Assigned Co-Counsel: Product Strategy & Feature Roadmap

Building the Essential Practice Management Tool for NYC 18B Panel Attorneys

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Executive Summary

Assigned Co-Counsel has the opportunity to become the essential practice management and AI-assisted tool for the 3,000+ attorneys on NYC's 18B panel who handle Family Court (custody), Criminal Court, and Supreme Court (divorce) matters.

The Core Problem: 18B attorneys operate as solo practitioners handling high-volume, low-fee cases with no dedicated technology support. They struggle with:

- Voucher compliance and delayed payments
- Managing 50-150+ active cases simultaneously
- Document organization across multiple courts
- Legal research on tight time budgets
- Maintaining privilege in AI-assisted workflows

Our Solution: A purpose-built platform combining:

- AI-assisted drafting with legal research integration
- Practice-area-specific workflows (custody, criminal, divorce)
- Voucher compliance automation and fee optimization
- Privilege-protected document management
- HIPAA-compliant handling of sensitive records

Target Market:

- 3,000+ NYC 18B panel attorneys
- Expandable to 50,000+ assigned counsel nationwide
- $30-60M total addressable market

Competitive Moat: Enterprise legal AI tools (Harvey, CoCounsel) charge $500-2,000/user/month and ignore this market. We can deliver transformative value at $49-99/month.

Market Context: NYC 18B Panel {#market-context}

What is the 18B Panel?

Under County Law Article 18-B, New York counties must provide legal representation to indigent defendants. The NYC 18B panel consists of private attorneys who accept court assignments in:

Panel	Court	Case Types	Hourly Rate
Criminal	Criminal Court, Supreme Court	Misdemeanors, felonies, appeals	$75-158/hr
Family	Family Court	Custody, visitation, guardianship, neglect	$75-158/hr
Matrimonial	Supreme Court	Contested divorces, complex equitable distribution	$75-158/hr

Pain Points We Solve

1. Voucher Hell

- Vouchers rejected for "block billing" (combining tasks)
- Fee caps vary by case type and county
- Delays of 60-120 days for payment
- No automated compliance checking

Our Solution: Real-time voucher compliance, auto-itemization, county-specific fee cap validation

2. Case Overload

- Average 50-150 active matters
- Paper files or disorganized digital folders
- Missing deadlines across multiple courthouses
- No way to quickly recall case details

Our Solution: Unified case management with AI-powered quick recall ("What's the custody arrangement we proposed in the Martinez case?")

3. Research Time Crunch

- $75-158/hr doesn't cover extensive research

- Need quick access to Family Court Act, DRL, CPL, Penal Law
- Judge-specific tendencies matter enormously

Our Solution: Integrated legal research with NY-specific databases, instant statute lookup, judge intelligence

4. Document Chaos

- Discovery dumps (police reports, CPS records, medical records)
- No OCR or search capability
- Privilege risks when using AI tools
- HIPAA concerns with mental health/medical records

Our Solution: Secure document vault with OCR, privilege detection, PHI redaction, full-text search

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Competitive Landscape {#competitive-landscape}

Enterprise Legal AI (Not Our Competitors)

Product	Price	Target	Why They Don't Serve 18B
Harvey AI	$500-2K/user/mo	AmLaw 100 firms	Too expensive, BigLaw focus
Thomson Reuters CoCounsel	$200+/user/mo	Mid-large firms	Enterprise sales only
Clio Duo	$99+/user/mo	Small firms	General practice, no 18B features

Adjacent Tools (Partial Solutions)

Tool	What It Does	Gap

MyCase, Clio	Practice management	No 18B voucher support, no AI
ChatGPT/Claude	General AI	No legal databases, privilege risks
Westlaw/Lexis	Legal research	$400+/mo, no practice management
Google Docs	Document storage	No legal intelligence

Our Positioning

Assigned Co-Counsel = The only tool built specifically for assigned counsel work

- Voucher compliance ✓
- Practice area workflows ✓
- Privilege protection ✓
- Affordable pricing ✓
- NYC court-specific ✓

Current Product Assessment {#current-assessment}

What We Have (Strengths)

