LSC America's Partner for Equal Justice
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2026

Putting AI to Work for Justice:

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

descrybe.ai
Changing legal research for good

FREE LAW PROJECT
COURTLISTENER · RECAP · BOTS.LAW · JUSTICE INITIATIVES

#LSCITC

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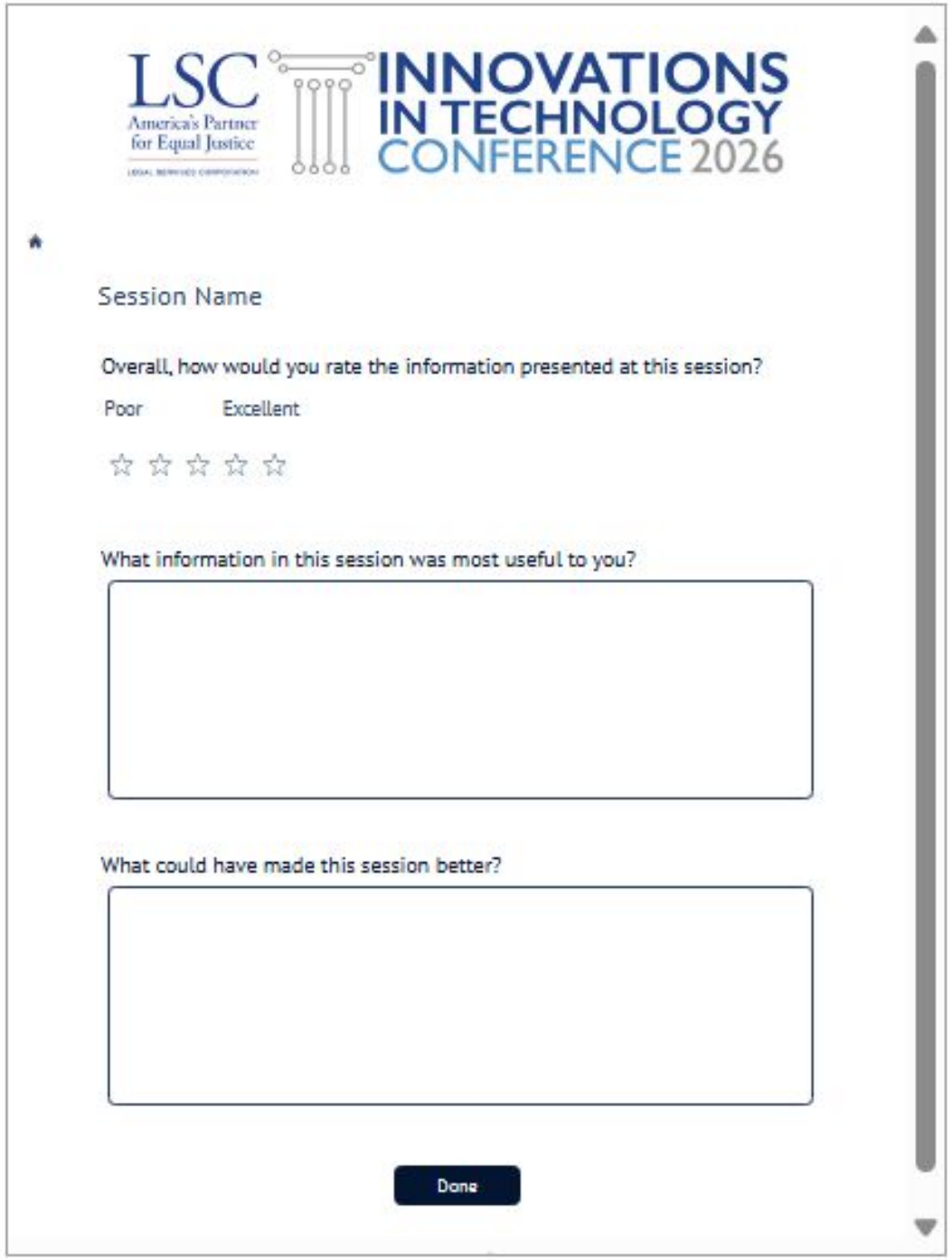

Who We Are

Free Law Project
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Why This Session?

