

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Profession

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Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

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Background

- Manage [People's Law Library](#) legal information website
- Co-Chair, MSBA AI & Legal Technology Task Force
- Member, MD Judiciary AI Workgroup

Disclaimer

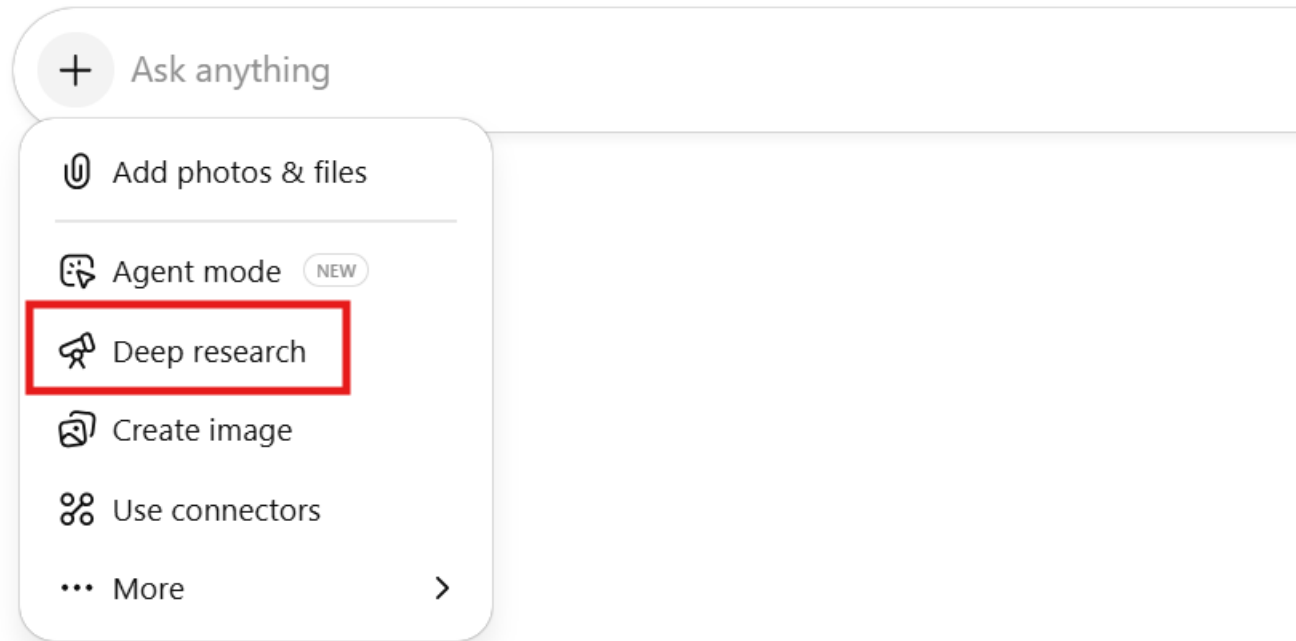
- The views, opinions, and information I share in this presentation are solely my own. They do not reflect the views, positions, or policies of my employer or any organization with which I am affiliated. Nothing presented should be taken as representing official statements on their behalf. Information about Maryland Judiciary projects is shared with permission.

Outline

- Legal Research
 - ChatGPT
 - Gemini
 - NotebookLM
- Host your own LLM
- MSBA workgroup
 - Ethics considerations
 - Firm templates

ChatGPT for Legal Research

Hey, Leland. Ready to dive in?



ChatGPT for Legal Research

I am looking for early Maryland authorities (pre-19th century preferred, but anything before 1850 or so is helpful) concerning the law of self-defense. Self defense may also be spelled "self defence." Additionally, self defense may be discussed in the context of homicide or murder. Sources could include court opinions, legal treatises, practice guides, etc. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

ChatGPT for Legal Research

To help find early Maryland authorities on self-defense law, could you please clarify the following:

1. Are you looking specifically for *Maryland* sources only, or are regional or influential national sources also acceptable if they were cited or used in Maryland courts?
2. Would you like me to include both published and manuscript decisions (e.g., if early court records or archives are available)?
3. Do you have access to subscription-based legal databases (e.g., HeinOnline, Lexis, Westlaw), or do you prefer publicly accessible sources?

Let me know so I can tailor the research more precisely.

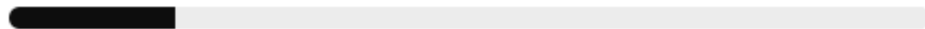
ChatGPT for Legal Research

Thank you. I'll compile a list of early Maryland authorities (pre-1850 preferred) that address the law of self-defense, including variant spellings like "self-defence," especially in the context of homicide or murder. This will include citations to court opinions, early treatises, and practice guides from Maryland, with relevant regional or national sources if influential in Maryland jurisprudence. I'll prioritize sources with accessible citations, particularly from HeinOnline or Westlaw where available.

I'll let you know once the research is complete.

Reading archive.org

5 sources



ChatGPT for Legal Research

Research completed in 8m · 36 sources · 271 searches

 Early Maryland Authorities on Self-Defense Law 

Early Maryland Authorities on Self-Defense Law

Common-Law Foundations of Self-Defense (17th–18th Century)

Maryland's early law of self-defense was rooted firmly in English common law principles [en.wikipedia.org](#). Under the common law, killings fell into categories of **justifiable homicide** (completely lawful killings) or **excusable homicide** (killings done in self-defense or by accident, which were partially excused) [caselaw.findlaw.com](#). Sir William Blackstone explained that homicide in necessary **self-defence (se defendendo)**—committed to save one's own life or to prevent a forcible felony—was deemed *excusable* rather than murder [caselaw.findlaw.com](#).

ChatGPT for Legal Research

✕ Preview

↓ Download

🔗 Share Link

Early Maryland Authorities on Self-Defence

PDF Document (.pdf)

Microsoft Word Document (.docx)

ChatGPT for Legal Research

can you include citations to print resources in addition to the electronic resources?

Thanks for your request. To tailor the citations accurately, could you please clarify:

1. Do you have access to any specific libraries (e.g., university law library, Maryland State Law Library) where print resources should ideally be held?
2. Would you like full bibliographic citations (publisher, year, edition) for print treatises and court reporters?
3. Should I prioritize locating early Maryland case law in print volumes like Harris & McHenry, Harris & Johnson, etc., or focus more broadly on treatises and legal commentary?