Feature	Status	Quality
AI Copilot	✅ Built	Functional - GROQ-powered chat
Divorce Workflow	✅ Built	Good - Step-by-step guidance
Voucher Drafting	✅ Built	Good - Compliance audit, block billing detection
Privilege Protection	✅ Built	Excellent - Full A/C and work product detection
PHI Scanner	✅ Built	Excellent - HIPAA Safe Harbor compliant

Case Management	✅ Built	Basic - List view only
Wiki/Knowledge Base	✅ Built	Basic - Static content
PSLF Tracking	✅ Built	Basic - UI exists

Critical Gaps

Gap	Impact	Priority
No legal research integration	Can't cite authority	🔴 Critical
No document storage/search	Can't analyze discovery	🔴 Critical
AI lacks case context	Generic responses	🔴 Critical
No custody workflow	Missing key practice area	🟡 High
No criminal workflow	Missing key practice area	🟡 High
No mobile app	Can't use in court	🟡 High
No calendar/deadlines	Missing case management basic	🟡 High

Feature Recommendations by Practice Area {#feature-recommendations}

A. Criminal Defense Features

A1. Criminal Workflow Modules

Arraignment Preparation

- Auto-generate bail application from case facts

- Criminal history impact analysis

- Checklist: ID verified, contact info, employment, ties to community

- Output: Bail memo, client interview notes template

Discovery Tracker

- CPL 245 automatic disclosure checklist

- Track what's been received vs. outstanding

- Flag when statutory deadlines pass

- Generate demand letters for missing items

Suppression Motion Builder

- Issue spotter: Miranda, search & seizure, identification

- Template selection based on facts

- Auto-populate with case-specific details

- Citation to relevant NY case law (People v. De Bour, Dunaway, etc.)

Plea Negotiation Assistant

- Display sentencing guidelines for charges

- Compare offer to likely trial outcome

- Immigration consequences checker (for non-citizens)

- Generate plea allocution script

A2. Criminal-Specific AI Prompts

```
Pre-built prompts for Copilot:

  • "Analyze this police report for Fourth Amendment issues"

  • "What are the elements the DA must prove for [charge]?"

  • "Draft a CPL 245 demand letter for outstanding discovery"

  • "What's the sentencing exposure for these charges?"

  • "Identify inconsistencies between witness statements"
```

A3. Criminal Legal Database

Must include searchable access to:

- NY Penal Law (all sections)

- Criminal Procedure Law

- Vehicle & Traffic Law (for DWI/traffic crimes)

- Key suppression cases (De Bour, Hollman, Dunaway, etc.)

- Sentencing guidelines and ranges

B. Family Court / Custody Features

B1. Custody Workflow Modules

Initial Intake & Assessment

- Custody type selector: sole, joint, visitation schedule

- Best interests factors checklist (DRL § 240)

- Domestic violence screening questionnaire

- Child support calculator integration

Custody Petition Drafter

- Template for modification, initial custody, visitation

- Auto-populate parties, children, relevant facts

- Generate proposed parenting schedule

- Include required statutory language

Trial Preparation

- Witness list generator

- Exhibit organizer

- Cross-examination question builder for opposing party

- Lincoln hearing preparation (child testimony)

Forensic Evaluation Response

- Analyze forensic report for weaknesses

- Generate response brief template

- Identify areas to challenge expert

B2. Custody-Specific AI Prompts

```
Pre-built prompts:
    • "What are the best interests factors under DRL 240?"

    • "Draft a proposed parenting time schedule for [scenario]"

    • "Analyze this forensic report for potential challenges"

    • "What's the standard for modification of custody?"

    • "How do NY courts handle relocation requests?"
```

B3. Family Law Database

Must include:

- Domestic Relations Law
- Family Court Act
- Key custody cases (Tropea, Bliss v. Ach, etc.)
- Child support standards
- UCCJEA jurisdictional rules

C. Matrimonial / Divorce Features

C1. Divorce Workflow Modules (Expand Existing)

Financial Discovery Organizer

- Statement of Net Worth builder
- Asset/liability tracker
- Income analysis from tax returns
- Hidden asset red flags identifier

Equitable Distribution Calculator

- Classify assets (marital vs. separate)

