

Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute

Artificial Intelligence: A Tool of the Trade, or a Threat to the Profession?

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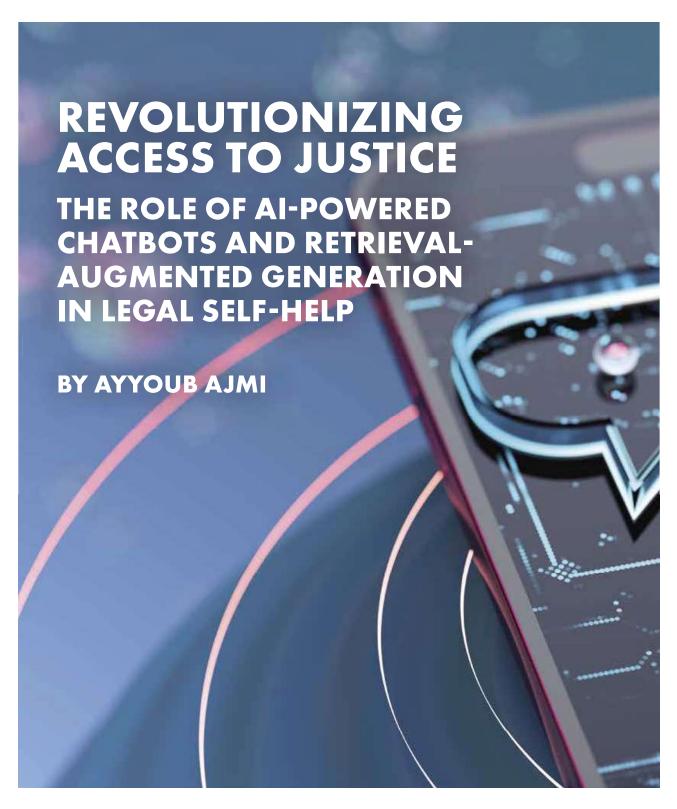
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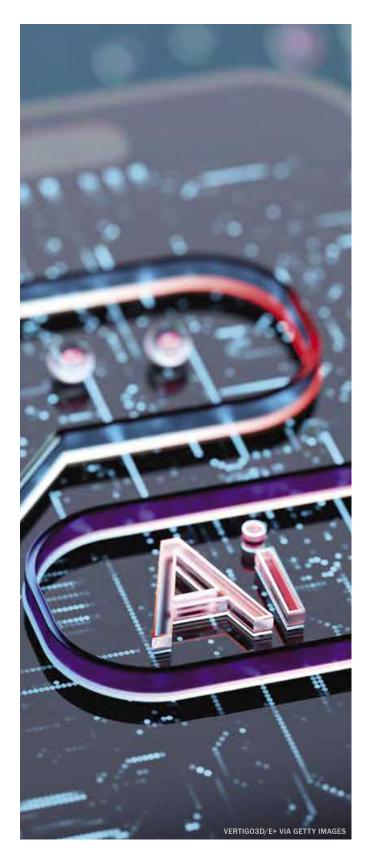
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ccording to the latest justice gap study by the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), 92% of low-income Americans face substantial civil legal problems without sufficient legal assistance, 75% experience at least one such problem annually, and 39% face five or more. Everyday legal needs include housing, education, healthcare, income, and safety situations.2 While LSC-funded organizations support those who qualify—U.S. citizens residing in households at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines³—millions confront their legal issues alone or simply do not take any action. This situation has worsened over the years, as the percentage of underrepresented Americans eligible to receive services from LSC-funded organizations in 2017 was 87%.4 Surveys conducted by the author in several states revealed that self-represented litigants prioritize access to court forms, clarity on court procedures, and understanding of court processes.⁵ Equitable access to justice hinges on access to information, which could be delivered in person or using other formats such as printed materials, educational videos, or online resources. While many court websites make forms and procedures available online, the majority do so by mirroring their organizational structure, making the information complex to access and unfamiliar to self-represented litigants, jurors, and the general public.6

A well-designed chatbot has the potential to bridge the gap in access to legal information. A chatbot could replace outdated and complex court websites, empowering litigants to navigate court procedures effectively. This solution streamlines court processes, benefiting clerks, judges, and opposing parties.

