

Build the Tool You Wish You Had

Using AI to build tools for your law practice

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You can use AI to build a tool that fits how you practice. Think about a task you repeat in every case, information your team struggles to track, or something you wish you had when preparing for trial. You know the work. That gives you a place to start.

I've been using AI to create tools for civil defense lawyers. Some help organize jury selection or prepare a witness examination. Others let lawyers practice their questions, test an argument, or work through a fictional case. I've also created five sets of case files for mock depositions and trials, and a graphic novel that follows a young lawyer defending a medical-malpractice case.

I'm sharing these resources because I want other lawyers to see what they can create. Try one that interests you. Think about what would make it more useful in your practice. You may have an idea for a tool that addresses a problem you and your colleagues have worked around for years.

1. Start With Your Own Work

Choose one task you understand well. A witness outline is a good example. You know what belongs in it, what lawyers tend to miss, and how you want to use it during an examination. Explain that to the AI platform as you would explain the assignment to an associate.

Tell it who will use the tool, what information the user will enter, and what the tool should produce. Describe the steps in the order you follow them. Explain where you need to make a judgment call. Ask to see the proposed structure before the platform builds it, so you can correct a misunderstanding before it runs through the whole tool.

Your first instruction could read:

Build a tool to help Florida civil defense lawyers prepare a witness examination. Use fictional information. Include a place for the witness's name, the disputed issues, proposed questions, and the source supporting each question. Let me track follow-up tasks and download the outline: flag missing information and separate facts from assumptions. Use large text and buttons that explain what they do. Show me the structure before you build it.

Once you have a version to try, work through it. Leave a field blank and see what happens. Change an answer. Close the tool and reopen it to check whether it saved your work. Download the outline and read it. If your team will share the tool, test who can see and change the information. Then ask a colleague to use it without your help. Watch where they get stuck.

Add features as you find a reason for them. If a screen takes too long to understand, simplify it. If a feature adds work without helping, remove it. Someone will also need to check the content, update the law, and fix problems. An agent needs the same attention. You can assign it a series of tasks using approved tools and information, but you still need to define its limits and decide what a lawyer must review.

2. Get Approval and Protect the Information

Get your firm's or company's approval before using these resources or building a tool for work. I cannot guarantee the confidentiality or security of information you enter into these tools. Do not upload confidential client information, attorney-client communications, attorney work product, proprietary information, protected health information subject to HIPAA, or other sensitive material. Use fictional examples or public information you have permission to use.

Find out where the platform sends information, what it retains, and who can access it. Check what happens when someone shares the tool or downloads a file. A tool can look finished and still have access, storage, or security problems.

Check the legal authorities, calculations, facts, and proposed questions. Use a simulation to consider an argument or identify a question you missed. It cannot tell you what an actual jury will do. Label fictional records and generated images so no one mistakes them for evidence from a real case.

These are educational resources and experiments. Use them to practice and assess what helps you. We remain responsible for the work we produce.

3. Jury Selection and Case Strategy

Jury Selection Desk

Keep juror notes, seating, follow-up questions, and selection decisions in one place for the trial team. Rank jurors, mark them red, yellow, or green, explain your assessments, and record cause challenges, peremptory strikes, and discrimination objections.

<https://jury-selection-desk.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Florida Virtual Jury Lab

Consider how simulated jurors respond to the parties' positions, disputed evidence, and damages arguments. Use those responses to look for gaps in the presentation; they do not provide a statistically valid jury sample or predict a verdict.

<https://florida-virtual-jury-lab.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Florida Settlement Lab

Work through a case's strengths and weaknesses before settlement discussions. The exercise helps you examine the assumptions behind your assessment and identify information that could change your position.

<https://red-letter-verdict.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

4. Investigation and Expert Research

Florida Evidence Atlas

Identify third-party records and other evidence that may help answer the questions in a Florida civil case. The guide addresses preservation, lawful ways to obtain the material, and issues you may face when offering it into evidence.

<https://florida-evidence-atlas.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Expert Record

Build a record of an expert's credentials, testimony, publications, methods, and financial interests. Keep the supporting passages with your findings and use them to prepare deposition questions without treating an inference as a fact.

<https://expert-record.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

5. Trial Preparation and Advocacy

Trial Ready

Track trial preparation with a countdown, saved checklists, and tasks you add for the case. Give the team a place to see what remains unfinished.

<https://trial-ready.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Opening Statement Workshop

Prepare a Florida defense opening around the story you need to tell and the evidence that supports it. Work on the order, select visuals, and rehearse the presentation.

<https://opening-statement-workshop.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Direct Examination Workshop

Plan what each witness needs to establish and put the questions in order. Prepare exhibit foundations, anticipate objections, and work through redirect before rehearsing the examination.