Gemini for Legal Research

Hello, Leland

I am looking for early Maryland authorities (pre-19th century preferred, but anything before 1850 or so is helpful) concerning the law of self-defense. Self defense may also be spelled "self defence." Additionally, self defense may be discussed in the context of homicide or murder. Sources could include court opinions, legal treatises, practice guides, etc. Any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.



Deep Research



Gemini for Legal Research



I've put together a research plan. If you need to update it in any way, let me know.

Early Maryland Self-Defense Law



Research Websites

- (1) Search for Maryland statutes and common law doctrines concerning self-defense, homicide, and murder that were established before 1850.
- (2) Identify and analyze Maryland court opinions and judicial records from the pre-1850 period that interpret and apply the law of self-defense.
- (3) Locate legal treatises, practice guides, and other scholarly legal texts published in or about Maryland before 1850 that discuss criminal law, focusing on justifications for homicide such as sel...

[More](#)



Analyze Results



Create Report



Ready in a few mins

[Edit plan](#)

[Start research](#)

Gemini for Legal Research

- (1) Search for Maryland statutes and common law doctrines concerning self-defense, homicide, and murder that were established before 1850.
- (2) Identify and analyze Maryland court opinions and judicial records from the pre-1850 period that interpret and apply the law of self-defense.
- (3) Locate legal treatises, practice guides, and other scholarly legal texts published in or about Maryland before 1850 that discuss criminal law, focusing on justifications for homicide such as self-defense.
- (4) Investigate modern secondary sources, such as law review articles and historical journals, for analysis and citation of primary Maryland legal authorities on pre-1850 self-defense law.
- (5) Synthesize the collected information to outline the key elements required for a successful self-defense claim in early Maryland law, including:
 - (a) The duty to retreat
 - (b) The imminence and nature of the threat
 - (c) The principle of proportional force
 - (d) The distinction between justifiable and excusable homicide
- (6) Compare Maryland's early self-defense doctrines with the prevailing English common law principles of the same era to identify any unique local interpretations or developments.

Gemini for Legal Research

Gemini

2.5 Pro ▾

please proceed with the research plan



I'm on it. I'll let you know when your research is done. In the meantime, you can leave this chat.



Early Maryland Self-Defense Law
Researching 37 websites...

What do you want to research?



Deep Research ✕



Invite a friend

PRO



Early Maryland Self-Defense Law

Show thinking ▾



Initial Research Approach

I'm starting my research by broadly searching for early Maryland statutes and common law doctrines related to self-defense, homicide, and murder, specifically focusing on the period before 1850. I'm also looking for modern secondary sources that analyze these historical laws, as they can provide valuable context and point me towards relevant primary sources.

Key Search Themes

My initial search queries will focus on themes such as 'early Maryland self-defense law,' 'Maryland common law homicide before 1850,' and 'Maryland justifiable homicide 18th century.' I'll also be looking for legal treatises and historical journals that might contain this information.

Next Steps in Research

This initial phase is designed to help me identify key primary and secondary sources, which I will then analyze in more detail in the subsequent steps of my research.



Researching websites



courts... Genealogy Guide...



prattli... Early Maryland Hi...



archiv... Calvert Papers | ...



law.ge... Self-Defense Wit...



schola... An Unstable Core...



mdcou... 2025.06.06 '00'0...



schola... Why Maryland S...



schola... Strengthening th...



digital... The Persistent an...



mdcou... Theodore Johnso...



en.wiki... Justifiable homi...



mgale... Murder in the fir...



digitalc... The Developing ...



en.wiki... Right of self-defe...



somdc... Understanding C...



msa.m... Capital Crimes - ...




govt.w... Credits - View Do...



law.jus... Tipton v. State :: 1...

Gemini for Legal Research

 Early Maryland Self-Defense Law

Contents ▾

Export ▾

Create ▾

✕

The Unwritten Law: Self-Defense and Homicide in Colonial and Early Maryland, 1634–1850

Introduction

The law of self-defense in the State of Maryland, from its colonial origins through the mid-19th century, stands as a remarkable testament to the enduring power of the English common law tradition. Unlike the majority of American states, Maryland has never codified its law of self-defense in a comprehensive statute. This report will demonstrate that this is not a modern anomaly but a direct and remarkably consistent continuation of its colonial legal DNA. The legal framework governing the right to use force in self-preservation was a direct importation of English common law principles, articulated with profound influence by jurists such as Sir Edward Coke, Sir Matthew Hale, Sir William Hawkins, and Sir William Blackstone. These principles were formally received upon the colony's founding, constitutionally enshrined after its independence, and consistently applied by Maryland's courts. This created a stable and enduring legal framework centered on the critical distinctions between justifiable and excusable homicide, the situational duty to retreat, and the absolute sanctuary of the Castle Doctrine. ▾

To fully comprehend the law of self-defense as it existed in Maryland before 1850, one must first conduct a thorough exegesis of the foundational English treatises that constituted the legal universe of the colonial lawyer and judge. This report will begin by dissecting this inherited intellectual framework, focusing on the

Gemini for Legal Research

1.1 The Spectrum of Homicide: Justifiable, Excusable, and Felonious

The common law did not treat all killing as a single offense. Instead, it meticulously categorized homicide into three distinct branches: justifiable, excusable, and felonious.¹ Justifiable homicide carried no legal guilt whatsoever and resulted in a complete acquittal. Excusable homicide, while not criminal, implied a minor degree of fault and, in the early common law, carried the penalty of forfeiture of goods, requiring a royal pardon for full absolution. Felonious homicide was the category for culpable killings and was itself subdivided into murder and manslaughter.²

Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England ... - Avalon Project



avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_c...

Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England ... - Avalon Project



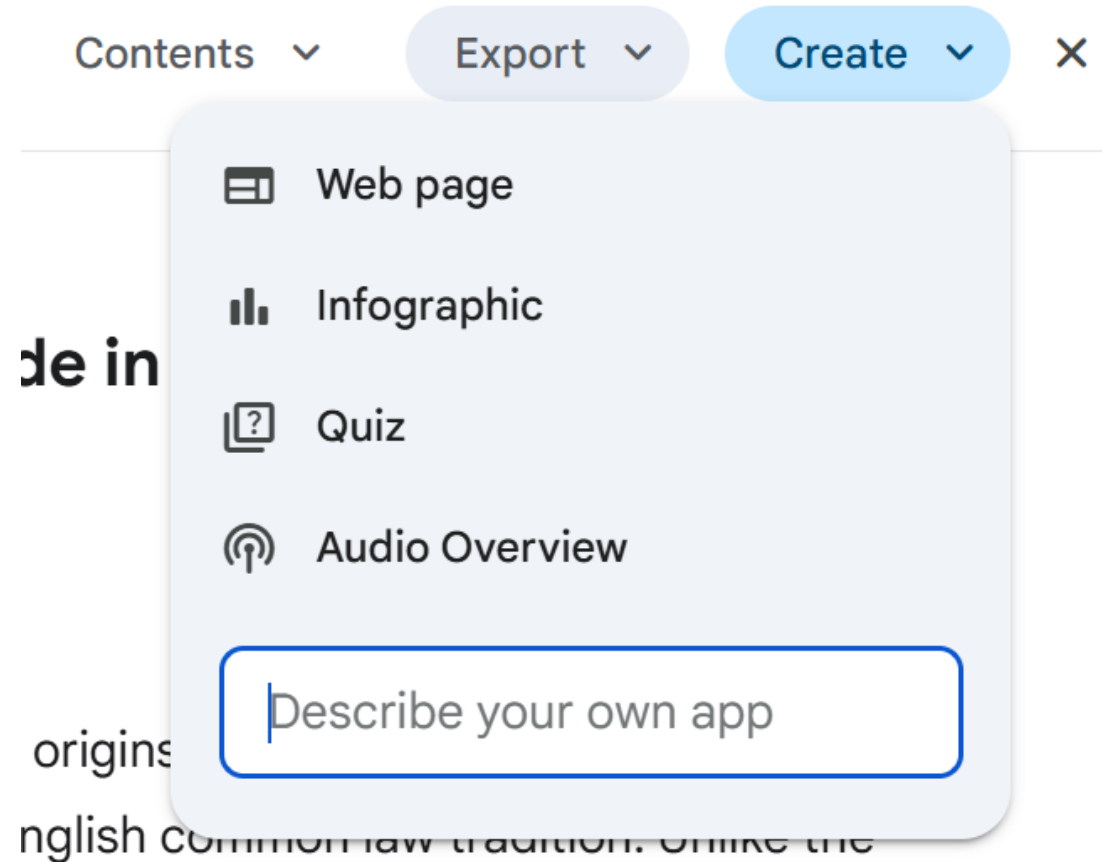
avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_c...

Adams' Argument for the Defense:
3–4 December 1770 - Founders...



founders.archives.gov/doc...

Gemini for Legal Research



ChatGPT vs. Gemini for Legal Research

- **DO NOT USE AS A SOURCE OF TRUTH**
- Best for topics with public domain sources
 - Pre 1930
- Identify secondary or primary sources
- ChatGPT has better annotated citations
- ChatGPT's substantive summary generally more helpful
- Gemini's responses are longer and more superficial
- Gemini's citations are voluminous, but terser and harder to locate

ChatGPT vs. Gemini

- Locate secondary sources
 - Particularly in unfamiliar areas of law

Responses on webpage



NotebookLM

- Analysis and research
 - Summarize and query many large documents
 - Learn about a topic
 - Create outlines
 - Quickly check citations
-
- PDFs, websites, audio files, and Google docs



NotebookLM

- Not intended to draft content for the user

NotebookLM

 NotebookLM

 Set

Welcome to NotebookLM **Plus**


+ Create new



Most recent ▾

Title	Sources	Created	Role	
 Maryland District Court Appeal and Transcript Request	16 Sources	May 19, 2025	Owner	
 INST 726 notebook	81 Sources	Feb 24, 2025	Owner	


NotebookLM

 Plus


Maryland District Court Appeal and Transcript Request


Analytics


Settings





Sources


 RULE 7-109.pdf


 RULE 7-113.pdf


 RULE 8-411.pdf


 Westlaw Edge - 8 full text items for Marylan...


 cantaffordappellatecosts.pdf


 cosaguideselfrepresentation.pdf


 dca027br.pdf


 dca119.pdf


 dccv037.pdf

 mdcourts.gov--Appeals to the Appellate Cou...


 mdcourts.gov--Information for Self-Represe...

 mdcourts.gov--Transcript Assistance Fund.pdf

 mdcourts.gov--Transcripts and Recordings.pdf

 rule 7-206.pdf

Chat




Maryland District Court Appeal and Transcript Request

16 sources

These documents outline the procedures and requirements for pursuing appeals in Maryland courts, including the District Court, Circuit Court, and the Appellate Court of Maryland, formerly the Court of Special Appeals. They detail the steps involved in filing a direct appeal or an application for leave to appeal, distinguishing between the two processes. Key aspects covered include filing deadlines, the content and transmission of the record on appeal (including transcripts and record extracts), payment and waiver of court costs and fees, and the potential for dismissal if rules are not followed. Information is also provided on access to confidential records and resources for self-represented litigants.

Save to note




Add note

Audio Overview


Mind Map

Start typing...

16 sources



How do Maryland District Court appeals and transcript requests generally proceed?



Studio

Audio Overview

Create an Audio Overview in more languages! [Learn more](#)

Deep Dive conversation

Two hosts

Customize

Generate

Notes


+ Add note

Study guide

Briefing doc

FAQ

Timeline

 Maryland Appellate Procedures and Costs

What are the initial costs associated with filing an appeal in Maryland? There are several costs involved in filing an appeal in...

NotebookLM can be inaccurate; please double check its responses.

Sources




+ Add

🔍 Discover

Select all sources



 RULE 1-325.pdf



 RULE 7-109.pdf




 RULE 7-113.pdf




 RULE 8-411.pdf



 Westlaw Edge - 8 full text items for Marylan...




 cantaffordappellatecosts.pdf



 cosaguideselfrepresentation.pdf



 dca027br.pdf



 dca119.pdf



 dccv037.pdf





Maryland District Court Appeal and Transcript Request

16 sources

These documents outline the procedures and requirements for pursuing appeals in Maryland courts, including the **District Court, Circuit Court, and the Appellate Court of Maryland**, formerly the Court of Special Appeals. They detail the **steps involved in filing a direct appeal or an application for leave to appeal**, distinguishing between the two processes. Key aspects covered include **filing deadlines, the content and transmission of the record on appeal (including transcripts and record extracts), payment and waiver of court costs and fees, and the potential for dismissal** if rules are not followed. Information is also provided on **access to confidential records and resources for self-represented litigants**.



