

# Putting AI to Work for Justice:

## Open Data, Self-Help Tools, and Accessible Legal Research

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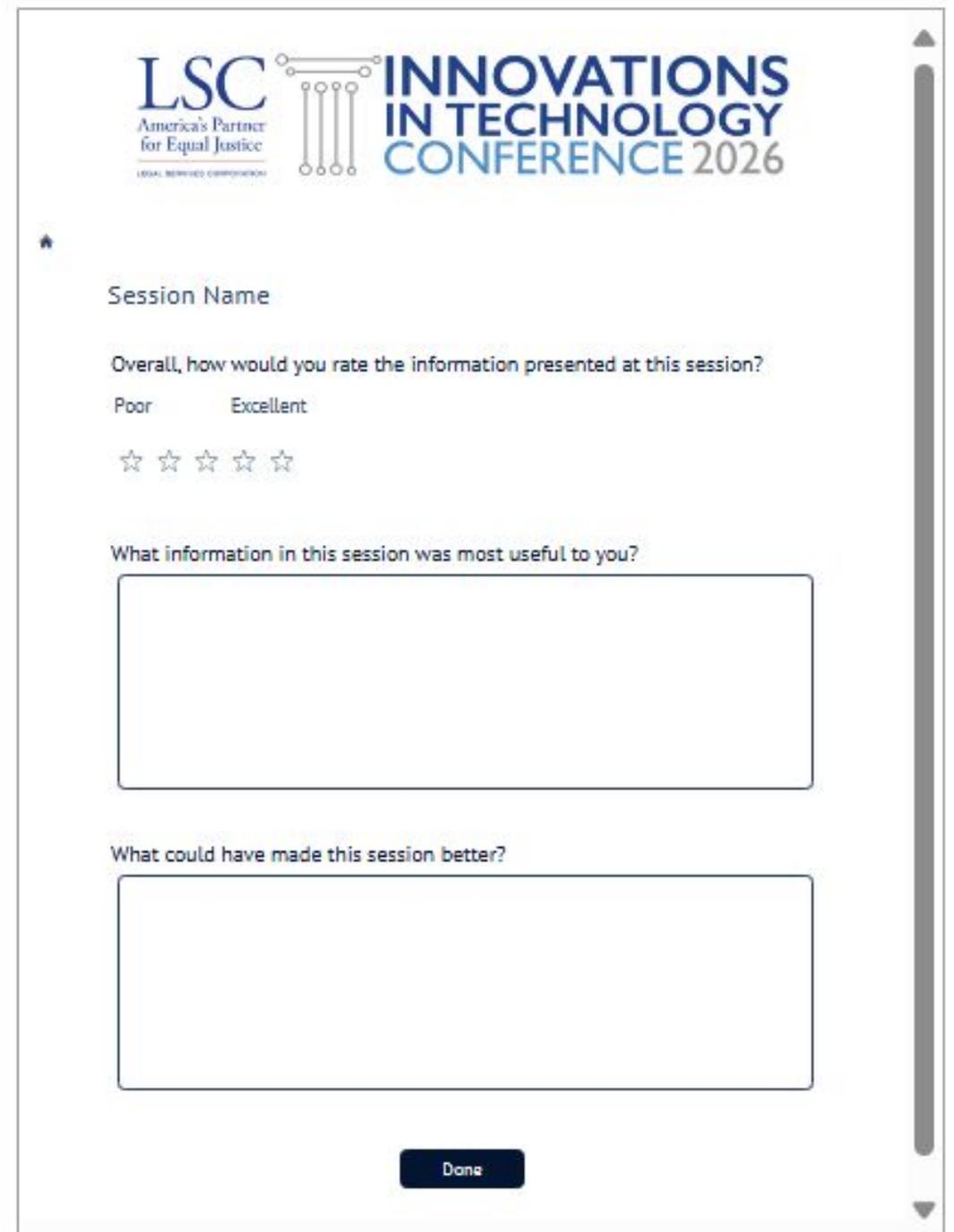
descr**Y**be.ai  
Changing legal research for good



FREE LAW PROJECT  
COURTLISTENER ◦ RECAP ◦ BOTS.LAW ◦ JUSTICE INITIATIVES  
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# Provide session feedback on the ITC26 app

- Find the link to the **Session Survey** at the bottom of the session description.
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The screenshot shows a feedback form within the ITC26 app. At the top, the LSC logo is on the left, and the text 'INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2026' is on the right. Below the logos, there is a star icon and the text 'Session Name'. The main question is 'Overall, how would you rate the information presented at this session?'. Below this question, there are two options: 'Poor' and 'Excellent'. Under 'Poor', there are five empty star icons. Under 'Excellent', there are five empty star icons. Below the rating options, there is a text input field with the question 'What information in this session was most useful to you?'. Below that, there is another text input field with the question 'What could have made this session better?'. At the bottom center, there is a dark blue button with the text 'Done'.

