



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courts: Interim Guidelines for Legal Professionals

1 message

New Mexico Courts <newmexicocourts@nmcourts.gov>

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Reply-To: newmexicocourts@nmcourts.gov

To: "nmcourts-grp@nmcourts.gov" <nmcourts-grp@nmcourts.gov>



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courts

Good morning members of the Judiciary,

To help in addressing matters involving the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), linked are copies of the interim AI Guidelines for Legal Professionals, which were finalized last year, and a March 2026 memorandum from the Chief Justice about the use of AI note-taking applications.

While Artificial Intelligence is evolving, ethical duties remain the same for legal professionals. AI Interim Guidelines for Legal Professionals must be used by legal professionals until formal AI policies are adopted.

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Supreme Court Memorandum on AI Note-taking applications

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This email was sent to the entire judiciary. Please DO NOT use REPLY-ALL to reply to this email. This could cause unneeded spam to all court employees. Thank you.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
MEMORANDUM

**TO: ALL JUSTICES, JUDGES, AND JUDICIAL BRANCH
EMPLOYEES**

FROM: CHIEF JUSTICE DAVID K. THOMSON 

RE: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) NOTE-TAKING

DATE: MARCH 16, 2026

This memorandum serves as official direction to all justices, judges, and judicial branch employees regarding the use of any third-party artificial intelligence (AI) note-taking applications during the course of any in-person or virtual meetings. These applications are not part of any New Mexico Judicial Branch approved list of applications or software.

All third-party AI note-taking applications *are prohibited* for use during all meetings. This measure is intended to ensure data privacy, confidentiality, and the potential misuse of sensitive information. Justices, Judges, and NMJB employees have the authority and my direction to remove any meeting participant who is using AI note-taking in a virtual meeting.

All Chief Judges and CEOs are ordered to distribute this memorandum to all judges, hearing officers, and staff.

Reported violations of the Memorandum may result in disciplinary action.

cc: The New Mexico Supreme Court Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts.



New Mexico Courts

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courts: Interim Guidelines for Legal Professionals

Artificial Intelligence is evolving - but your ethical duties remain the same. Until formal AI policies are adopted, all legal professionals must:

Follow the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct

AI tools, including generative tools like ChatGPT, do not replace your professional judgment or ethical obligations. Key reminders, but not an exhaustive list:

- **Rule 1-011 (Signing of Pleadings):** The signature of an attorney constitutes a certificate that the attorney has read the pleading, motion, or other paper; that to the best of the attorney's knowledge, information, and belief, there is good ground to support it.
- **Rule 16-302 (Candor to the Tribunal):** Verify AI-generated content. Never rely on it for case citations or legal arguments without checking original sources.
- **Rule 16-101 (Competence):** Understand the technology you use and its risks.
- **Rule 16-104 (Client Communication):** Disclose your use of AI tools if they impact legal advice or case handling.
- **Rule 16-106 (Confidentiality):** Do not enter client data or privileged information into AI platforms without informed consent, or taking reasonable steps to insure the continued confidentiality of that information.

Comply with Disciplinary Board Ethics Advisory Opinions ([Formal Opinion: 2024-004, Using Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law](#))

The New Mexico Disciplinary Board Ethics Advisory Committee has emphasized that:

- Attorneys are fully responsible for the use of AI tools in their practice.
- Misuse of AI that results in misconduct or harm may lead to disciplinary action.

Practical Interim Tips:

- ✓ Double-check all AI-generated text, citations, or summaries.
- ✓ Use AI for drafting ideas, not final legal analysis.
- ✓ Document how you're using AI in your workflow.
- ✓ When in doubt, consult your supervisor or ethics counsel.

 **Remember: Confidentiality, Accuracy, and Integrity are Non-Negotiable.**