Save to note



Add note



Audio Overview



Mind Map

Start typing...

16 sources



How do Maryland District Court appeals and transcript requests generally proceed?



Configure Chat

Notebooks can be customized to work as a virtual research assistant, a personal tutor, a shared knowledge-base/help center, and more.

Define your conversational style

☒ Default ☐ Analyst ☐ Guide ☐ Custom

Best for general purpose research and brainstorming tasks.

Choose your response length

☒ Default ☐ Longer ☐ Shorter



Maryland District Court Appeal and Transcript Request

16 sources

These documents outline the procedures and requirements for pursuing appeals in Maryland courts, including the **District Court, Circuit Court, and the Appellate Court of Maryland**, formerly the Court of Special Appeals. They detail the **steps involved in filing a direct appeal or an application for leave to appeal**, distinguishing between the two processes. Key aspects covered include **filing deadlines, the content and transmission of the record on appeal (including transcripts and record extracts), payment and waiver of court costs and fees, and the potential for dismissal** if rules are not followed. Information is also provided on **access to confidential records and resources for self-represented litigants**.

 Save to note



 Add note

 Audio Overview

 Mind Map

Start typing...

16 sources

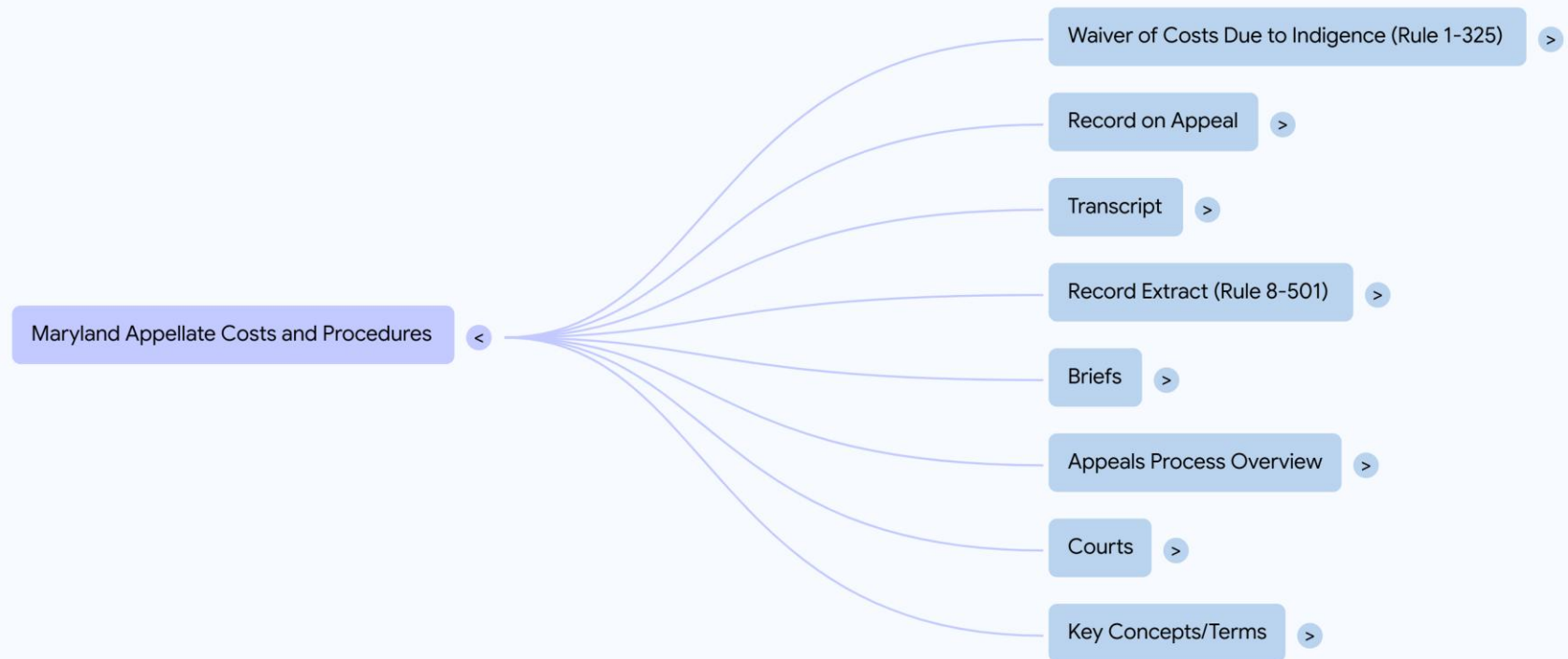


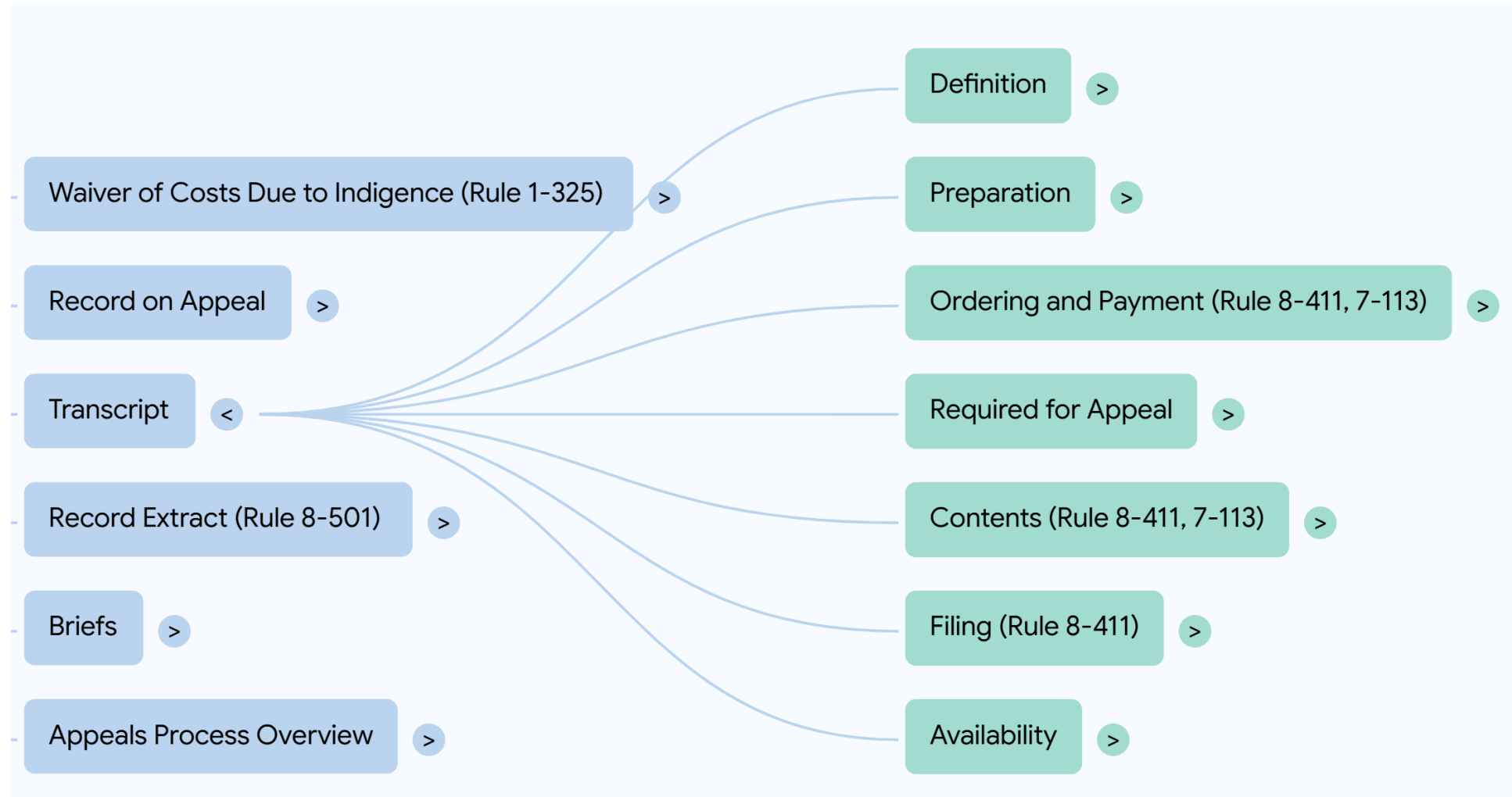
How do Maryland District Court appeals and transcript requests generally proceed?



Maryland Appellate Procedure Guide

Based on 16 sources





Discuss what these sources say about Preparation, in the larger context of Transcript.

Based on the sources provided, the concept of "Preparation" in the context of a Transcript in Maryland Appellate Costs and Procedures primarily refers to the process of creating the written document from the original recording of lower court proceedings, the associated costs, and the responsibilities for ensuring this preparation and its inclusion in the record.

Here's what the sources say about Transcript Preparation:

1. What is Prepared?

- A transcript is the **written version** of everything that was said during the trial or hearings in the lower court ¹
- Specifically, it involves the **transcription** of testimony ¹ ..., or that part of the testimony the parties agree is necessary ³

1. What is Prepared?

- A transcript is the **written version** of everything that was said during the trial or hearings in the lower court 1

- Specifically, it involves the testimony the parties agree

- It also includes a **transcript** recorded 1

- For recordings made by video unless the appellate court can determine that the recording is **complete and accurate** re