# Who We Are

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# Why This Session?

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# How is your organization using AI today?

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# What We'll Cover

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- Open data + legal AI
- Designing AI for SRLs and courts
- AI for nonprofit capacity and grants
- Accessible legal research

# Open Data & Public Interest Legal AI

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Michael Lissner

# AI Needs a Foundation

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- How is your AI good?
  - Open data is key
  - Use benchmarks and test data
  - Sharing solutions is good

# What We're Doing

From easiest to hardest

- Summarization (soon)
- Audio transcription
- “AI OCR” and digitization
- Categorization
- Semantic search
- Citator
- Litigant portal

# Why Legal AI is Different

It's not all bad news!

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- Stakes may be higher:
  - for the client
  - for you
- Unauthorized Practice of Law
- Data may be private

# Tradeoffs & Guardrails

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- Don't go blindly
- Use automated systems to check work
- Use benchmarks
- Know the limitations

# Ecosystem Impact

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- Semantic search makes legal research accessible
- AI transcripts empower alerts and awareness
- Vision APIs can do cheap, high-quality digitization
- Open data helps improve foundation models
- Hallucination detector finds mistakes
- Search and APIs bring case law to more places to build a competitive legal research ecosystem

# Designing AI for Courts & Self-Represented Litigants

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Jessica Frank

# The Self-Represented Litigant Reality



# Design Principles for SRL-Facing AI



# Where AI Helps (& Where It Doesn't)



Explaining Procedures



Legal Advice

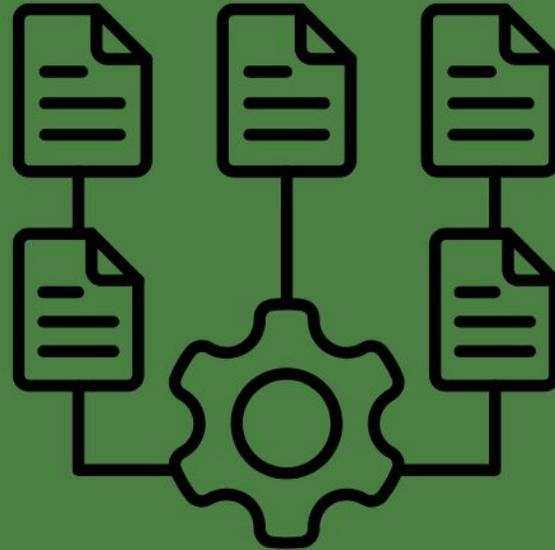
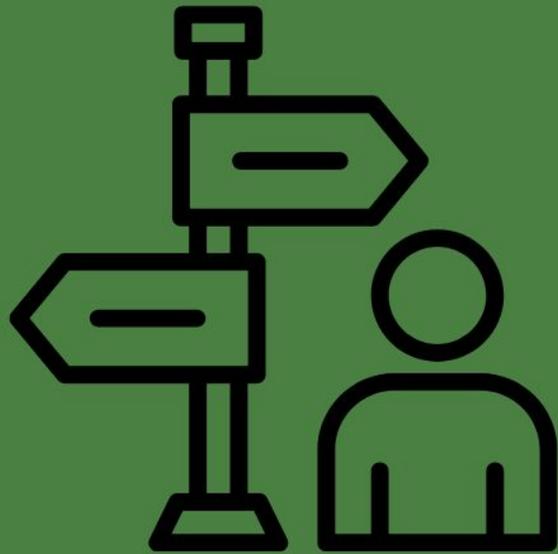