How is your organization using AI today?

What We'll Cover

- 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

Michael Lissner

AI Needs a Foundation

- 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!

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

Tradeoffs & Guardrails

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

Ecosystem Impact

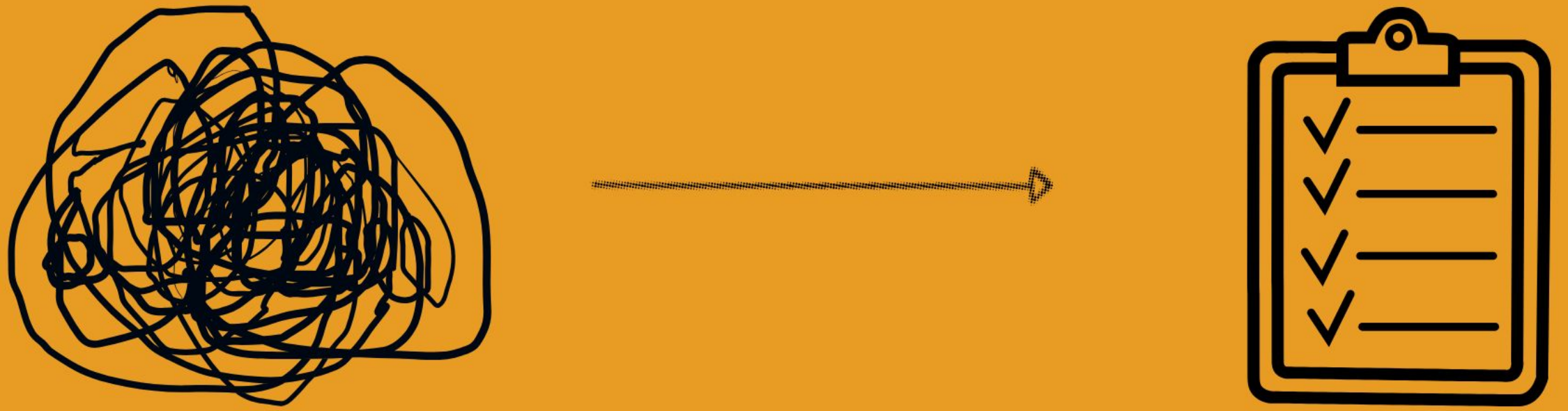
- Semantic search makes legal research accessible
- AI transcripts empower alerts and awareness
- Vision APIs can do cheap, high-quality digitization
- Open data helps improve foundation models
- Hallucination detector finds mistakes
- Search and APIs bring case law to more places to build a competitive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

Designing AI for Courts & Self-Represented Litigants

Jessica Frank

The Self-Represented Litigant Reality

Design Principles for SRL-Facing AI



Where AI Helps (& Where It Doesn't)

- Explaining Procedures
- Structuring Information
- Legal Advice
- Strategic Judgment

