



AI IN LEGAL PRACTICE

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A brief guide to evaluating and adopting legal AI tools while maintaining security and compliance.

A Strategic Implementation Guide

The AI Transformation in Legal Practice

Artificial Intelligence has moved from experimental to essential in legal practice. Firms that have embraced the technology are gaining measurable advantages in efficiency, accuracy and client service. AI tools can reduce document review time significantly, automatically identify contradictions across depositions and generate comprehensive case summaries in minutes rather than hours.

The stakes are high. Success depends on implementing AI strategically while maintaining the security and ethical standards that legal practice demands. Firms that implement AI thoughtfully gain significant competitive advantages. Those that adopt AI haphazardly create security vulnerabilities, compliance gaps and ethical risks with lasting consequences.

About Steno

Founded on the simple idea that deposition services shouldn't be an obstacle when trying to win a case, Steno is at the forefront of the court reporting and legal technology industries. Steno focuses on providing attorneys with innovative tools and options that overcome the technological and financial hurdles that arise when proving a case. As a partner in the pursuit of justice, Steno understands the unique challenges faced by legal professionals and is committed to delivering practical, impactful solutions.

The Security Imperative

Not all AI tools are created equal. Consumer-grade platforms like ChatGPT may store user inputs to improve their models, a significant risk when processing confidential legal information. Legal-specific AI platforms are designed with attorney-client privilege in mind.

The difference lies not in the underlying technology, but in how it's implemented and secured. As mainstream platforms like Microsoft and Google add AI features, it's critical to distinguish between general-purpose tools and those intended for legal practice. While general AI platforms lack the protections legal work requires, legal-focused solutions add critical layers of security, compliance and verification to meet the confidentiality, accuracy and ethical demands of litigation and client representation.

Key security differentiators:

- SOC 2 Type II and HIPAA compliance
- Zero data retention policies with AI partners
- Comprehensive audit trails
- Enterprise-grade encryption

Building a Strategic AI Framework

The difference between successful AI adoption and costly mistakes lies in having a clear evaluation and implementation strategy. Rather than rushing to adopt the latest tools, legal professionals need frameworks that prioritize both immediate value and long-term sustainability.

Essential Evaluation Criteria

When evaluating AI tools for your organization, focus on these critical factors:

- **Security and Compliance**
 - Does the vendor maintain appropriate security certifications?
 - Are there clear data retention and usage policies?
 - What audit capabilities are available?
- **Practical Value**
 - Does the tool solve real workflow problems?
 - What is the learning curve for adoption?
 - How does it scale across practice areas?
- **Verification and Accuracy**
 - How can outputs be verified against source materials?
 - Does the tool provide clear citations and references?
 - What safeguards exist against AI hallucinations?

Implementation Best Practices

Successful AI adoption requires a systematic approach to minimize risk while maximizing value:

- **Start with Clear Policies:** Develop comprehensive AI usage guidelines addressing security, accuracy verification, and ethical obligations before rolling out tools firm-wide.
- **Pilot Strategically:** Begin with specific, well-defined use cases where AI can demonstrate clear value while minimizing risk.
- **Train Thoroughly:** Ensure all users understand both capabilities and limitations of AI tools, including the critical importance of output verification.

Managing Professional Obligations

Bar associations across the country are rapidly developing AI guidance, with significant variation between states. However, common themes have emerged:

- **Competence:** Understand AI tools, including limitations and risks
- **Confidentiality:** Protect client information when using AI platforms
- **Verification:** All AI outputs require human review before use
- **Transparency:** Consider disclosing AI use to clients when appropriate

Case Study: AI-Powered Deposition Analysis

Organizations implementing legal-specific AI typically see a major reduction in document review time, improved accuracy in identifying key evidence and significant cost savings on routine legal tasks.

Traditional deposition analysis requires attorneys or paralegals to spend days or weeks manually reviewing hundreds of pages of testimony, extracting key admissions and identifying contradictions. AI tools can instantly process multiple depositions to identify contradictory statements, extract admissions and generate impeachment packages with precise citations.

Transcript Genius: Legal AI Done Right

Steno's Transcript Genius demonstrates the potential of purpose-built legal AI:

- **Instant Analysis:** Upload deposition transcripts and receive comprehensive analysis in minutes
- **Verified Citations:** Every insight includes clickable page-line citations to source material
- **Security-First Design:** SOC 2 Type II and HIPAA compliant with zero data retention agreement with LLM vendor, and no model training done on client data
- **Legal Expertise:** Built by litigators who understand the specific needs of legal practice

Transcript Genius can automatically identify when an expert contradicts their prior testimony, extract key admissions for impeachment, and generate case themes based on witness statements, all while maintaining enterprise-grade security.

Get Started With Legal AI

Whether you're just beginning to explore AI or looking to enhance your current approach, these steps will strengthen your implementation:

Immediate Action Items

- **Audit Current AI Usage:** Inventory existing AI tools across your organization
- **Develop AI Policies:** Create guidelines addressing security, ethics, and verification
- **Evaluate Legal-Specific Solutions:** Focus on tools designed for legal work
- **Pilot Strategic Use Cases:** Start with high-impact, low-risk applications
- **Establish Training Programs:** Ensure users understand capabilities and limitations

Vendor Selection Priorities

- **Legal Industry Focus:** Tools designed specifically for legal work
- **Security Credentials:** SOC 2, HIPAA, and relevant compliance certifications
- **Verification Features:** Built-in citation and audit capabilities
- **Professional Ethics Alignment:** Clear policies supporting attorney-client privilege



Your Competitive Advantage Awaits

The legal industry stands at an inflection point. While some firms struggle with outdated workflows and manual processes, others are leveraging AI to deliver faster, more thorough and more cost-effective legal services. The gap between leaders and followers is widening rapidly.

Your clients already expect faster turnarounds, deeper insights and more competitive pricing. AI gives you the tools to deliver all three while maintaining the quality and security standards your profession demands.

The competitive advantage is there for the taking. The choice is yours.

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