<https://direct-examination-workshop.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Cross-Examination Studio

Decide what you need from a witness and organize your cross-examination around those points. Develop the questions, arrange their sequence, and keep the supporting material at hand.

<https://cross-examination-studio.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Closing Argument Workshop

Connect the admitted evidence to the verdict questions and the result you will ask the jury to reach. Prepare damages arguments, consider rebuttal and objections, and rehearse the closing.

<https://closing-argument-workshop.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Florida Hearing Workshop

Organize the motion materials and court research you need for a Florida hearing. Rehearse the argument and your answers to questions from the bench, with attention to the ruling you want.

<https://florida-hearing-workshop.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

6. Demonstratives and Trial Technology

Trial Demonstrative Studio

Plan visuals that help a jury understand the evidence, including timelines, comparisons, records, and measurements. Work through what each demonstrative should explain and what the record and court will permit you to show.

<https://trial-demonstrative-studio.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

Trial Tech Workbench

Prepare the technology you will use to present evidence, including TrialPad workflows and exhibit control. Work through courtroom arrangements, rehearse the presentation, and plan how to continue if the equipment fails.

<https://trial-tech-workbench.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

7. Case Files for Mock Depositions and Trials

I created five fictional Florida case files for lawyers to use in training. Each contains 40 documents, including pleadings, records, witness statements, deposition excerpts, expert materials, and trial documents. Assign a file to a team, have the lawyers prepare their examinations, and use the record to discuss what they did well and what they should try again.

The files draw on characters and events from my fiction, but each case stands on its own. The binder supplies the facts for the exercise, and the novel's outcome does not decide who wins. The generated photographs illustrate the materials. Use the written records for dimensions, times, and technical details.

These ChatGPT download links require account access. To share the files with readers, the organization distributing this article will need to host them and replace these links with public download links.

The Eleventh Step — Premises Liability

A Miami Beach hotel faces a claim after a fatal fall from a marble landing. The file asks lawyers to work through alleged liquid, disputed stair conditions, a camera outage, a late inspection entry, and competing accounts of how the fall occurred.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_12ab839e5bd0819180a82786b752d931/download

The Last Safe Distance — Auto and Trucking Liability

A tractor-trailer enters a wet highway curve and becomes involved in a multi-vehicle collision. Lawyers must sort through driver conduct, electronic records, conflicting timestamps, and the sequence of impacts to assess what caused a passenger's fatal injuries.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_e787e71a07d8819189b178359e845676/download

Material Fact — Products Liability

A patient alleges that a pharmaceutical manufacturer failed to provide adequate warnings. The file brings together warning language, prescribing testimony, marketing materials, and medical history so lawyers can test the competing explanations for the injury.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_026fdc21df4c819191175f490e06b062/download

After Dark — Negligent Security

An apartment owner faces a claim after a fatal targeted attack. Gate records, patrol activity, prior incidents, threat communications, and response times require lawyers to examine what the owner knew and whether different precautions could have changed the outcome.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_e3bebc5f6448191b57b73e6fbc43a29/download

The Second Image — Medical Malpractice

A patient suffers a disabling stroke after an emergency-department visit and discharge. Lawyers examine symptoms, chart entries, imaging versions, and expert opinions to address whether earlier action would have changed the outcome.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_1c7e724d61548191a637e5973c04d9d3/download

Faculty Guide — All Five Cases

The faculty guide explains the issues in each case, when to release documents, what to address in examinations, and how to check calculations and score the work. Keep it separate from the participant materials until the debrief.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_7fdf1f81af5c8191a4af27e8083bd4b6/download

Complete Trial-Training Collection

Download the case files and teaching materials together. The collection also includes individual exhibit PDFs for instructors who want to release documents as an exercise progresses.

https://chatgpt.com/api/library/files/libfile_59a57a1deab881918547a6cc8db18f7f/download

8. Learning Through Examinations and Stories

Cross-Examination Lab

Choose your next question in an expert cross-examination based on a fictional collision file. Use the exhibits and the witness's responses to practice the order of your questions and test which opinions rest on evidence and which depend on assumptions.

<https://cross-examination-lab.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

The Missing Hour — A Medical-Malpractice Defense Graphic Novel

Follow a young defense lawyer through a medical-malpractice case, from preserving evidence through discovery, depositions, experts, mediation, jury selection, and trial. The motion-comic reading companion gives mentors and younger lawyers a story they can use to discuss the choices a lawyer makes along the way.

<https://the-missing-hour-motion.frank1971.chatgpt.site>

You know where your practice needs help. Start there. Build something you can try with a colleague, listen to the criticism, and revise it. Keep working on it if it helps you prepare or gives a younger lawyer a better way to learn. That is what makes the time worthwhile.