Structuring Information



Strategic Judgment

# The Litigant Portal



powered by  aws

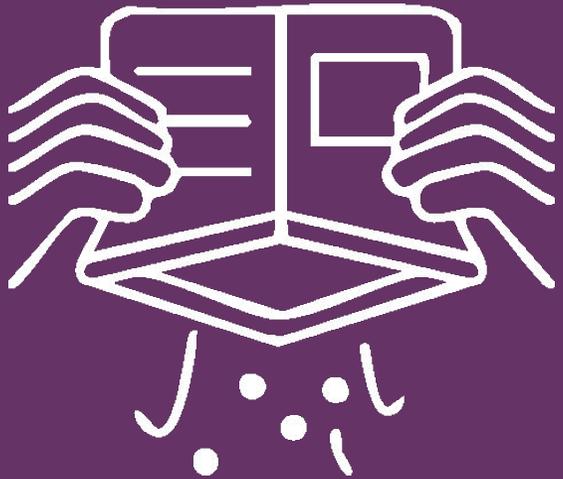
**Demo**

# Responsible AI: Expanding Nonprofit Capacity Without Losing Trust

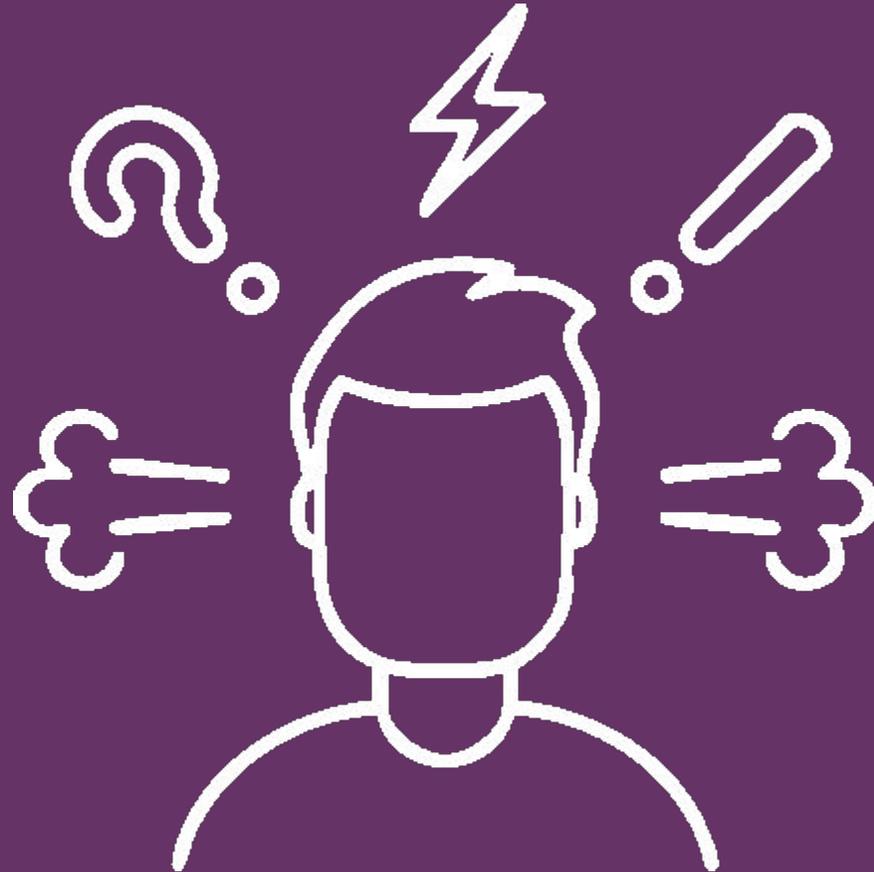
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Jenifer Whiston

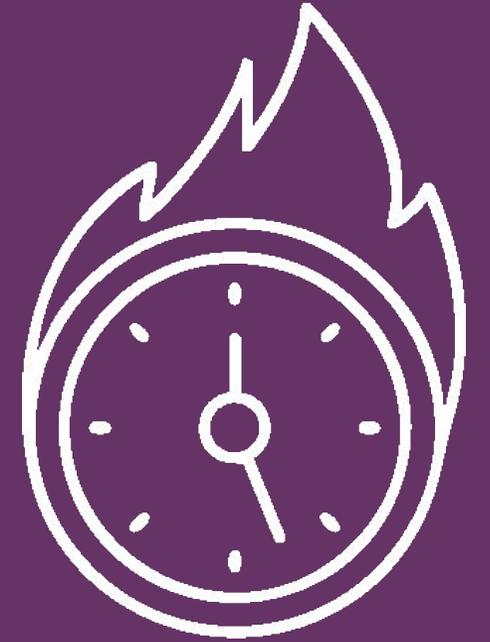
# Why this matters now?