A Civil Appeal Information Report is not required in criminal cases, juvenile causes, appeals from guardianships terminating parental rights, appeals from actions for a writ of error coram nobis, and

applications and appeals by prisoners seeking relief related to confinement or conditions of confinement.

Review Md. Rules 8-205 & 8-206.

cosaguideselfrepresentation.pdf

Source guide

Review Md. Rule 8-205(c) for the precise due date.

The Civil Appeal Information Report is filed with the Clerk of the Court of Special Appeals. If you are the appellant, be sure to complete the form and the Certificate of Service on the last page. Also, attach a copy of the Notice of Appeal and a copy of the written order or judgment of the circuit court.

Failure to file the Civil Appeal Information Report on time may result in the dismissal of the appeal.

Sometime after the filing of the Civil Appeal Information Report, the Court of Special Appeals will enter an order directing the case to proceed without a pre-hearing or scheduling conference or directing the parties to appear for a pre-hearing or scheduling conference. Most cases will proceed without a pre-hearing or scheduling conference.

A Civil Appeal Information Report is not required in criminal cases, juvenile causes, appeals from guardianships terminating parental rights, appeals from actions for a writ of error coram nobis, and

applications and appeals by prisoners seeking relief related to confinement or conditions of confinement.

Review Md. Rules 8-205 & 8-206.

4. Transcripts The appellant must timely order and pay for all

transcripts of the lower court proceedings that are relevant to the Court of Special Appeals' review of the case on appeal. A transcript is the written record of everything that was said in the lower court during the trial or hearing. Rule 8-411(a) specifies what transcripts are required.



cosaguideselfrepresentation.pdf

◆ Source guide

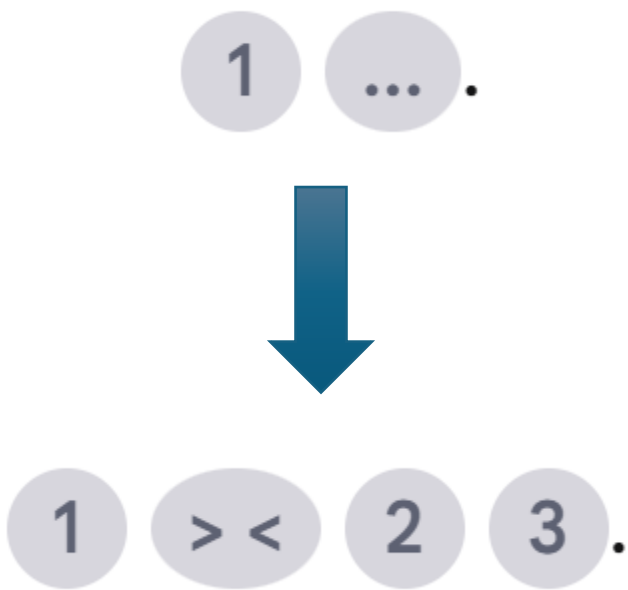
Summary

This guide from the Maryland Court of Special Appeals provides **essential information for non-lawyers navigating the appellate process in Maryland**. It clearly distinguishes between a **direct appeal** and an **application for leave to appeal**, explaining when each is required and the **strict deadlines and filing requirements** associated with both. The document outlines the **steps involved in pursuing an appeal**, from filing the initial notice or application to preparing necessary documents like the **record extract and briefs**, and understanding the court's decision and mandate. It also includes helpful resources such as a glossary, fee schedules, and sample forms to aid those representing themselves.