The Litigant Portal

powered by aws

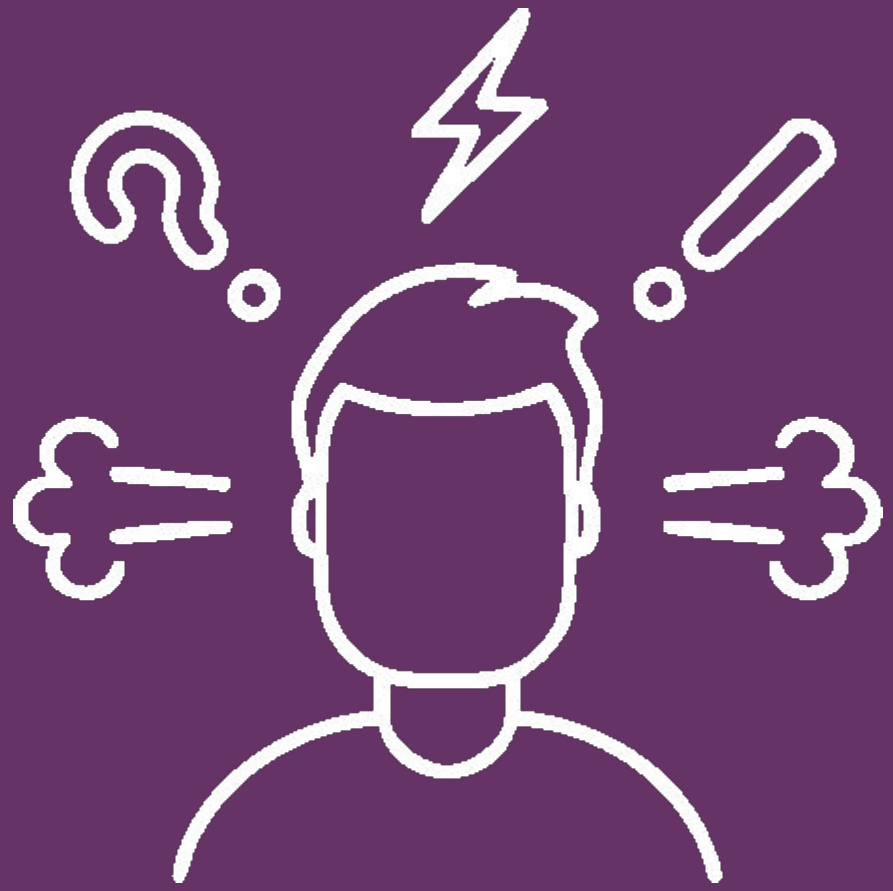
Demo

Responsible AI: Expanding Nonprofit Capacity Without Losing Trust

Jenifer Whiston

Why this matters now?

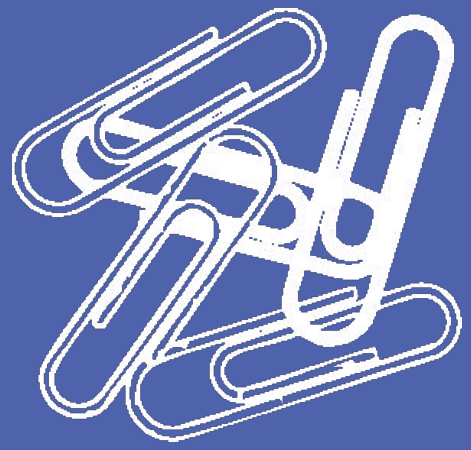
Underfunded



Understaffed

Lack of Time

How do you use AI?