Underfunded

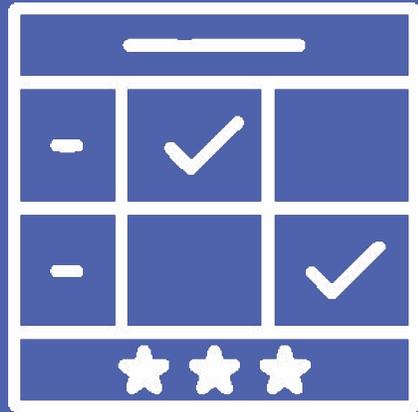
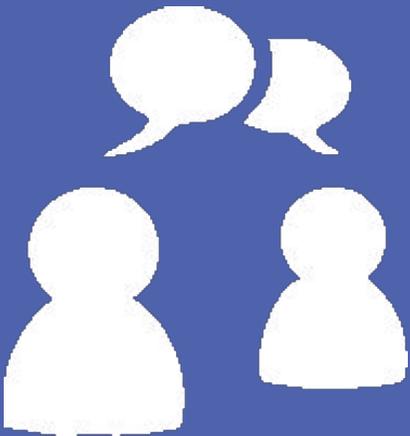
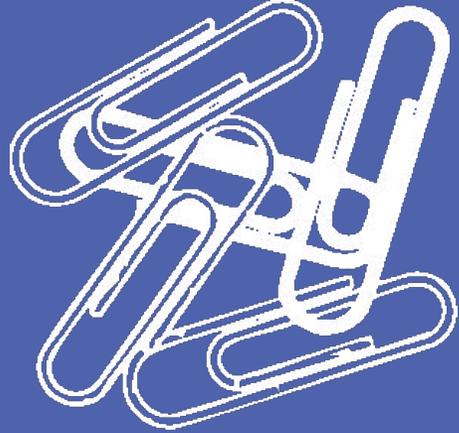
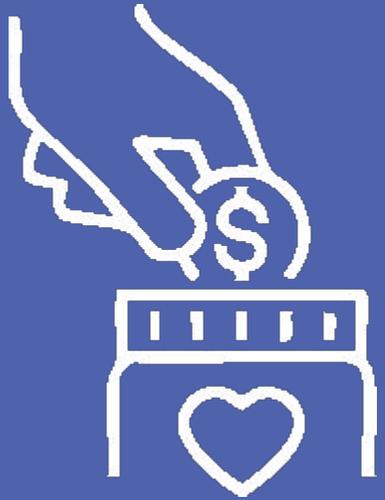