- Valuation tracking

- Distribution scenario modeling

- Maintenance calculator (DRL § 236)

Settlement Agreement Drafter

- Template-based generation

- Clause library for common provisions

- Child support/maintenance calculations included

- QDRO flagging for retirement assets

Trial Notebook Builder

- Organize exhibits by issue

- Witness examination outlines

- Legal memoranda by topic

- Closing argument framework

C2. Divorce-Specific AI Prompts

```
Pre-built prompts:
  • "Calculate maintenance under the DRL formula"

  • "What factors affect equitable distribution of [asset]?"

  • "Draft a demand for financial discovery"

  • "Analyze this Statement of Net Worth for red flags"

  • "What's the law on dissipation of marital assets?"
```

D. Cross-Practice Features

D1. Document Vault (Critical)

Core Capabilities:

- Unlimited document storage per case

- PDF, image, Word, Excel support

- Automatic OCR for scanned documents

- Full-text search across all documents

- Folder organization by case/document type

AI-Powered Features:

- "Find all references to [witness name] across discovery"

- "Extract key dates from these documents"

- "Summarize this 50-page CPS report"

- Auto-generate document index

Security Features:

- Privilege detection before AI processing

- PHI scanning and redaction

- Audit trail for all access

- Client-matter segregation

D2. Legal Research Integration

Free Sources (Implement First):

- CourtListener API (case law)

- NY Courts eCourts (court records)

- NY Legislature (statutes)

- Google Scholar Cases

Premium Sources (Phase 2):

- Fastcase (often free through bar associations)

- Casetext partnership potential

- Westlaw/Lexis API (expensive, evaluate ROI)

Citation Features:

- Every AI response includes citations

- One-click verification of cited cases

- "Find more cases like this" feature

- Shepardize/KeyCite equivalent alerts

D3. Case Intelligence & Memory

Per-Case Context:

- Client details (name, contact, key facts)

- Case status and next court date

- Opposing counsel and judge

- Key documents tagged

- Previous Copilot conversations about this case

AI Memory:

- "What did we discuss about the Johnson custody case?"

- "What was our strategy for the suppression motion?"

- Automatically reference case context in responses

D4. Calendar & Deadline Management

Court Date Tracking:

- Sync with court calendars where available

- Automatic reminders (7 days, 1 day, morning of)

- Travel time calculator to courthouse

Statutory Deadlines:

- CPL 245 discovery timelines

- Motion filing deadlines

- Appeal windows

- Statute of limitations tracking

Integration:

- Google Calendar sync

- Outlook sync

- iCal export

D5. Voucher Optimization Suite

Compliance Engine:

- Real-time block billing detection

- County-specific fee cap checking

- Activity code suggestions

- Narrative quality scoring

Analytics:

- Historical payment velocity by county

- Average voucher amount by case type

- Rejection rate tracking

- Cash flow forecasting

Auto-Itemization:

- AI breaks down combined entries

- Suggests compliant descriptions

- Maintains total time while improving descriptions

D6. Mobile Application

Core Features:

- Case lookup and quick facts

- Court date calendar

- Voice notes (transcribed to case file)

- Document camera (scan and OCR)

- Quick Copilot access

Court-Specific:

- Courthouse directory

- Judge information

- Courtroom locations

- WiFi passwords (crowdsourced)

Technical Architecture {#technical-architecture}

Current Stack

- **Frontend:** Next.js 16 + React + Tailwind CSS
- **Backend:** Firebase (Firestore, Auth, Hosting)
- **AI:** GROQ API (Llama 3.3 70B)
- **Deployment:** Firebase Hosting

Recommended Additions

AI Layer

```
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│         AI Orchestration        │
├─────────────┬─────────┬─────────┤
│   GROQ      │  OpenAI │ Anthropic │
│  (Fast)     │ (Quality) │ (Complex) │
└─────────────┴─────────┴─────────┘

          │

          ▼

┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│         Context Injection       │
├─────────────┬─────────┬─────────┤
```

```
| Case Facts  | Legal DB    | Documents  |


 └─────────────┴─────────────┴─────────────┘
```

Multi-Model Strategy:

- GROQ (Llama): Fast responses, simple queries

- OpenAI GPT-4: Complex reasoning, document analysis

- Anthropic Claude: Long documents, nuanced legal analysis

Document Processing Pipeline

```
Upload → OCR → Privilege Check → PHI Scan → Index → Store
                    |                 |


                    ▼                 ▼


            If flagged:      If found:


            Block AI use     Auto-redact
```

Legal Research Architecture

```
User Query
    |


    ▼


 ┌─────────────────────────┐


 |   Query Classifier    |
```

```
|  (statute? case? both?)|


  └─────────────────────────┘



      |



      ├──▶ Statute DB (local) ──▶ Return sections



      |



      ├──▶ Case API (CourtListener) ──▶ Return cases



      |



      └──▶ AI Synthesis ──▶ Formatted response with citations
```

Data Model Extensions

```
// Case with full context

interface Case {

  id: string;

  client: ClientInfo;

  caseType: 'criminal' | 'custody' | 'divorce';

  court: CourtInfo;

  judge: JudgeInfo;
```

```typescript
  charges?: CriminalCharge[];        // Criminal

  children?: ChildInfo[];            // Custody

  assets?: AssetInfo[];              // Divorce

  documents: DocumentRef[];

  vouchers: VoucherRef[];

  conversations: ConversationRef[]; // AI chat history

  deadlines: Deadline[];

  status: CaseStatus;

  createdAt: Timestamp;

  updatedAt: Timestamp;

}


// Document with metadata

interface Document {

  id: string;

  caseId: string;

  filename: string;
```

```
  fileType: string;

  uploadedAt: Timestamp;

  ocrText?: string;

  privilegeStatus: PrivilegeClassification;

  phiStatus: PHIScanResult;

  tags: string[];

  summary?: string;  // AI-generated

}


// Conversation for memory

interface Conversation {

  id: string;

  caseId?: string;   // Optional case context

  messages: Message[];

  createdAt: Timestamp;

  summary?: string;  // AI-generated for recall

}
```

Prioritized Implementation Roadmap {#roadmap}

Phase 1: Foundation (Weeks 1-4)

Goal: Make the AI actually useful for legal work

Week	Feature	Effort	Impact
1	**Citation mode toggle**	**2 days**	**High**
1	NY statute database (CPL, PL, DRL, FCA)	3 days	High
2	CourtListener API integration	4 days	High
2	Case context injection to Copilot	2 days	High
3	Document vault (upload, store, organize)	5 days	Critical
4	Document OCR + full-text search	5 days	Critical

Deliverable: Users can upload documents, search them, and get AI responses with legal citations.

Phase 2: Practice Workflows (Weeks 5-8)

Goal: Guided workflows for each practice area

Week	Feature	Effort	Impact
5	**Criminal arraignment workflow**	**4 days**	**High**
5	Criminal discovery tracker	3 days	High

6	Custody intake workflow	4 days	High
6	Custody petition drafter	3 days	High
7	Expand divorce workflow	3 days	Medium
7	Financial discovery organizer	4 days	Medium
8	Motion template library	5 days	High

Deliverable: Complete guided workflows for criminal, custody, and divorce matters.

Phase 3: Intelligence (Weeks 9-12)

Goal: Make the system smart about your cases

Week	Feature	Effort	Impact
9	**Document analysis ("review tables")**	**5 days**	**High**
9	Chronology builder	3 days	Medium
10	Case memory system	5 days	High
10	Cross-case search	2 days	Medium
11	Calendar + deadline tracking	5 days	High
12	Judge intelligence database	5 days	Medium

Deliverable: AI remembers case context, analyzes documents at scale, tracks deadlines.

Phase 4: Mobile & Scale (Weeks 13-16)

Goal: Accessible anywhere, production-ready

Week	Feature	Effort	Impact

13-14	Mobile app (React Native)	10 days	High
15	Advanced voucher analytics	5 days	Medium
15	Multi-attorney collaboration	3 days	Medium
16	Performance optimization	5 days	High
16	Security audit + hardening	3 days	Critical

Deliverable: Production-ready platform with mobile app.