Key Topics

[Self-Representation G...](#)[Appellate Court Revi...](#)[Notice of App...](#)[Application for Le...](#)[Filing Requireme...](#)

NotebookLM



please distinguish the difference between preparation of transcripts when appealing from district court to circuit court, versus appealing from the circuit court to the appellate court

Based on the provided sources, there are notable differences in the preparation and handling of transcripts when appealing from the District Court to the Circuit Court compared to appealing from the Circuit Court to the Appellate Court (formerly the Court of Special Appeals) ¹

Here's a breakdown of the distinctions:

1. Appeals from District Court to Circuit Court:

- **When Required:** A transcript of the District Court proceeding is a required component of the record *only* for appeals in a civil action where the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000 (or \$2,500 if the case was filed prior to October 1, 2003), *if* the appeal is heard on the record ⁵ Not all appeals from District Court to Circuit Court require a transcript; this requirement is specific to certain civil cases heard on the record above a monetary threshold ⁵

What I use it for

- New article drafting
 - Learning about and synthesizing a new topic quickly
 - Preparing an outline
- Searching for a citation
- **Podcast feature is useful if topic is boring**

Other uses

- Compare different positions on a topic
- Compare specific clauses or terms in multiple contracts
- Brainstorm questions for discovery, witnesses, etc.

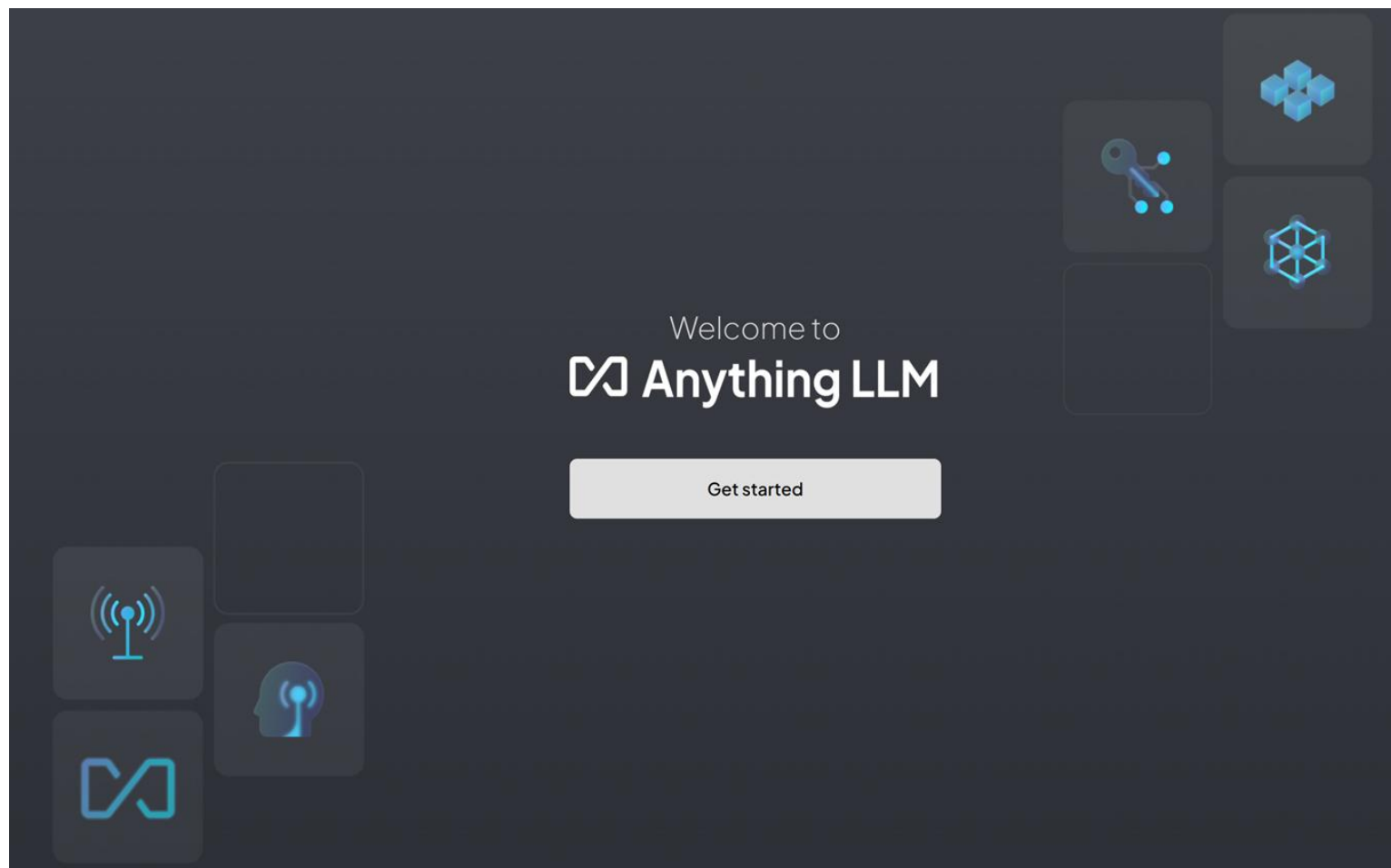
Observations

- Lots of sources is important
- Statements can come from the wrong context
- Remembering a project
 - **ONLY USE PUBLIC DATA!!**

Cost

- Free to use
 - Up to 50 sources per notebook
 - 500,000 words or up to 200MB for uploaded files
 - Share a notebook
- \$20 per month
 - Up to 300 sources per notebook
 - Share notebooks
 - Sharing controls (for example share only the chat)


Anything LLM





Anything LLM


LLM Preference


AnythingLLM can work with many LLM providers. This will be the service which handles chatting.