Understaffed



Lack of Time

# How do you use AI?



Copilot



ChatGPT

Gemini



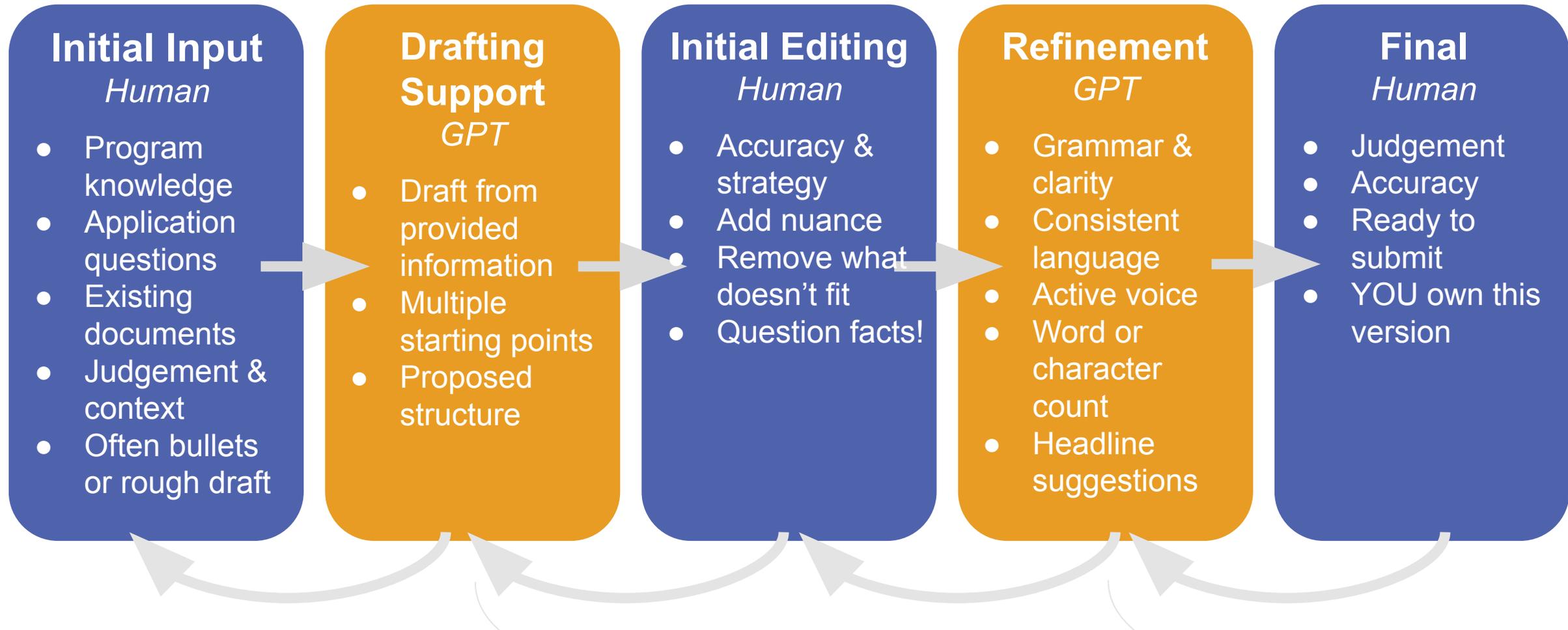
Claude

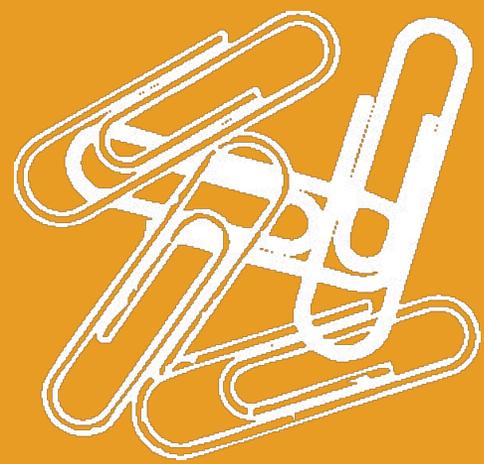
# Meet River City Legal Aid



*strong programs, thin capacity, constant deadlines*

# Responsible AI Workflows for Grant Writing





# Responsible AI Workflows for Grant Writing

## “We Have Bullets”

- Provide bullet points: services offered, outcomes achieved, community needs.
- AI and humans work to create a final version

## “We’re Stuck”

- Staring at a blank page - now what??
- Using what you do have ask GPT for 5 possible approaches and bullets to support each approach
- Select the bullets that you like, add your own, and then work through the process.

## “We Have Past Materials”

- Upload relevant documents - one pagers, prior grant narratives, links to blog posts (IMPORTANT - remove any personal information before sending to a GPT)
- Have the GPT use only the materials you uploaded to come up with bullets to answer a question
- Refine, edit, and add to the bullets before starting the process.

# Rubrics & Self-Scoring



*Please rate the following using this scorecard:*

*#1 have a clear opening that grabs the reader score from 0 to 3*

*#2 clearly answer the application question from 0 to 3*

*#3 clearly address the complexities from 0 to 3*

*#4 lay out the strongest possible argument 0 to 3*

*#5 uses equity and community centered framing 0 to 3*

*#6 explain terms so that a non-attorney can fully comprehend the narrative 0 to 3*