Copilot

ChatGPT

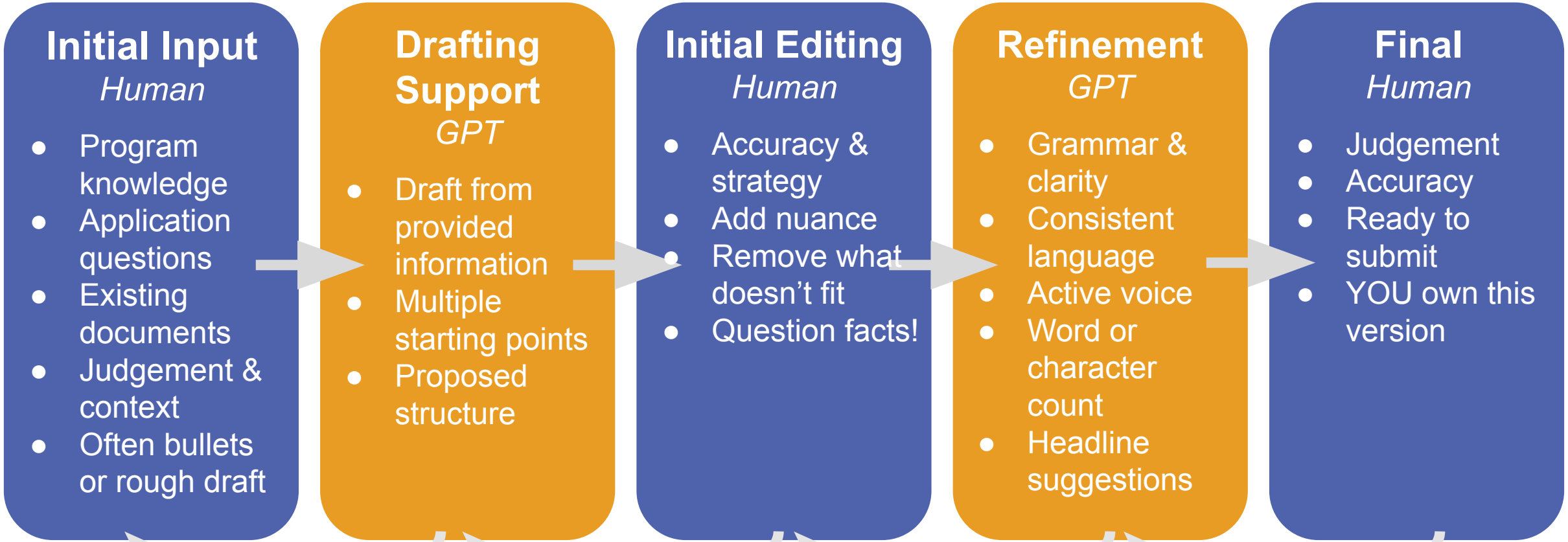
Gemini

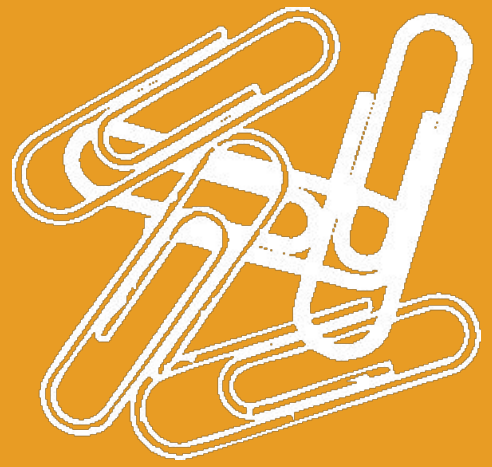
Claude

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

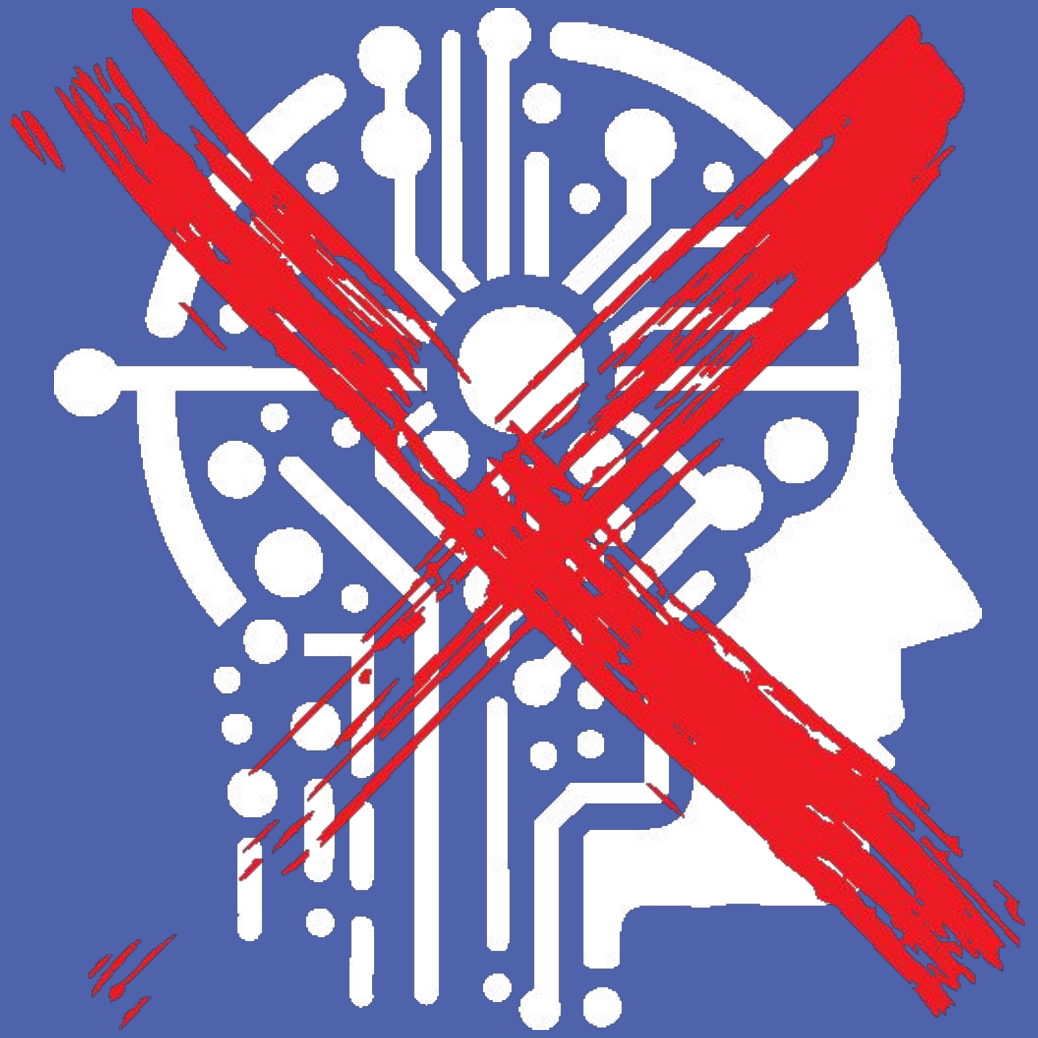