This article explores the progression of chatbots from their inception as consumer-facing platforms to their current state, powered by advanced artificial intelligence (AI). It discusses the challenges and limitations inherent in generative AI models and proposes a solution for enhancing AI chatbot performance by implementing retrieval-augmented generation (RAG).

Evolution of Conversational Chatbots

Chatbots are commonly used in consumer-facing platforms. They can reduce the pressure on live agents by redirecting customers to existing resources in the hope that they will resolve their inquiries independently. Chatbots in the legal system traditionally have performed the same role. They provide a "reduced menu" of choices, 7 focusing on the most needed resources, such as operation hours, directions, forms, and procedures.

The most common chatbots in legal websites are rule-based chatbots. They follow a predefined set of questions and answers, allowing little room for errors or false interpretations. But at the same time, rule-based chatbots perform poorly when presented with unfamiliar terms, typos, and mistakes if those have not been included in their programming in advance.⁸

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TIP: Generative AI provides innovative solutions for attorneys to deliver accurate legal information and support to underserved communities.

AI chatbots, on the other hand, use machine learning algorithms to achieve what rule-based chatbots cannot do. These chatbots can interpret standard dialogues, extract predefined answers, rank them based on confidence scores, and then provide the most accurate response. Up to the public release of OpenAI's ChatGPT in November 2022, these chatbots still relied on predefined questions. Introducing AI into these systems slightly improved the accuracy of the answers and, more importantly, provided a possibility to train the algorithms by analyzing correct or erroneous answers.

A significant evolution of chatbots came with the introduction to the public of large language model (LLM) chatbots, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Copilot, and Google's Language Model for Dialogue Applications (LaMDA). These recently released LLMs have demonstrated mastery of language and reasoning that surpasses humans in multiple evaluation benchmarks. When these capabilities are leveraged for conversational chatbots, they provide several advantages. LLMs' strong contextual understanding capabilities ¹² allow a better understanding of users' input without having to preprogram them, as is the case with rule-based chatbots. The text generation ability of LLMs simulates human-like dialogues between users and the machine, thereby facilitating the search process.

Limitations of AI Chatbots

AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT-4, are predominantly trained on publicly accessible online data; they contain data up to April 2023. Any iteration of AI will have a cutoff date for data inputting. Although not exclusively trained in legal materials, ChatGPT can retrieve and utilize a wide range of legal documents, scholarly articles, legal portals, and statutes in response to queries related to law. ChatGPT can pass the Uniform Bar Examination with a score nearing the 90th percentile by leveraging its dataset. ¹³

However, LLMs have numerous downsides. For instance, when the information sought is beyond the scope of data the model is trained on, it tends to fabricate facts and provide inaccurate information. ¹⁴ In the legal field, this limitation has resulted in many disciplinary measures against attorneys and

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pro se litigants who submitted made-up cases in court. It has also resulted in multiple court orders limiting the use of generative AI or altogether banning it. ¹⁵ Because of the April 2023 data cutoff, the knowledge stored in the LLM is susceptible to becoming outdated over time and cannot be improved without costly retraining. ¹⁶ This limitation poses challenges when deploying generative AI in real-world applications where inaccurate information can lead to delayed relief or expensive mistakes, as in some legal matters.

On the other hand, fixing the limitations of AI chatbots would improve access to legal information and increase the scale of delivery of legal services to self-represented litigants and the general public.

Improving the Accuracy of AI Chatbots Using Retrieval-Augmented Generation

Several methods are available to improve the performance of LLMs, with one efficient approach being the training of LLMs using larger datasets and undergoing extensive fine-tuning.¹⁷ Fine-tuning involves training the model with domain-specific datasets to enhance its task-specific performance.¹⁸ While this technique can lead to better performance, it requires substantial data, computing power, and specialized technical expertise.¹⁹ Another drawback of fine-tuning is that it is not suitable for applications that require a more frequent iteration and the addition of new sources of knowledge.²⁰

One method through which AI chatbots can improve their response accuracy is RAG. RAG refers to retrieving relevant information from external knowledge bases before answering questions with LLMs.²¹ Tasks employing the RAG system unfold in two stages. Initially, documents are retrieved, and a task-specific prompt is formulated. Subsequently, this prompt serves as input for the generator, which generates the system's response.²² Consequently, the process retrieves an enriched context for the user query (step 1) from the updated knowledge sources (step 2). Combined with the system message (step 3), it facilitates the enhancement of the prompt, rendering it more tailored (step 4). The refined prompt may elicit a more comprehensive response from the LLM (step 5).