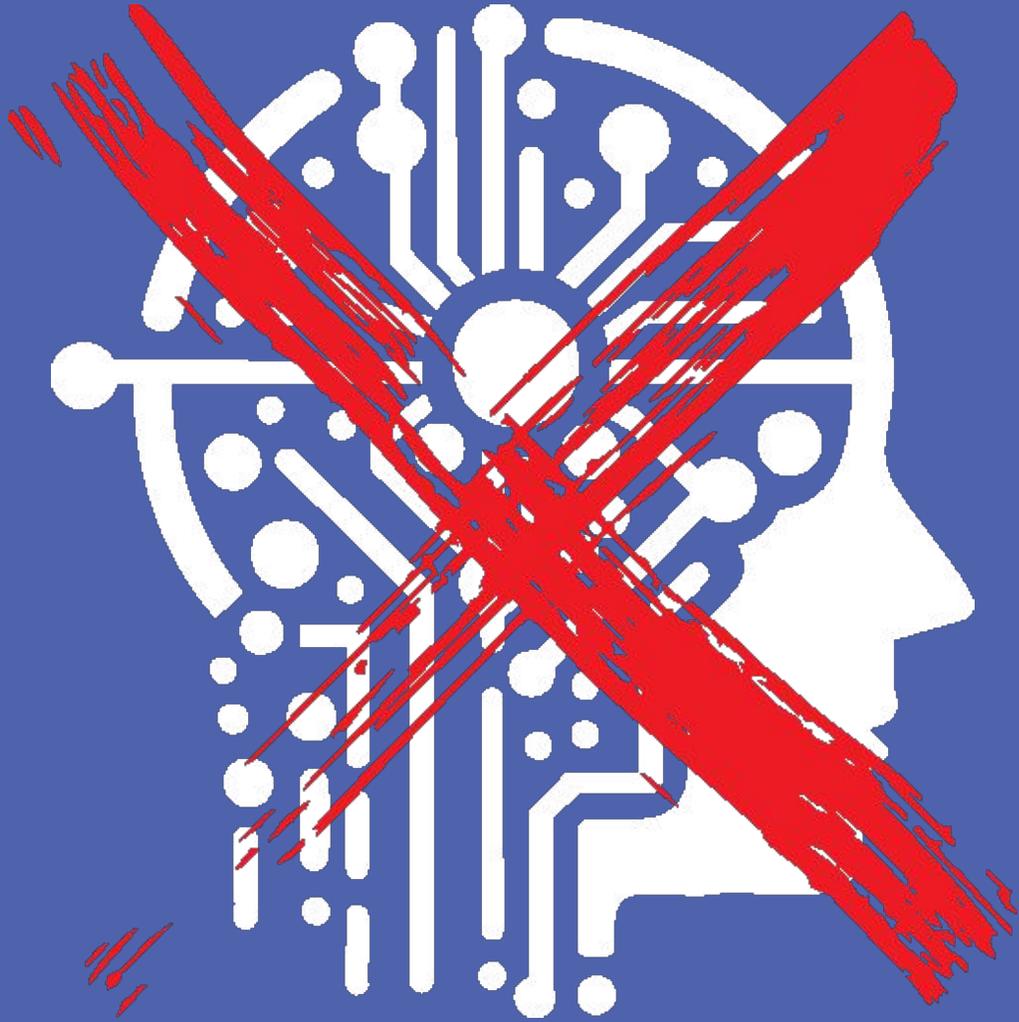
*Given these details, could you score this article and provide suggestions on how to improve ratings of 0 or 1?*

# Editing & Discipline



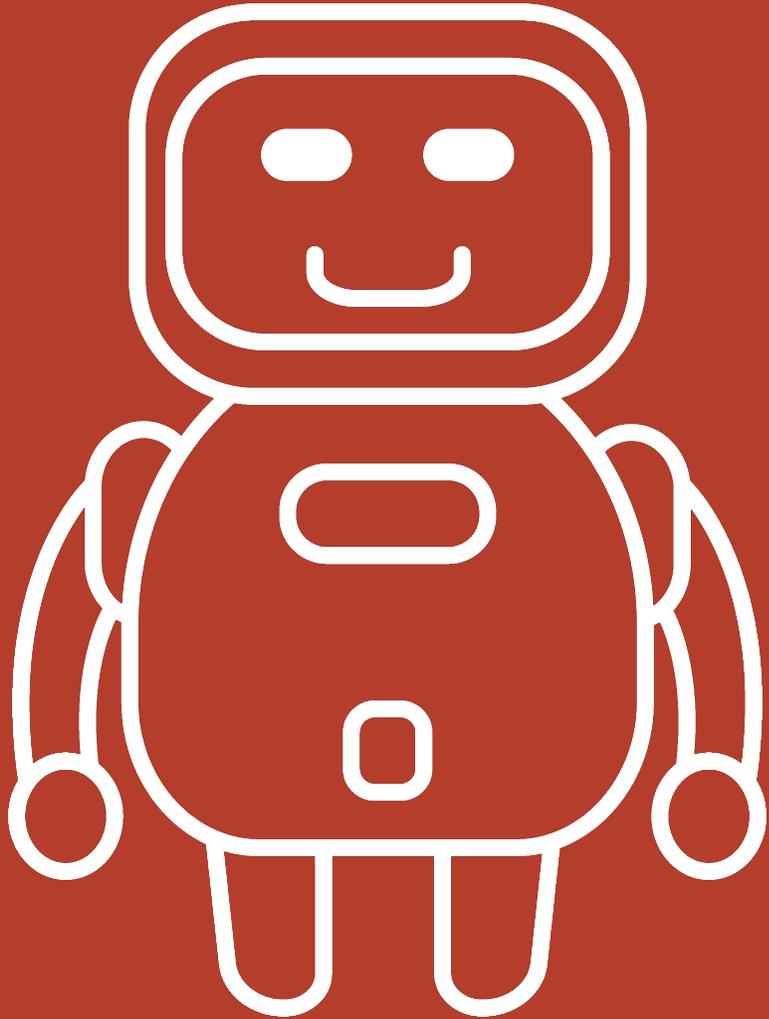
AI excels at editing: clarity, tone, consistency, and word-count discipline