#6 explain terms so that a non-attorney can fully comprehend the narrative 0 to 3

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

Editing & Discipline

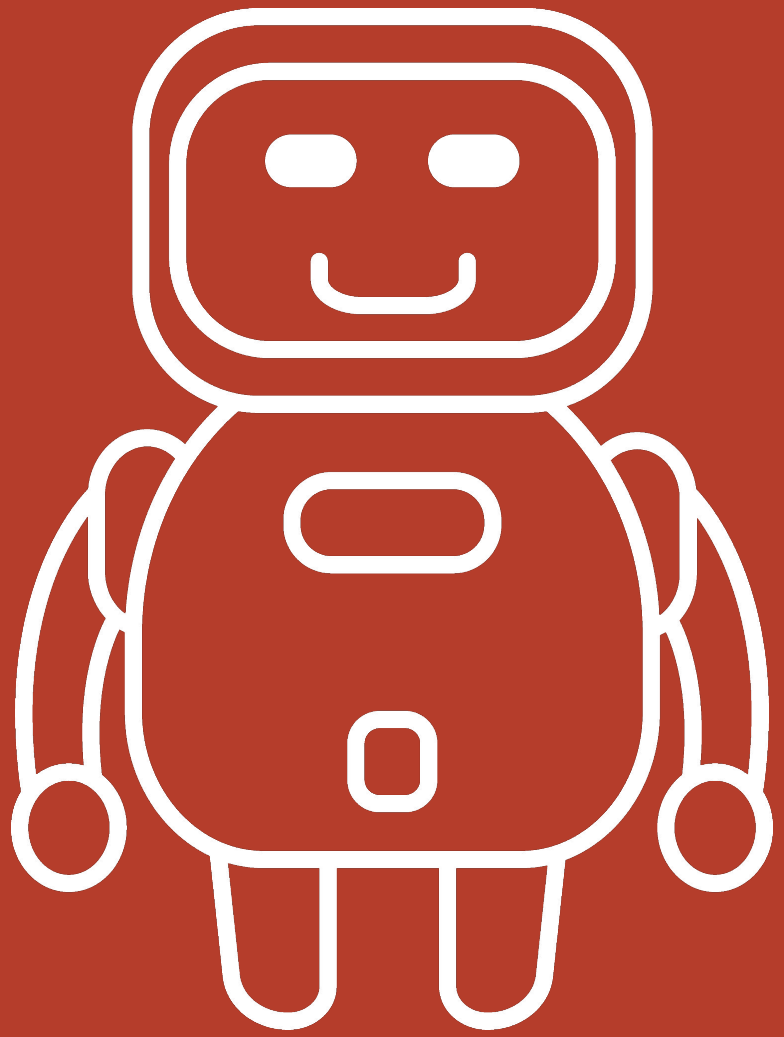
AI excels at editing: clarity, tone, consistency, and word-count discipline