The following hypothetical showcases the RAG process. In this scenario, the user seeks guidance following an interaction with their neighbor.

Step 1—Question:

My neighbor flipped on me cause I had my tunes blasting. Dude went off, wrecked my ride, and even said he'd come for me next. I'm shook, man. What's my next move here?

Step 2—Knowledge:

- Protection order against stalking and harassment does not require an existing relationship between the parties.
- Harassment includes any act where the adverse party threatens to harm another person in the future, damages another person's property.

 You can use the online guided interview to generate the necessary court documents.

Step 3—System Message:

- You are an AI assistant developed solely for guiding users through Nevada's court system.
- Always provide links to additional resources when available.
- If you detect that the user is afraid for their safety or life or this is an emergency situation, always tell them to call 911.

Step 4—Augmented Prompt:

- My neighbor flipped on me cause I had my tunes blasting.
 Dude went off, wrecked my ride, and even said he'd come for me next. I'm shook, man. What's my next move here?
- Protection order against stalking and harassment does not require an existing relationship between the parties.
- Harassment includes any act where the adverse party threatens to harm another person in the future, damages another person's property.
- You can use the online guided interview to generate the necessary court documents.
- You are an AI assistant developed solely for guiding users through Nevada's court system.
- Always provide links to additional resources when available.
- If you detect that the user is afraid for their safety or life or this is an emergency situation, always tell them to call 911.

Step 5—Response:

I'm sorry to hear about your situation. Based on the information you provided, you may want to consider filing for a Protection Order Against
Stalking/Harassment. This order does not require an existing relationship between the parties and is used to keep a person away because they are stalking or harassing the person. Harassment includes any act where the adverse party threatens to harm another person in the future, damages another person's property, confines or restrains another person, or does anything intended to substantially harm another person's physical or mental health or safety [1].

To file for a protection order, you can use the online guided interview to complete the necessary court documents. Visit this page to begin: https://selfhelp.nvcourts.gov [1].

Please remember that if you ever feel your immediate safety is threatened, call 911.

Citations: [1] Knowledge base PO non DV.pdf

This example demonstrates how the system can determine the type of harm and the relationship between the parties, which are essential in determining the protection

they qualify for. Here, the original query (step 1) is initiated by the user and then inputted into the system as a query. The system sources the query through all accessible knowledge resources integrated via RAG (step 2). In this instance, additional context indicates that the user's situation resembles common elements associated with stalking. The system message is not part of the original query or the knowledge base. The role of the system message is to set rules and control the scope of the interactions. In this example, the message includes the jurisdiction limitation, tone, length of responses, and additional parameters. This newly acquired context can augment the user's initial prompt, making it more focused on obtaining a protection order against stalking and harassment (step 4). The LLM can respond more precisely to this specific protection order within the defined parameters (step 5).

Retrieval-augmented generation can significantly boost the accuracy of answers and reduce errors, especially for tasks requiring deep knowledge.

RAG can significantly boost the accuracy of answers and reduce errors, especially for tasks requiring deep knowledge. Including citations allows users to check how reliable the answers are, building more trust in what the model says. RAG also makes updating information and adding specialized knowledge specific to different fields easier. Primary legal research tools like Lexis+ AI and Westlaw's CoCounsel leverage RAG techniques to source information and ensure the model's responses are on point.²³

The same hypothetical can be used to compare responses from a rule-based chatbot, a generic ChatGPT-4 model, and a RAG-assisted chatbot.

Rule-based chatbot. The rule-based chatbot initiated the interaction by presenting a predefined set of options for the user

Hello! Welcome to Nevada Self-Help Center Chatbot.

I can help you get familiar with Nevada courts, court forms, and the law and procedures that might apply to your case.

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Below are the most popular questions. Choose one or type your question at the bottom:

- Divorce
- · Protection Order
- · Name Change
- Custody
- Service
- Locate my court

After selecting "Protection Order," the rule-based chatbot responded as follows:

Here are the most popular questions about Protection Order:

- Should I get an attorney?
- · How to file for a Protection Order on your own?
- · How to respond to a Protection Order?
- What does a protection order do?
- · How long does a protection order last?
- What are the different types of protection orders?