# What AI is NOT Doing



AI does not invent programs,  
set strategy, or replace  
human judgment

# The Intern Analogy



Treat AI like an intern or law clerk—useful, but always reviewed

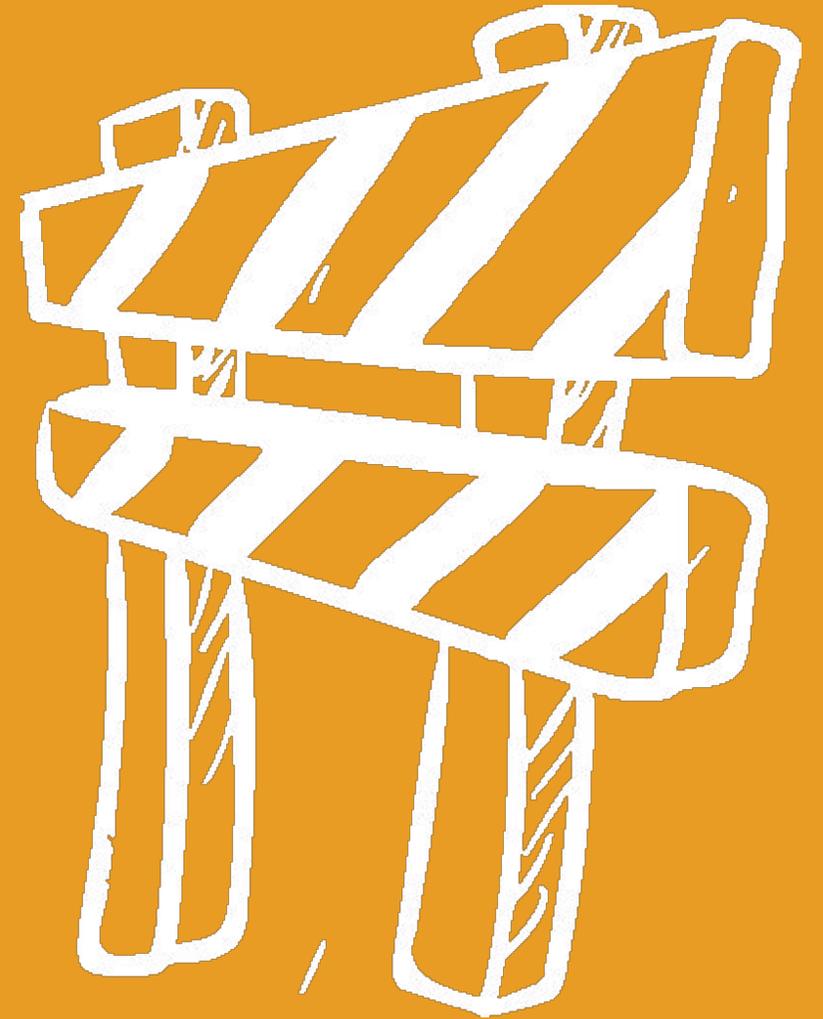
# Train Your Own GPTs!



Define multiple voices,  
provide guardrails, or teach  
specific tasks.

