Claude Code for legal

The Legal team discovered Claude Code's potential through experimentation, and a desire to learn about Anthropic's product offerings. Additionally, one team member had a personal use case related to creating accessibility tools for family and work prototypes that demonstrate the technology's power for non-developers.

Main Claude Code use cases

Custom accessibility solution for family members
Team members have built communication assistants for family members with speaking difficulties due to medical diagnoses. In just one hour, they created a predictive text app using native speech-to-text that suggests responses and speaks them using voice banks, solving gaps in existing accessibility tools recommended by speech therapists.

Legal department workflow automation
They created prototype "phone tree" systems to help team members connect with the right lawyer at Anthropic, demonstrating how legal departments can build custom tools for common tasks without traditional development resources.

Team coordination tools
Managers have built G Suite applications that automate weekly team updates and track legal review status across products, allowing lawyers to quickly flag items needing review through simple button clicks rather than spreadsheet management.

Rapid prototyping for solution validation
They use Claude Code to quickly build functional prototypes they can show to domain experts (like showing accessibility tools to UCSF specialists) to validate ideas and identify existing solutions before investing more time.

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Work style and impact

Planning in Claude.ai, building in Claude Code
They use a two-step process where they brainstorm and plan with Claude.ai first, then move to Claude Code for implementation, asking it to slow down and work step-by-step rather than outputting everything at once.

Visual-first approach
They frequently use screenshots to show Claude Code what they want interfaces to look like, then iterate based on visual feedback rather than describing features in text.

Prototype-driven innovation
They emphasize overcoming the fear of sharing “silly” or “toy” prototypes, as these demonstrations inspire others to see possibilities they hadn’t considered.

Security and compliance awareness

MCP integration concerns
As product lawyers, they immediately identify security implications of deep MCP integrations, noting how conservative security postures will create barriers as AI tools access more sensitive systems.

Compliance tooling priorities
They advocate for building compliance tools quickly as AI capabilities expand, recognizing the balance between innovation and risk management.

Top tips from the Legal Department

Plan extensively in Claude.ai first
Use Claude’s conversational interface to flesh out your entire idea before moving to Claude Code. Then ask Claude to summarize everything into a step-by-step prompt for implementation.

Work incrementally and visually
Ask Claude Code to slow down and implement one step at a time so you can copy-paste without getting overwhelmed. Use screenshots liberally to show what you want interfaces to look like.

Share prototypes despite imperfection
Overcome the urge to hide “toy” projects or unfinished work - sharing prototypes helps others see possibilities and sparks innovation across departments that don’t typically interact.