Business Model & Pricing {#business-model}

Pricing Strategy

Tier	Price	Features
Basic	$49/mo	Copilot, 1 workflow, 5GB docs, basic voucher
Professional	$79/mo	All workflows, 25GB docs, full voucher suite, calendar
Unlimited	$99/mo	Everything + priority support, unlimited docs, API access

Why This Pricing Works

- **Comparable to:** Netflix ($15) + Spotify ($10) + cloud storage ($10) = $35
- **Value delivered:** 10+ hours saved/month × $75/hr = $750 value
- **Competition:** Harvey at $500+/mo, even basic legal software is $100+/mo
- **Break-even:** ~500 subscribers at $79 avg = $39,500 MRR

Revenue Projections

Year	Subscribers	MRR	ARR
Y1	500	$40K	$480K
Y2	2,000	$160K	$1.9M
Y3	5,000	$400K	$4.8M

Distribution Channels

- **NYC Bar Association** - Partnership for member discount
- **18B Panel Administrators** - Direct outreach
- **Legal Aid Society** - Referral program
- **CLE Programs** - Demo at continuing education
- **Word of mouth** - Referral incentives

Success Metrics {#success-metrics}

Product Metrics

Metric	Target (6 mo)	Target (12 mo)
Monthly Active Users	200	1,000
Cases Created	2,000	15,000
Documents Uploaded	10,000	100,000
AI Queries/Day	500	5,000
Vouchers Processed	1,000	10,000

User Outcomes

Outcome	Measurement	Target
Time saved per week	User survey	5+ hours
Voucher acceptance rate	Track rejections	95%+
Payment velocity	Days to payment	-20%
User satisfaction	NPS score	50+

Technical Metrics

Metric	Target
Uptime	99.9%
Page load time	<2 sec
AI response time	<5 sec
Document OCR accuracy	95%+

Appendix: Quick Implementation Guides

A. Adding Citation Mode

```
// lib/citationPrompt.ts

export const CITATION_SYSTEM_PROMPT =


You are Assigned Co-Counsel AI, a legal assistant for 18B panel attorneys.
```

```
CRITICAL REQUIREMENT: You MUST cite legal authority for every legal claim.


Citation formats:


  • Statutes: [CPL § 710.20] or [DRL § 236(B)(5)]

  • Cases: [People v. De Bour, 40 N.Y.2d 210 (1976)]

  • Regulations: [22 NYCRR § 1200.0]


If you cannot find supporting authority, explicitly state:


"I cannot locate specific authority for this proposition."


Never fabricate citations. If unsure, say so.


;
```

B. Document Vault Schema

```
// Firestore structure

/users/{userId}/cases/{caseId}/documents/{docId}


{

  filename: string,


  storagePath: string,  // Firebase Storage reference


  uploadedAt: Timestamp,
```

```
    fileSize: number,

    mimeType: string,

    ocrComplete: boolean,

    ocrText: string | null,

    privilegeCheck: {

      status: 'pending' | 'safe' | 'privileged' | 'review',

      type: PrivilegeType | null,

      checkedAt: Timestamp

    },

    phiCheck: {

      status: 'pending' | 'clean' | 'redacted',

      foundCount: number,

      checkedAt: Timestamp

    },

    tags: string[],

    summary: string | null  // AI-generated
```

```
}
```

C. CourtListener Integration

```
// lib/courtListener.ts

const COURTLISTENER_API = 'https://www.courtlistener.com/api/rest/v3';


export async function searchCases(query: string, jurisdiction: string = 'ny') {

  const response = await fetch(

    ${COURTLISTENER_API}/search/?q=${encodeURIComponent(query)}&court=${jurisdiction},

    {

      headers: {

        'Authorization': Token ${process.env.COURTLISTENER_API_KEY}

      }

    }

  );

  return response.json();

}


export async function getCaseById(id: string) {
```

```
    const response = await fetch(${COURTLISTENER_API}/opinions/${id}/);


    return response.json();


  }
```

Contact & Next Steps

Immediate Actions:

- Review this document with development team
- Prioritize Phase 1 features
- Set up CourtListener API access
- Begin citation mode implementation

Questions?

Contact the product team to discuss priorities, technical approach, or timeline adjustments.

This document is confidential and intended for internal use only.