What AI is NOT Doing



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

The Intern Analogy



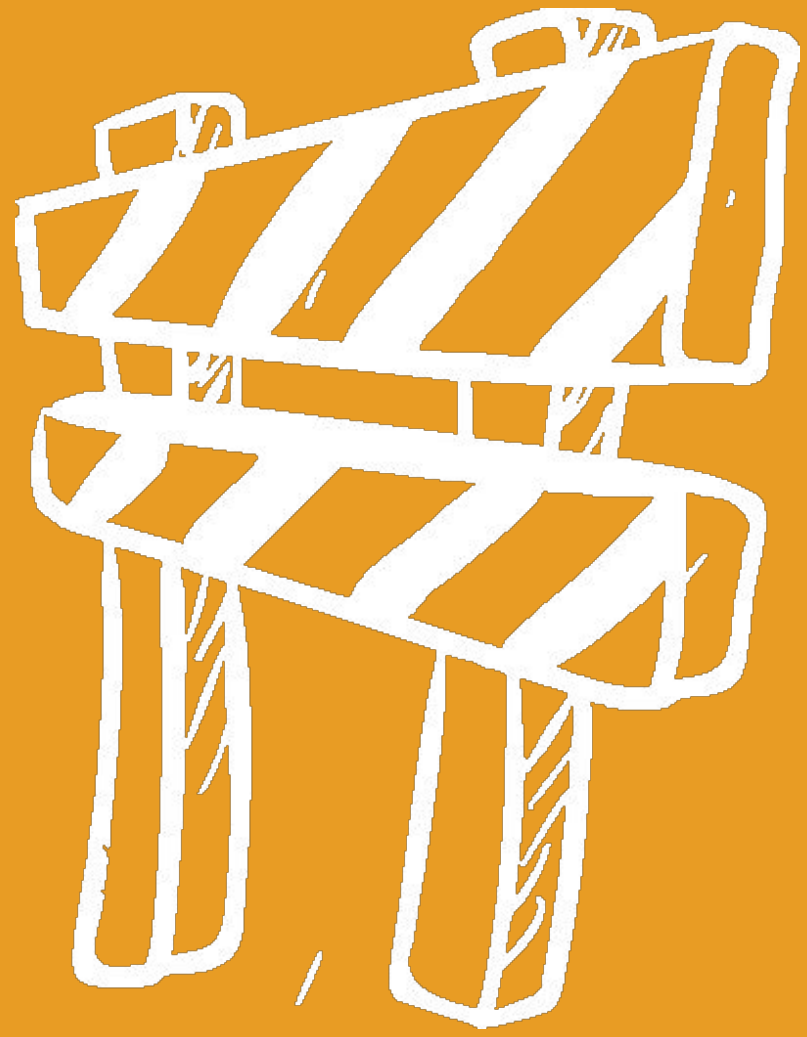
Treat AI like an intern or law clerk—useful, but always reviewed

