AI Ethics & Bar Rules Guide

Navigate bar rules and ethical considerations when using AI

Key Ethical Obligations

1. Competence

Lawyers must understand AI tools they use, including limitations. You remain responsible for all work product, even if AI-generated.

Best Practice: Test AI outputs, verify accuracy, understand how the tool works

2. Confidentiality

Client information must remain confidential. Many AI tools learn from inputs.

Best Practice: Use enterprise versions with data protection, redact client details, check terms of service

3. Supervision

Lawyers must supervise AI just like junior associates. Review all outputs before use.

Best Practice: Never use AI outputs without human review, create approval workflows

4. Disclosure

Some jurisdictions require disclosure of AI use to clients and courts.

Best Practice: Check your jurisdiction's rules, consider proactive disclosure, update engagement letters

Safe Uses of AI

Generally Safe:
• Legal research (with verification)
• First drafts of documents
• Email responses
• Summarizing documents
• Brainstorming strategies

Use with Caution:
• Court filings (verify all caselaw)
• Client advice (review thoroughly)
• Sensitive matters (confidentiality risk)

Never Use AI Alone For:
• Final work product without review
• Privileged communications without safeguards
• Ethical decisions