
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Verification Field Guide for Lawyers

Treat AI as a drafting assistant, not as a source of truth. It can help you work faster, but you're still responsible for what you use, what you verify, and what you sign.

Step 1: Classify the task before using AI

Before opening any AI tool, decide what kind of task you're working with:

- **Low risk:** formatting, tone checks, light editing
- **Medium risk:** summaries, issue-spotting, outlines
- **High risk:** legal research, filings, client advice

Step 2: Turn the output into a checklist of claims

Don't read AI output as persuasive prose, instead break it into discrete, testable claims:

- What does the AI say the law is?
- What facts is the AI assuming?
- What is the AI telling you to do next?

Step 3: Stress-test the answer

Before you start pulling sources, ask yourself how could this be wrong. One useful method is to ask the AI to:

- list its assertions
- identify missing facts
- give the best counterargument
- show what would change the answer

Step 4: Run it twice

Run the prompt a second time, ideally in a fresh session or with a different tool. Do not resolve disagreements by "voting" between models. Instead, resolve them by checking the record.

- If both answers agree, still verify manually
- If they differ, stop debating the chatbot and go to primary sources

Step 5: Verify every authority myself

If you're going to cite it, you need pull it and read it. That means:

- checking statutes and rules from official sources,
- reading the underlying cases,
- confirming the authority supports the exact proposition asserted

Step 6: Leave a short note in the file

Keeping a brief record of these items just needs to be enough to retrace your steps and show reasonable diligence later:

- what you asked
- what tool you used
- what you verified.