**OpenAI**
The standard option for most non-commercial use.

**Azure OpenAI**
The enterprise option of OpenAI hosted on Azure services.

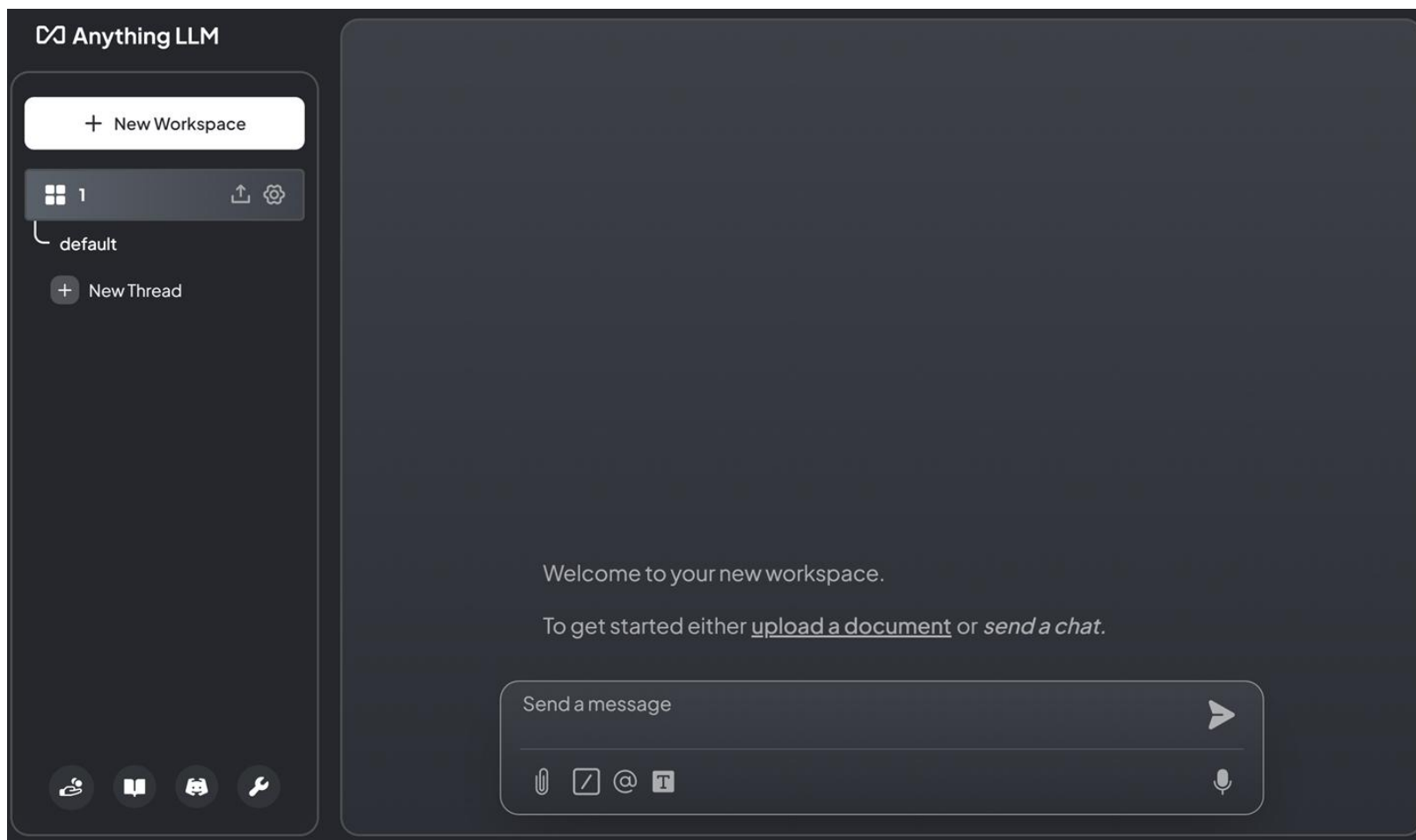
**Anthropic**
A friendly AI Assistant hosted by Anthropic.

**Gemini**
Google's largest and most capable AI model

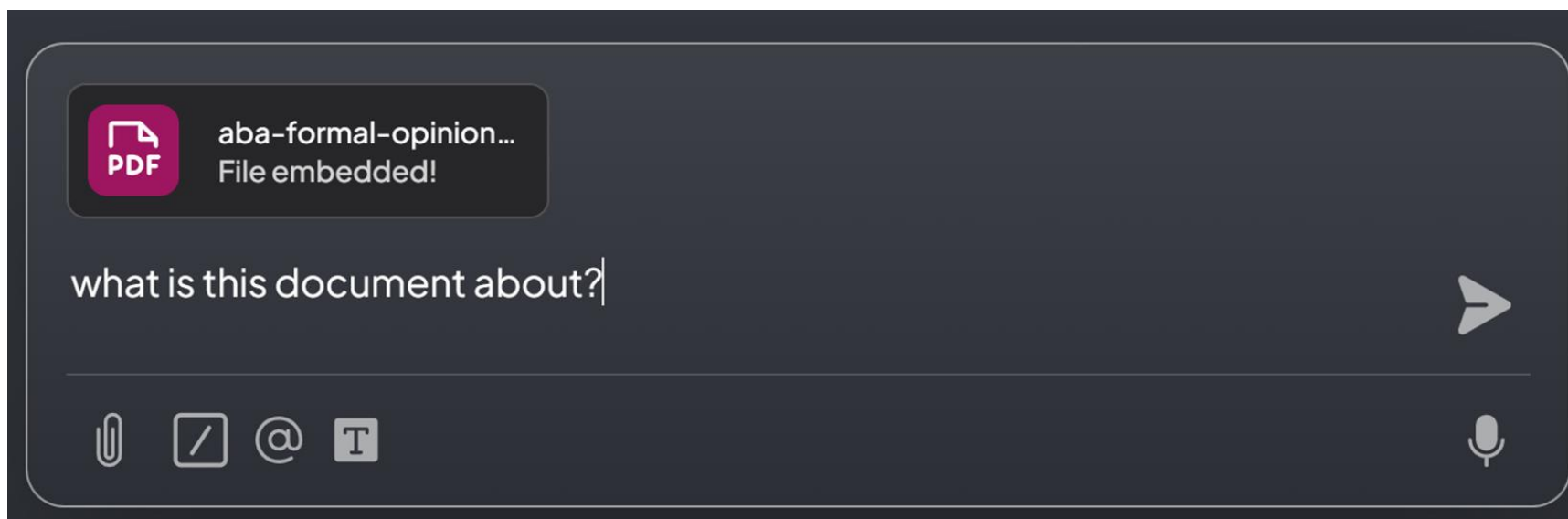
**HuggingFace**
Access 150,000+ open-source LLMs and the world's AI community