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

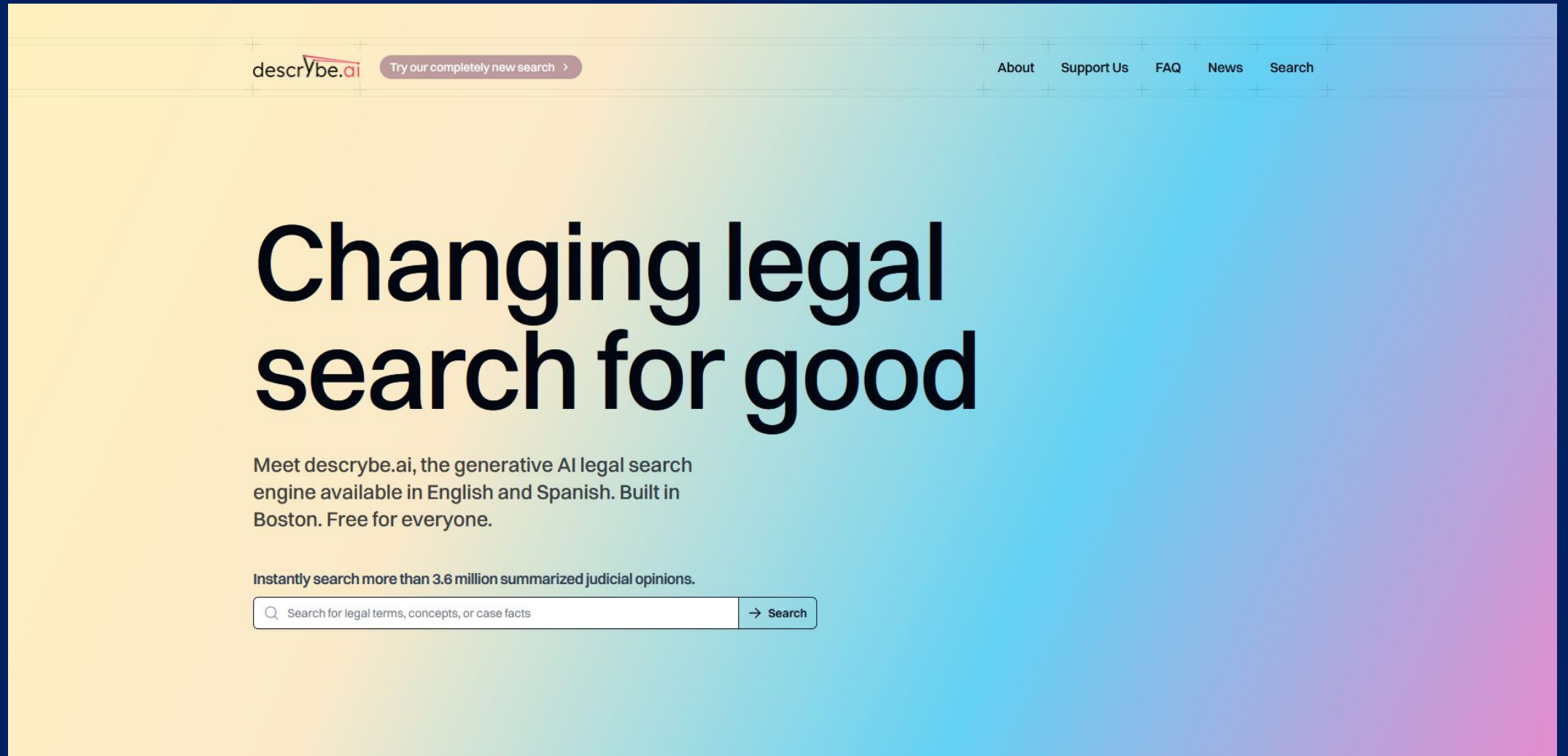
AI scales nonprofit work only when judgment—not automation—remains in human hands.