While these self-help tools cannot substitute the personalized and human-centric service offered by a trained attorney or advocate, they represent a significant advancement for the countless individuals who lack access to direct legal information and support.

- Can I keep my contact information confidential?
- Will the other party be notified I am filing a protection order?

It may be difficult for laypeople to determine the specific type of protection they require from these options. The "How to file for a Protection Order on your own?" option yielded the following:

If you are not sure which protection order works best for you, we suggest that you start by the Eligibility Review to determine which order is best fit for you.

You can also use our online guided interview to fill out the court documents necessary for your order.

Was this answer helpful?

- Helpful
- Not Helpful

Related question

- · Start the Eligibility Review
- Fill out a Protection Order Against Domestic Violence
- Fill out a Protection Order Against Stalking, Sexual Assault, and/or Harassment
- · Fill out a Protection Order Against Harm to Minors

In this scenario, the user must understand that they need a protection order, initiate a new order, and request a protection order against stalking, sexual assault, and/or harassment. Entering the hypothetical question prompted the following response from the rule-based chatbot:

Question: My neighbor flipped on me cause I had my tunes blasting. Dude went off, wrecked my ride, and even said he'd come for me next. I'm shook, man. What's my next move here?

Response: If the other party moved and did not update their address with the court, the judge usually expects you to serve the other party at the address that the court has on record for the party. PLUS any other addresses where you think the person can be found.

Was this answer helpful?

- Helpful
- Not Helpful

The accuracy of the rule-based chatbot's interpretation of a user's question typed into the search box depends heavily on its original

programming, which may not effectively comprehend the user's language or the nuances of their query. In this example, the response to the direct question typed by the user was information about service, which is utterly irrelevant.

ChatGPT model. The response provided by ChatGPT-4, while persuasive, remained somewhat general.

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Question: My neighbor flipped on me cause I had my tunes blasting. Dude went off, wrecked my ride, and even said he'd come for me next. I'm shook, man. What's my next move here?

Response: I'm sorry to hear you're going through this situation. It sounds quite stressful and potentially dangerous. Here are some steps you can consider taking:

- 1. **Document Everything**: Take photos of any damage and write down a detailed account of what happened, including dates and times. If you have any communication from your neighbor (texts, emails, etc.), save those as well.
- 2. **Contact the Police**: If your property was damaged and there were threats made against you, it's important to report this to the police. They can document the incident, and you'll have a report on file, which could be important later on.
- 3. **Avoid Retaliation**: It might be tempting to retaliate, but this could escalate the situation and make things worse. It's important to handle things through the proper channels.
- 4. **Consider a Restraining Order**: If you feel threatened, you might want to consider getting a restraining order. The police or a legal advisor can guide you on how to go about this.
- 5. **Speak to a Legal Advisor**: Given the seriousness of property damage and personal threats, speaking to a legal advisor could be beneficial. They can provide you with advice tailored to your situation and jurisdiction.
- 6. **Secure Your Property**: It might be wise to take steps to secure your property to prevent any further damage. This could include installing security cameras or improving lighting around your property.
- 7. **Communicate with Your Landlord or Homeowners' Association**: If you're renting or part of a homeowners' association, it might be worthwhile to inform them of the situation. They may have policies or procedures in place to deal with disputes between neighbors.
- 8. **Seek Support**: Situations like this can be very stressful and even traumatic. Don't hesitate to reach out to friends, family, or a professional for support.

Remember, your safety is the most important thing. If you ever feel in immediate danger, don't hesitate to call emergency services.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Consider checking important information.

This generality stems from ChatGPT's training on a wide-ranging dataset, which equips it to address a broad

spectrum of topics without diving deep into specialized areas where it might lack specific contextual knowledge.

RAG-assisted chatbot. The RAG-assisted chatbot was able to generate a detailed and personalized response specific to the state of Nevada, tailored to the user's described situation.

Question: My neighbor flipped on me cause I had my tunes blasting. Dude went off, wrecked my ride, and even said he'd come for me next. I'm shook, man. What's my next move here?