**Ollama**
Run LLMs locally on your own machine.

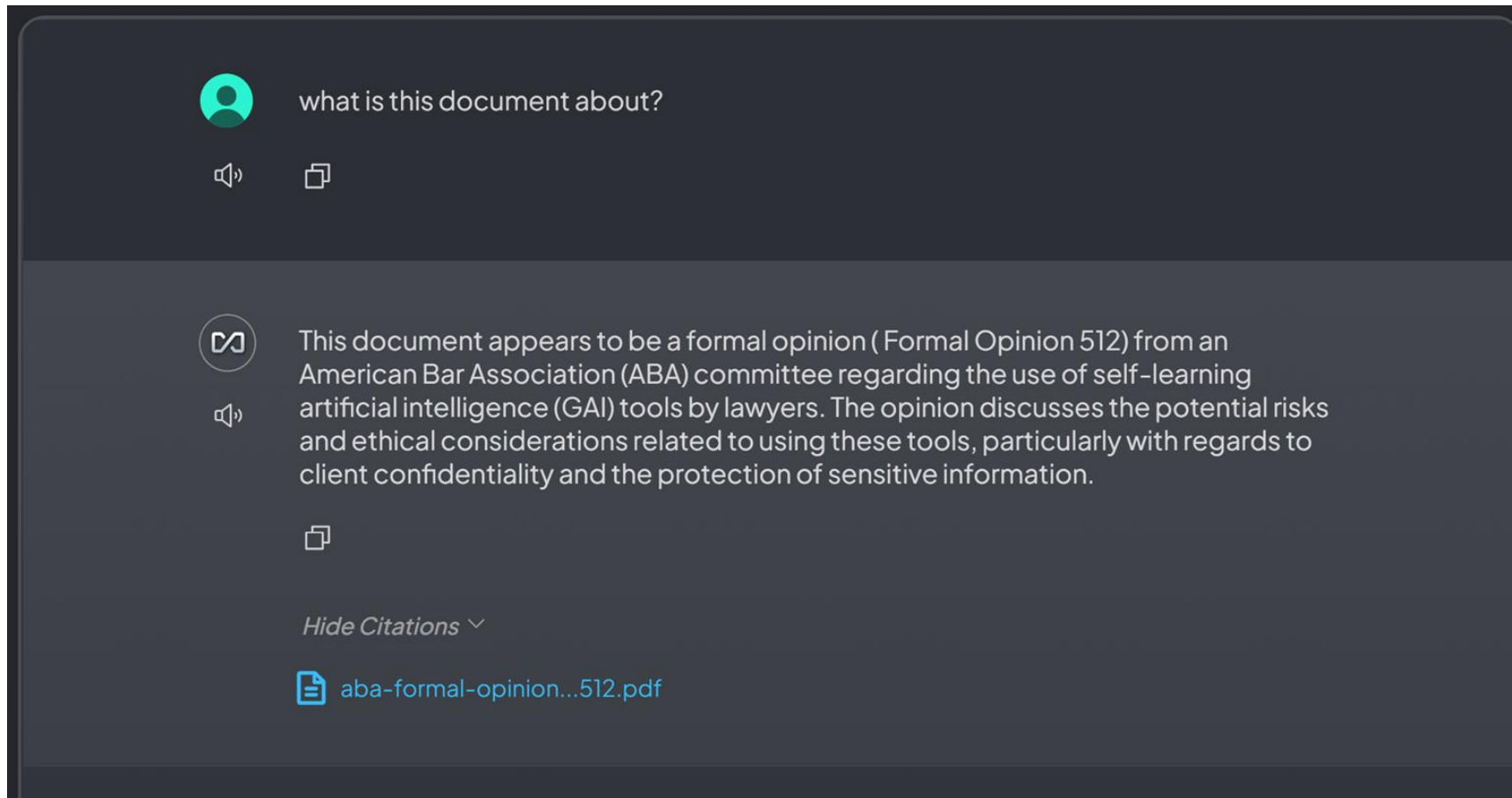
Anything LLM



Anything LLM



Anything LLM



Anything LLM

aba-formal-opinion-512.pdf

Referenced 4 times.

26
MODEL RULES R. 1.6; MODEL RULES R. 1.6 cmt. [3].

27
MODEL RULES R. 1.6(c).

28
ABA Formal Op. 477R, *supra* note 6, at 1 (A lawyer “may be required to take special security precautions to protect against the inadvertent or unauthorized disclosure of client information when ... the nature of the information requires a higher degree of security.”).

29
① 42% match

Anything LLM

Prompt

The prompt that will be used on this workspace. Define the context and instructions for the AI to generate a response. You should provide a carefully crafted prompt so the AI can generate a relevant and accurate response.

Given the following conversation, relevant context, and a follow up question, reply with an answer to the current question the user is asking. Return only your response to the question given the above information following the users instructions as needed.

Anything LLM

LLM Temperature

This setting controls how "creative" your LLM responses will be. The higher the number the more creative. For some models this can lead to incoherent responses when set too high.

Most LLMs have various acceptable ranges of valid values. Consult your LLM provider for that information.

0.7

MSBA Ethical Use Considerations

- Overview of Ethical Considerations for Attorney Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies
- Competence + Diligence
- Supervision + Responsibilities
- Confidentiality + GAI Risks
- Scope of Representation, Communication, + Fees
- Advertising + GAI-Generated Content
- Candor, Misrepresentation, + GAI

MSBA Ethical Use Considerations

Competence & Diligence

- Approach legal research with GenAI with caution
- Check the citations carefully
- Especially check other people's citations

MSBA Ethical Use Considerations

- [The Impact of Generative AI on Critical Thinking: Self-Reported Reductions in Cognitive Effort and Confidence Effects From a Survey of Knowledge Workers](#)
- "higher confidence in GenAI is associated with less critical thinking, while higher self-confidence is associated with more critical thinking."

MSBA Ethical Use Considerations

Supervision & Responsibilities

- Have a GenAI policy
- Talk about it, train staff about it, enforce it
- Update when needed – you'll encounter new situations at first that you didn't think about