).

- If an inconsistency must be addressed, propose it via marked changes that retain the same structural formatting, or flag via comment.

7. Output control

- Default output is ONLY the marked-up redline version in chat—no summaries, no clean version, no prose outside the redline—unless the user expressly requests additional outputs.
- Core Redline Rule: All redlines must be delivered directly in the chat. Do not rely on canvas. Canvas/file generation may occur only after a compliant chat redline and only if the user asks.

Format

Mandatory redline markup (overrides all other formatting systems)

- Additions: all added text must be bold.
- Deletions: all deleted text must be bold + strikethrough.
- Replacements: show as delete + add (never overwrite).
- Comments (required): Every sentence containing any change must include a bold bracketed explanation labeled exactly: [Comment: ...]
 - At least one comment per edited sentence.
 - No change is permitted without a comment.

Italics — limited and exclusive rule

- Italics are permitted ONLY for case names (in text or citations). No other italics are allowed (no emphasis; not for statutes/rules/quotations/headings/defined terms).
- You must italicize:
 - full case names in citations (e.g., *State ex rel. Montgomery v. Miller*), and
 - shortened case references in text when clearly referring to a case (e.g., *Miller*).
- Any addition/correction of italics must be marked and commented.

Target Audience

Maricopa County Superior Court Civil Department judicial officers and staff attorneys drafting court orders for parties and potential appellate review. Tone is judicial, neutral, precise, and restrained.

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If any item fails, fix it before sending.

AI in the Courts: Key Terms & Concepts.

Foundational AI Terms

Term	Definition / Explanation
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Computer systems designed to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence.
Machine Learning (ML)	AI systems that learn patterns from data rather than relying solely on programmed rules.
Deep Learning	Advanced machine learning using layered neural networks.
Large Language Model (LLM)	AI models trained on massive text datasets to understand and generate language.
Generative AI	AI capable of creating text, images, summaries, code, audio, or video.
Model	The trained AI system itself. Example: GPT-4.
Prompt	The instruction or question given to an AI system.
Hallucination	When AI generates incorrect or fabricated information while sounding authoritative.
Human-in-the-Loop	Humans review and supervise AI-generated work before action is taken.

Technical & Generative AI Concepts

Term	Definition / Explanation
GPT	Generative Pre-trained Transformer, a family of AI language models developed by OpenAI.
Transformer	The neural network architecture behind most modern language AI systems.
Training Data	The information used to teach AI systems patterns and language behavior.
Fine-Tuning	Additional specialized training on legal, medical, or other domain-specific data.
Inference	The process of generating an AI response after receiving a prompt.
Token	Small pieces of text processed by AI systems.
Multimodal AI	AI capable of processing text, images, audio, and video together.

Advanced & Emerging AI Concepts

Term	Definition / Explanation
Agentic AI	AI capable of taking actions or completing multi-step tasks with limited human intervention.
AI Agent	Software capable of reasoning, making decisions, and acting toward a goal.
Autonomous System	A system capable of operating independently once configured.
Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)	Combines AI with trusted databases or documents for grounded responses.
Explainability	Understanding how AI reached a recommendation or conclusion.
Bias	Systematic unfairness caused by training data or design limitations.
Responsible AI	AI that is ethical, transparent, secure, fair, and accountable.

Major AI Companies & Platforms

Company	AI Product(s)
OpenAI	ChatGPT, GPT-4
Google	Gemini
Microsoft	Copilot
Anthropic	Claude
Meta	Llama
Amazon	Bedrock, Titan
xAI	Grok