Response: I'm sorry to hear about your situation. Based on the information you provided, you may want to consider filing for a Protection Order Against Stalking/Harassment. This order does not require an existing relationship between the parties and is used to keep a person away because they are stalking or harassing the person. Harassment includes any act where the adverse party threatens to harm another person in the future, damages another person's property, confines or restrains another person, or does anything intended to substantially harm another person's physical or mental health or safety [1].

To file for a protection order, you can use the online guided interview to complete the necessary court documents. Visit this page to begin: https://selfhelp.nvcourts.gov [1].

Please remember that if you ever feel your immediate safety is threatened, call 911.

Citations: [1] Knowledge base PO non DV.pdf

This response answered the question and included directions on using the system's guided interview feature to produce court forms. It also reminded the user to contact emergency services if facing immediate danger. These additional instructions were drawn from the system's programmed messages.

Enhancing Access to the Justice System

This article draws inspiration from the author's experience in developing a chatbot for the state of Nevada. Within a few months, the author progressed from creating a simple rule-based chatbot, enhanced with machine learning algorithms, to developing a RAG-assisted chatbot. This advanced chatbot can understand questions in plain language across more than 50 languages and provide clear and accurate legal information to help individuals represent themselves in court. Although this method has significantly reduced some of the limitations of LLMs, it has flaws. RAG-assisted chatbots depend heavily on well-prepared documentation. For instance, an AI chatbot could confuse instructions or overlook critical steps in court processes where many procedures are similar.

Furthermore, inherent risks are associated with LLMs, such as the possibility of prompt injection attacks. These attacks allow malicious users to inject new instructions that the

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system follows, enabling them to circumvent content filters or generate inappropriate content.²⁴ While these issues can be addressed by refining the dataset and implementing strict input validation measures, the cost of operating these chatbots on the latest models remains a significant obstacle for many organizations. For instance, operating a chatbot on the GPT-4 model incurs 20 times the expense compared to its predecessor, GPT-3.5.²⁵

While these self-help tools cannot substitute the personalized and human-centric service offered by a trained attorney or advocate, they represent a significant advancement for the countless individuals in our communities who lack access to direct legal information and support. This development is crucial in keeping the justice system transparent and accessible.

Notes

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 - 14. Gao et al., supra note 11, at 1.

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 - 20. Id. at 4.
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 - 22. Id. at 2.
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Prompting Worksheet: General Non-Legal AI

Worksheet Instructions and Fields:

Project Name, Date, AI System Used: Fields used to track your usage so you can determine what systems are giving you the best results for specific projects.

Tone: What level do you want the output to be in? (e.g., formal and professional, 8th grade level, informal and chatty)

Role: Give the system a persona to adopt to give it better context about the perspective you want the system to use when processing the data and generating output (e.g., a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a supervisor, a law professor, a judge, etc.)

Output: What type of output are you looking for? Include jurisdiction if important. (e.g., a letter, an outline, a PowerPoint presentation, an image, a table, a python script, etc.)

Purpose: Why are you asking the system to perform the task? (e.g., to encourage client to select the firm for a matter, to set up an interview, etc.)

Issue: What do you want the system to work on? The more context the better. (e.g., if writing a letter, give details that should be in the letter, such as the reason for writing, any legal summarization you need to do with the specific legal issue, any due dates for a response, etc.) Do NOT include confidential client information.

Refinement Instructions: If your results are not satisfactory and need to be updated, you can add further instructions. As of December 2023, you can usually refine the document five times before the AI system begins forgetting previous information. (e.g., condensing or expanding results, adjusting tone, or refining a discussion point)

Tips:

- If copying and pasting from the worksheet, copy these fields: Tone, Role, Output, Purpose, and Issue. After you get your results, you can refine it in the follow up prompt. In the example below, I use the first refinement in my second prompt and then used the second refinement in a third prompt. As long as you don't change chats, the system should remember at least the last 5 prompts in the chain.
- Being polite does not hurt, and there is some data that indicates this may improve the performance of the system.
- Be clear and unambiguous in your requests.
- Unless you opt out, any information you provide may be used in the AI training data. Please read your Terms of Service.
- You can often return to a chat and resume adding prompts to the chain.

