A.I. and International Law Students: The Promise and the Pitfalls

AALS Annual Meeting, January 2025

Deborah Sundquist O'Malley Associate Professor deborah.omalley@slu.edu



Introducing Generative AI tools

- 1. What they are
- 2. Prompting 101
- 3. Use cases (exercises!)
- 4. Risks & reminders

Features of non-specialized vs. legal GAI

NON-SPECIALIZED GENERATIVE AI

- Examples: ChatGPT; Claude; Perplexity
- Trained on publicly available material, including webpages, books, and articles
- Generates new text; not a legal search engine
- No expectation of privacy; input & output used for training purposes

LEGAL GENERATIVE AI TOOLS

- Examples: Lexis+ AI, Westlaw's CoCounsel
- Trained on a corpus of legal knowledge
- Text generation tool + legal search engine
- Tout security and privacy for input & output

Input: The 5 C's of Effective "Prompting"



- **1**.Charge
- 2. Context
- **3.** Constraints
- **4**. Copy
- **5**. Conversation

Generative AI: Immediate Use Cases

- Starting out: finding relevant law
 Briefing a case
 Summarizing text
- **Extracting from text**
- Creating a timeline
- Editing & polishing

Small Group Exercises

- **1. Finding relevant law.** Within your group, brainstorm at least one prompt to assist you in your research or analysis for your memo.
 - a) Now, enter the prompt(s) into your tool. How did it go? Note anything the tool does well, as well as any criticism.
- 2. Brief a case. Ask a tool to brief a case you plan to use in your memo. Enter the citation or, for non-specialized tool, upload the case.
 - a) How did it go? Note anything the tool does well, as well as any criticism.

Legal Generative AI tools

- Summarize a Case & Extracting from text. Using the "Summarize a case" function in Lexis+ AI, enter the citation for a case you used for your memo. Read the case summary. Is it accurate and helpful? Note anything it does well, as well as any criticism.
 - a) Brainstorm follow-up prompt(s) you might be able to utilize to help you drill down and obtain information from this case that would help you in analyzing our sub-issue.
 - b) Enter your follow-up prompt(s) into the prompt bar. How did it go? Note anything the tool does well, as well as any criticism.
- **4. Create a timeline.** Upload your case file into CoCounsel and prompt to create a timeline. Download the document.
 - a) How did it go? Is it accurate? Could you use this file to help you draft a statement of facts? Note the apparent strengths and drawbacks of this function.

Non-specialized generative AI tools

5. Editing / polishing.

Copy and paste a paragraph from your brief into the prompt bar of a non-specialized tool; prompt it to identify any grammatical or spelling errors in the text and suggest corrections.

6. Brainstorming.

Copy and paste a section of your memo into the prompt bar & ask your tool to brainstorm 5 questions that a supervisor might ask you about your analysis.

Warning! Generative AI Tool Disclaimers

Al-generated content should be reviewed for accuracy.

The above response is AI-generated and may contain errors. It should be verified for accuracy.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.

Claude can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.

"While it gets a lot of the rules right, I noticed that it does not always pick out the right ones and it can a hard time arranging them from broad to narrow, using bridging terms. I still have to do a lot of editing..."

> "You really have to know hierarchy of authority. Lexis+ AI consistently gives me lower-level cases even if I ask for binding cases. So I always have to check that the cases it cites are the right ones for my matter..."

"It's ok. It's a good place to start. But I can't rely on it to do much more than launch my research...I need to do the hard work myself."

"It doesn't hit everything or go through the structure and steps of legal analysis in a satisfying way. It seems to be a good secondary source and it gives me some ideas, but that's it."

Here's What Happens When Your Lawyer Uses ChatGPT

A lawyer representing a man who sued an airline relied on artificial intelligence to help prepare a court filing. It did not go well.



May 27, 2023

The lawsuit began like so many others: A man named Roberto Mata sued the airline Avianca, saying he was injured when a metal serving cart struck his knee during a flight to Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Hip-hop star seeks new trial over lawyer's alleged use of artificial intelligence to draft closing argument

BY DEBRA CASSENS WEISS (https://www.abajournal.com/authors/4/)

The Court has adopted a new requirement in the fast-growing and fast-changing area of generative artificial intelligence ("AI") and its use in the practice of law. The requirement is as follows: Any party using any generative AI tool in the preparation or drafting of documents for filing with the Court must disclose in the filing that AI was used and the specific AI tool that was used to conduct legal research and/or to draft the document. Further, Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure continues to apply, and the Court will continue to construe all filings as a certification, by the person signing the filed document and after reasonable inquiry, of the matters set forth in the rule, including but not limited to those in Rule 11(b)(2). Parties should not assume that mere



MAGISTRATE JUDGE GABRIEL A. FUENTES 219 South Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60604

Attorney Ethics & GAI

MRPC 1.1: Competence

MRPC 1.6: Confidentiality