Court Sherpa: A Navigation Layer for the Lost and Overwhelmed

Mission:

Help lost souls navigate the legal system in real time, using tools they actually have (like a smartphone), with empathy, clarity, and next-step specificity.

Key Goals:

1. Understand whats happening to them

2. Know what to do next

3. Know who is supposed to help them

4. Stay safe and on track, even in chaos

What the Sherpa Needs to Offer:

1. Hold Up This Paper to the App

- OCR + AI explanation

- Plain-English answers like: Youre being released. But you have a hearing on Thursday. Heres where to go and who to talk to.

2. Where Am I Supposed to Be?

- Pulls case info by name or number from public dockets

- Uses GPS: Youre in the right placego to Courtroom 2, take the escalator down.

3. Whos Helping Me?

- Checks public defender assignment (or tracks status)

- Option to message or intro call with assigned counsel (future version)

4. What If I Dont Understand What Just Happened?

- After a hearing: scan the minute entry

- Explanation like: You were found not guilty, but must still appear next week for a follow-up.

5. I Need Help Right Now

- Tap for human advocate or support

- Legal aid chatbot to guide steps without giving formal advice

Your Unique Insight:

Build for the overloadednot the organized. Not for LegalZoom users, but for people fresh out of holding, mentally foggy, with a phone at 3% battery. Those unsure if theyre being punished for something deeper.

Future Evolutions:

- Sherpa AI: Lightweight memory + court logic

- CourtBuddy Kiosk Mode: Jails, shelters, clinics

- Court Sherpa Tribe: Human volunteer network notified when someone needs navigation

Lets open-source it. Let people fork and remix it for justice, harm reduction, and digital empathy.