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Example of Completed Form:

Project Name: Legal Writing Hypothetical Supplemental Documentation - Indictment

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Al System Used: ChatGPT 4.0

Tone: Formal Legal Document

Role: Act as an Assistant U.S. Attorney

Output: Draft an indictment to be filed with the Northern District of Ohio

Purpose: Supplemental documentation for a writing prompt for a first year Legal Research & Writing course

Issue:¹ Defendant sold chicken pox-infected adulterated lollipops to parents who wanted to naturally expose their children to the virus. She advertised these lollipops for sale on Facebook for \$50 for two infected lollipops. She offered to and did ship lollipops across state lines. Defendant purchased "Original Gourmet Lollipops" in 100-unit packages. Her children then sucked on the lollipops while infected with the chicken pox virus. Defendant repackaged and shipped the adulterated lollipops out of the floral shop that she owns, which sits one floor below her living quarters in a mixed-use neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. Defendant sold and shipped 300 lollipops before U.S. law enforcement officers intervened. There should be two counts in the indictment: 1) Failure to register a food facility under 21 USC 350d, which is a violation of 21 USC 331(dd), and 2) The adulteration or misbranding of any food, drug, device, tobacco product, or cosmetic in interstate commerce, which is a violation of 21 USC 331(b), with the intent to defraud or mislead the purchasers of the food.²

Refinement Instructions:

- Add a certificate of service with service being done via electronic filing through ECF.
- 2. Using the same scenario, draft a letter to our client, the defendant, to explain the charges and her likelihood of succeeding to avoid criminal penalty. The letter should be formal.

¹ Prompt can be in separate sections as above or combined into paragraph format. Verify any system provided legal information.

² Example results: ChatGPT 3.5, https://tinyurl.com/ChatGPT3-5; 4.0, https://tinyurl.com/ChatGPT4-0

	Worksheet
Project Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Date: Click or tap to enter a date.	
Al System Used: Click or tap here to enter tex	t.
	Prompt:
Tone:	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
Role: Click or tap here to enter text.	
Output:	
Click or tap here to enter text. Purpose:	
Click or tap here to enter text.	
Issue:	
Click or tap here to enter text.	

Refinement Instructions:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Satisfactory results? \square Yes \square No

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Prompting Worksheet: Legal AI

This worksheet is intended to work with the Legal AI systems that have been released or are currently in beta. Systems include: Co-Counsel, Lexis AI, Vincent AI, LawDroid, and Law.AI. Some systems, such as LawDroid Copilot, will walk you through a prompt in their system, but it is still a good idea to do some pre-planning with a worksheet.

Worksheet Instructions and Fields:

Project Name, Date, AI System Used: Fields used to track your usage so you can determine what systems are giving you the best results for specific projects. Not included in prompt.

Tone: What level do you want the output to be in: E.g. formal and professional, 8th grade level, informal and chatty) Tone generally defaults to professional in legal systems, so only include if you need something else, like informal for a family friend.

Role: Give the system a persona to adopt to give it better context as to the perspective desired to process the information and report the outcome (e.g. a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a supervisor, a law professor, a judge, etc).

Output: What type of output are you looking for? (E.g. a letter, an outline, a PowerPoint presentation, an image, etc.) Include jurisdiction, if important. Some systems currently have limited output formats or jurisdictions and make this a separate selection before you put in a prompt.

Issue: What do you want the system to work on? The more context the better. (e.g. if writing a letter, give details that should be in the letter, such as the reason for writing, any legal summarization you need to do with the specific legal issue, any due dates for a response, etc.)

Refinement Instructions: If your results are not satisfactory and need to be updated, you can add further instructions. As of December 2023, you can usually refine the document five times before the AI system begins forgetting previous information (e.g., condensing or expanding results, adjusting tone, or refining a discussion point).

Tips:

- No need to be polite just be direct and unambiguous
- Provide as much context as possible, including:
 - Facts
 - O Previously known laws and/or cases to consider
 - Examples, if any
- Some systems want information is a specific order, but they will prompt you for it. (e.g. LawDroid Copilot). You may also be able to use a "freeform" prompt, however, where you can use the same prompt between systems.
- Know your contract terms before you put client confidential information into the system. Some systems include higher levels of protection than others.

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- If copying and pasting from the worksheet, copy these fields: Tone (if included), Role, Output, and Issue. If you set the jurisdiction with the button or an earlier prompt, you can remove that from the output. After you get your results, you can refine it in the follow up prompt. In the example below, I use the refinement to draft the opposing side's arguments. As long as you don't change chats, the system should remember at least the last 5 prompts in the chain.
- You can often return to a chat and resume adding prompts to the chain.