# Guardrails

Clear guardrails make AI safer,  
more consistent, and easier to  
adopt responsibly



**Start Small**



# What AI is NOT Doing

AI scales nonprofit work only when judgment—not automation—remains in human hands.

# Accessible Legal Research with AI

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Kara Peterson



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# Changing legal search for good

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Instantly search more than 3.6 million summarized judicial opinions.

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# Audience Q&A

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# Resources & Contact Info:

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Free Law Project: <https://free.law>  
CourtListener: [www.CourtListener.com](http://www.CourtListener.com)  
descrybe: <https://descrybe.ai/>



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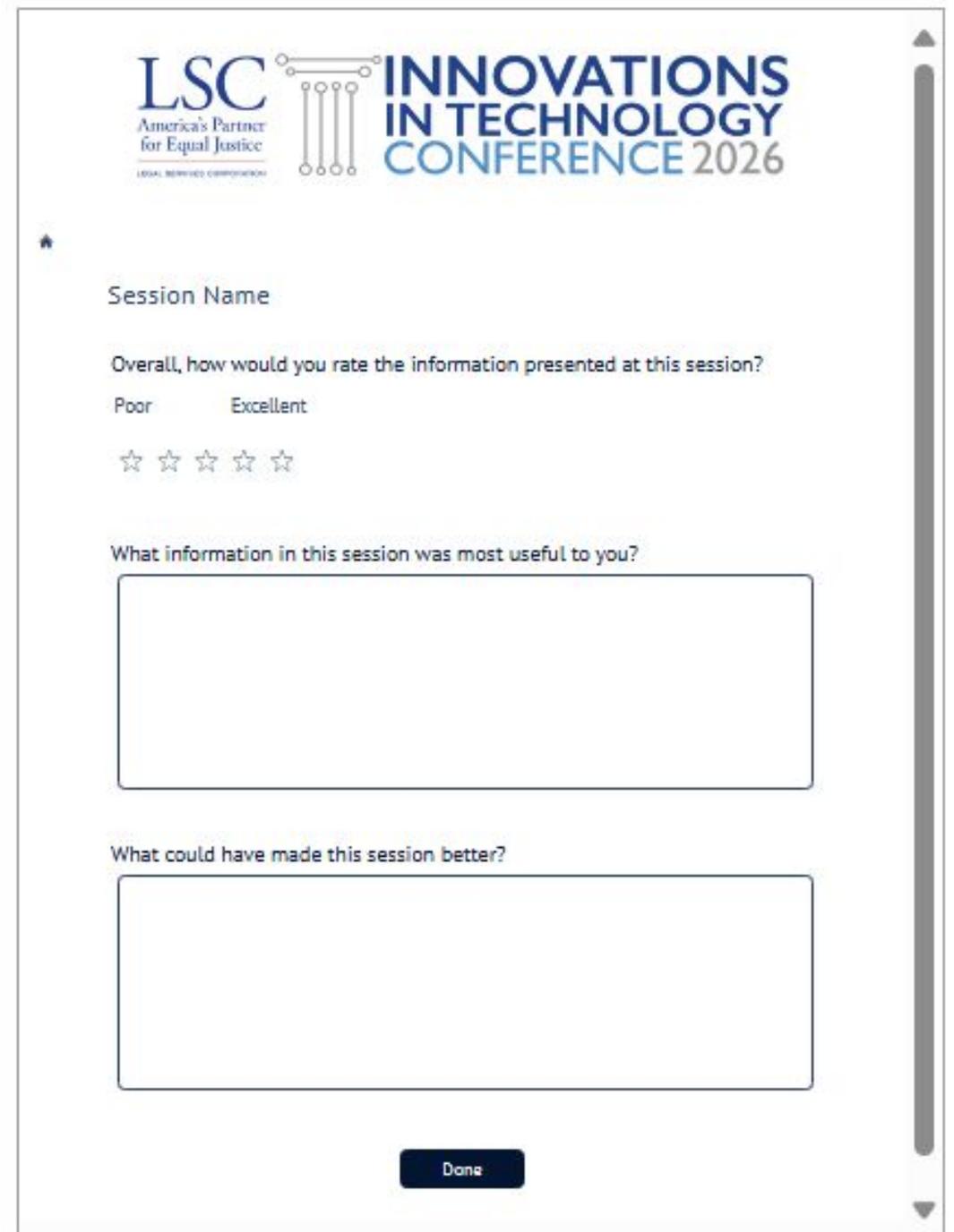
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