Accessible Legal Research with AI

Kara Peterson

descrybe.ai

Changing legal search for good



Audience Q&A

Resources & Contact Info:

Free Law Project: https://free.law
CourtListener: www.CourtListener.com
descrybe: https://descrybe.ai/

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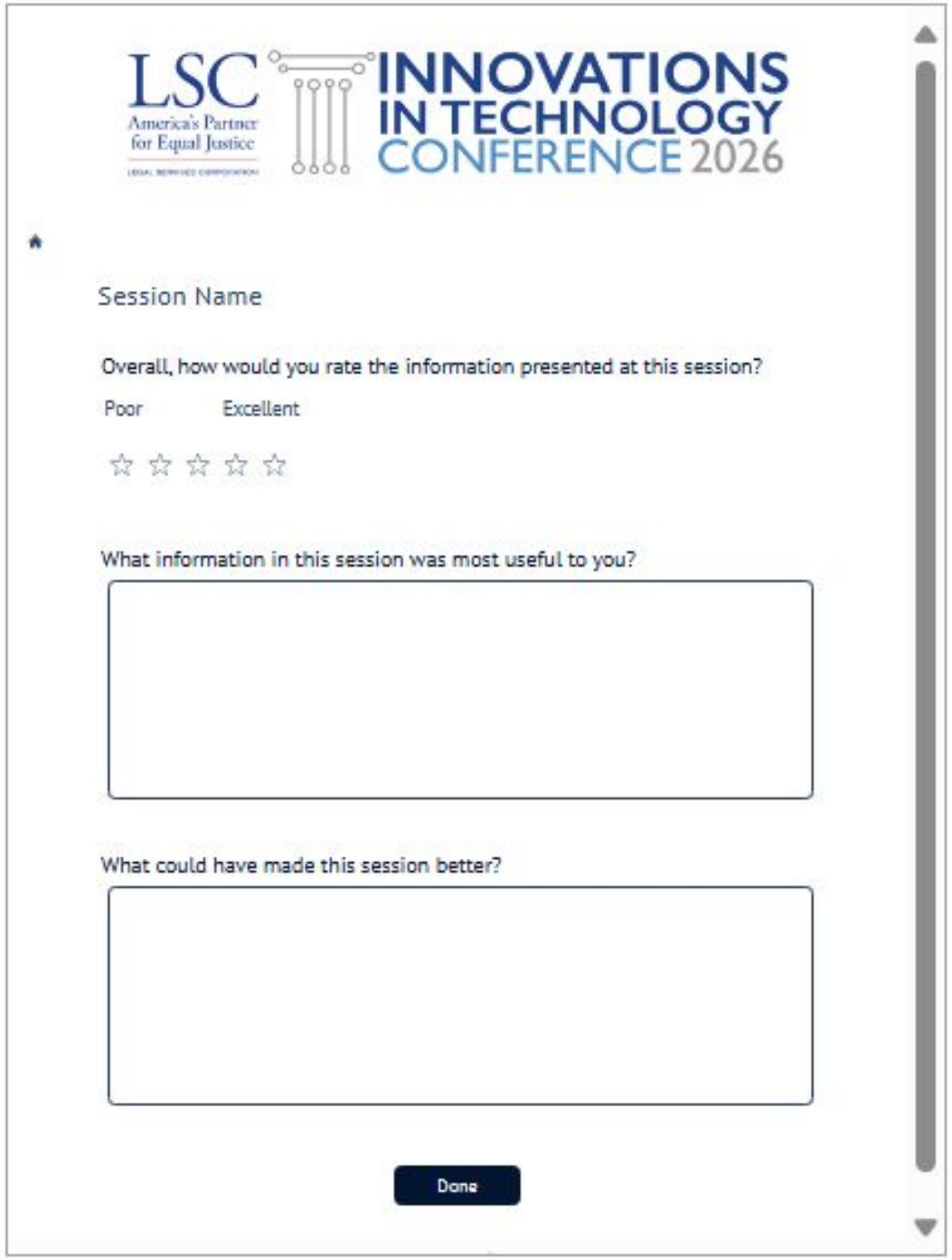
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