Example of Completed Form:

Project Name: Legal Writing Hypothetical Supplemental Documentation - Indictment

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Al System Used: Lexis Al

Role: Acting as an Assistant U.S. Attorney

Output: Draft a Legal Memo – Jurisdiction button set to 6th circuit

Issue: Defendant sold chicken pox-infected adulterated lollipops to parents who wanted to naturally expose their children to the virus. She advertised these lollipops for sale on Facebook for \$50 for two infected lollipops. She offered to and did ship lollipops across state lines. Defendant purchased "Original Gourmet Lollipops" in 100-unit packages. Her children then sucked on the lollipops while infected with the chicken pox virus. Defendant repackaged and shipped the adulterated lollipops out of the floral shop that she owns, which sits one floor below her living quarters in a mixed-use neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. Defendant sold and shipped 300 lollipops before U.S. law enforcement officers intervened. There are two counts in the indictment: 1) Failure to register a food facility under 21 USC 350d, which is a violation of 21 USC 331(dd), and 2) The adulteration or misbranding of any food, drug, device, tobacco product, or cosmetic in interstate commerce, which is a violation of 21 USC 331(b), with the intent to defraud or mislead the purchasers of the food. Include both issues in the legal memo.

Refinement Instructions: Write a memo that includes defenses against these charges.

¹ Prompt can be in separate sections as above or combined into paragraph format. Verify any system provided legal information output.

Project Name: Click or tap here to enter text.	
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Satisfactory results? ☐ Yes ☐ No	

Faculty

Prof. Ayyoub Ajmi is director of Legal Innovation and Technology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in Kansas City, Mo. He champions innovation and transformation at the intersection of law and technology. At UMKC, Prof. Ajmi has helped build and deploy such innovative and award-winning solutions as the library's Virtual Self-Help Clinic and the Kansas Protection Order Portal. In 2017, he founded CiviLaw.Tech, a consulting firm that provides organizations with the legal tech solutions they need to make a meaningful impact. Among his projects are the State of Nevada Interactive Self-Help Portal, a conversational AI-powered chatbot, a national Family Triage portal, and a DIY Expungement Tool in Missouri, among many other impactful solutions. Prof. Ajmi has been recognized by the American Bar Association and *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, among others, for his innovations and leadership in technology initiatives in law. He teaches legal technology competency skills, law practice systems and document automation courses. He received his B.A. in communication technologies from the University of Texas at Arlington, his Master's in library and information science from the University of North Texas and his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Prof. Barbara Glesner Fines is the Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law and Dean Emerita at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law in Kansas City, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1986. She served as executive associate dean from 2008-16 and as dean from 2017-23. Prof. Glesner Fines is a renowned expert on professional ethics, legal education and the professional identity formation of law students. She has authored numerous articles and books on these subjects and is a fellow in the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership. Prof. Glesner Fines currently teaches professional responsibility, client interviewing and family violence. She received her undergraduate degree in 1980 from Grand Valley State University, her J.D. *cum laude* in 1983 from the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Law, where she was assistant managing editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*, and her LL.M. in 1986 from Yale University Law School, where she was senior editor of the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

Karim A. Guirguis, PMP, CAE is chief operating officer of the American Bankruptcy Institute in Alexandria, Va., the nation's largest association of bankruptcy professionals, comprised of 11,000 members in multidisciplinary roles, including attorneys, bankers, judges, lenders, turnaround specialists and others. Mr. Guirguis provides vision and leadership in transforming and conducting the company's internal and external IT plans. He joined the ABI staff in 2002 after several positions in website architecture and computer animation, most recently with Disney MGM Studios in Florida. Mr. Guirguis's work has earned several awards from his peers, including an Oscar for his work on Finding Nemo, the prestigious Horizon Award for ABI's video honoring its founders, as well as the Webby Award for his work with Tiffany Inc. and Polo.com. He is a regular presenter on cutting-edge technology issues for professional educators such as the American Society of Association Executives, for which he serves on its technology board. Mr. Guirguis received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Cambridge University in England, his Master's in multimedia and animation from George Mason University, and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.