



USING LEGAL-SPECIFIC AI TOOLS IN YOUR PRACTICE

INTRODUCTION

Legal professionals are no longer asking whether AI will impact law practice. The question now is: which tools, and how to use them responsibly? While general-purpose AI platforms like ChatGPT or Copilot offer convenience, legal-specific AI tools are built to meet the unique needs of law firms. These tools offer more accurate results, better confidentiality controls, and integrations with your existing software stack.

In this guide, we highlight the advantages of legal-specific AI tools, explore real-world use cases, and provide actionable advice for implementation. Whether you are just starting your AI journey or looking to expand your toolset, this document will help you make informed decisions.

WHY LEGAL-SPECIFIC TOOLS MATTER

Legal-specific AI tools are designed for—and often trained on—the language, workflows, and security requirements of legal professionals. Here is why they stand apart:

IMPROVED ACCURACY

Legal tools reduce hallucination rates by grounding their output in trusted legal databases, statutes, and court opinions.

BETTER SOURCE CONTROL

Many allow you to specify which documents or databases the AI can access, helping avoid incorrect or misleading information.

WORKFLOW INTEGRATION

These tools often work within platforms you already use—Microsoft Word, NetDocuments, iManage, and others.

CONFIDENTIALITY BY DESIGN

Legal tools are more likely to comply with attorney-client privilege and data privacy expectations, though firms must still review and verify individual tool policies.

COMMON USE CASES

DOCUMENT SUMMARIZATION

AI can distill long documents, such as deposition transcripts or discovery responses, into digestible summaries. Some tools even tag content with references, issue codes, and timestamps.

CONTRACT TEMPLATES AND PLAYBOOKS

If you have 25 versions of a commercial lease, AI can analyze them to generate a new template or clause playbook.

LITIGATION SUPPORT

From drafting outlines to verifying citations, AI can assist with:

- Brief writing (*e.g.*, Clearbrief, CoCounsel);
- Citation validation (flagging fake cases); and
- Discovery responses (*e.g.*, Briefpoint's AutoDoc).

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT INTEGRATION

Tools built into platforms like Clio, MyCase, or Smokeball can:

- Summarize matter activity;
- Provide intake guidance; and
- Help with calendaring deadlines from scheduling orders.

ESTATE PLANNING

Aggregate client documents and intake forms to build a snapshot of assets and family circumstances, saving time on initial file review.

EMAIL DRAFTING AND TIME CAPTURE

Tools like Candle AI integrate with Outlook and your case management system to:

- Draft contextual replies; and
- Record time spent responding to emails.

TYPES OF LEGAL AI TOOLS

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

These tools generally come from traditional legal research vendors such as Lexis+ AI, Westlaw CoCounsel, and vLex Vincent. These subscription products combine traditional web-based legal research with various AI tools designed to help with case law research, brief drafting, and issue spotting.

DOCUMENT DRAFTING AND ANALYSIS

These tools typically rely on your existing library of documents. They help improve your drafting or help you get value from existing data. One example is Spellbook; an MS Word add-in that helps draft clauses using precedent or source material. Another is PatternBuilder MAX, which builds on your NetDocuments, analyzes document sets and can automate drafting workflows.

LITIGATION TOOLS

Examples include:

- **Briefpoint:** Draft/respond to discovery, auto-generate objections using firm-preferred language
- **AutoDoc:** Matches document production to requests, adds Bates numbers
- **Clearbrief:** Integrates with legal research tools to verify citations, build tables of authorities
- **Deposly:** Attends depositions, prompts follow-up questions, tracks unanswered topics

- **Threadio:** Transforms massive court transcripts into linked, navigable summaries

TIME & BILLING OPTIMIZATION

Alt Fee, Billables AI, and Point Zero all track time, evaluate flat fee pricing, integrate with case management systems.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE CHOOSING

DATA SENSITIVITY

Where is the data stored? Can you limit AI access to only approved sources?

SECURITY

Is the tool compliant with your firm's privacy policy and local ethics guidelines?

INTEGRATION

Does it work with your existing DMS, case management, or Microsoft 365 tools?

EASE OF USE

Is the interface familiar (*e.g.*, embedded in Word) or does it require switching systems?

SUPPORT AND UPDATES

Is the vendor transparent about how data is used and how models are updated?

BEST PRACTICES FOR ADOPTION

START SMALL

Pilot tools on internal or low-risk tasks (*e.g.*, marketing, memo drafting).

TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Educate staff on prompting and tool limitations.

MONITOR OUTPUTS

Always verify results. AI is fast but not infallible.

AVOID TOOL CREEP

Choose a few well-integrated tools over many disconnected ones.

DOCUMENT POLICY

Create internal guidelines for AI use and review them regularly.

CONCLUSION

Legal-specific AI tools offer targeted advantages that general-purpose platforms cannot match. From better research accuracy to integrated workflows and client data privacy, these tools can help your firm work faster and smarter. But they are not magic. Successful implementation depends on clear goals, careful tool selection, and ongoing human oversight.

Legal AI is not a robot lawyer. However, it could be your firm's most efficient paralegal—lightning-fast, tireless, and capable, so long as you give it good instructions and double-check its work.