

AI & Law: A Practical Guide



Joshua Weaver

[we4v3r](#) on X

- Director, Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator (TOJI)
- Background in technology and startups before becoming an attorney
- Founder of multiple companies, portfolio of past clients includes NextGen, Chick-Fil-A, U.S.A.F., dozens of startups
- Speaks on the intersection between law and technology
- Passionate about improving Access to Justice and making law better

Fundamentals of AI

Demystifying AI and dispelling some common myths.



WHAT IS AI?





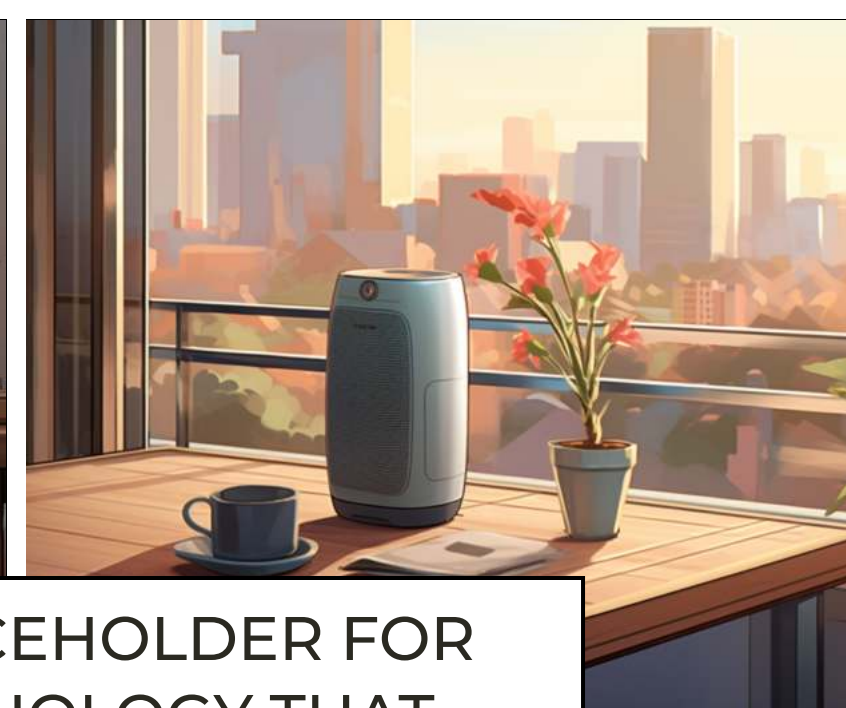
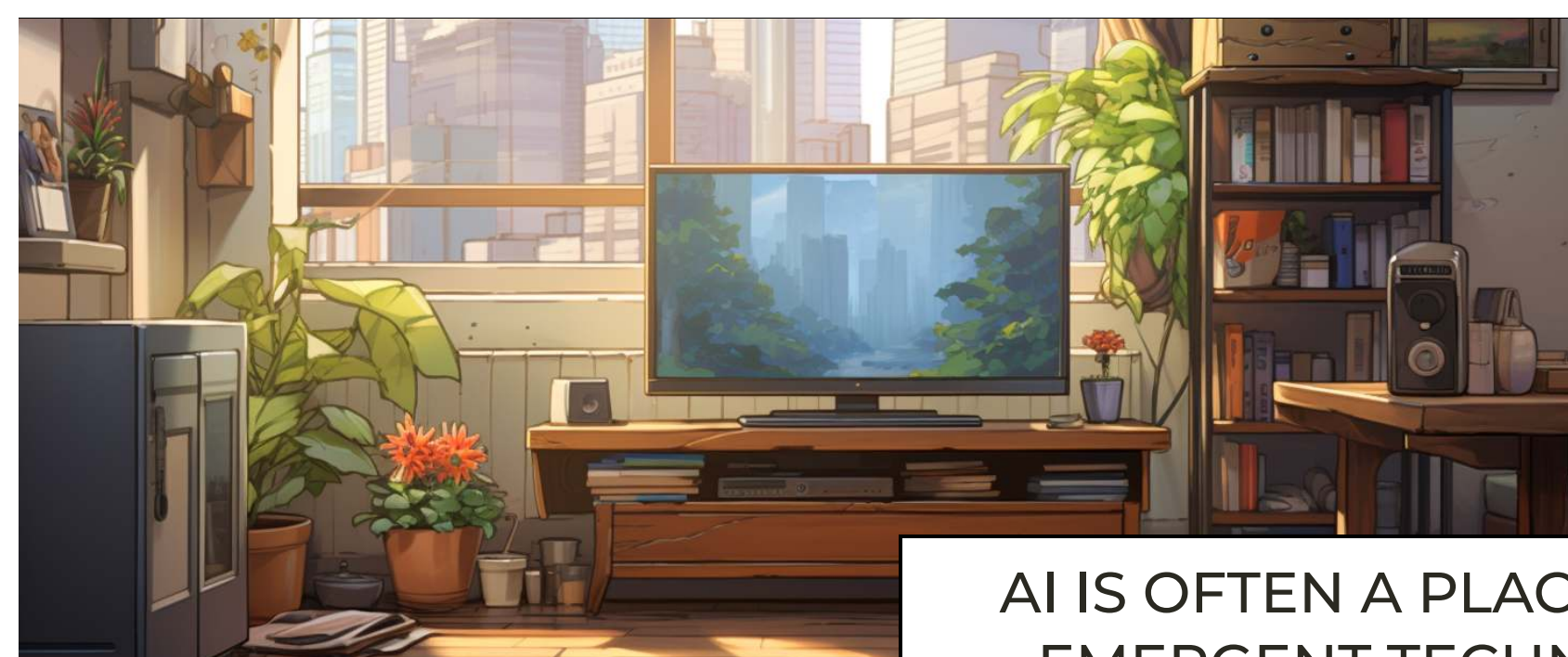
WHAT IS AI?

A MACHINE THAT MAKES DECISIONS AND
PRODUCES OUTPUT SIMILAR TO A HUMAN

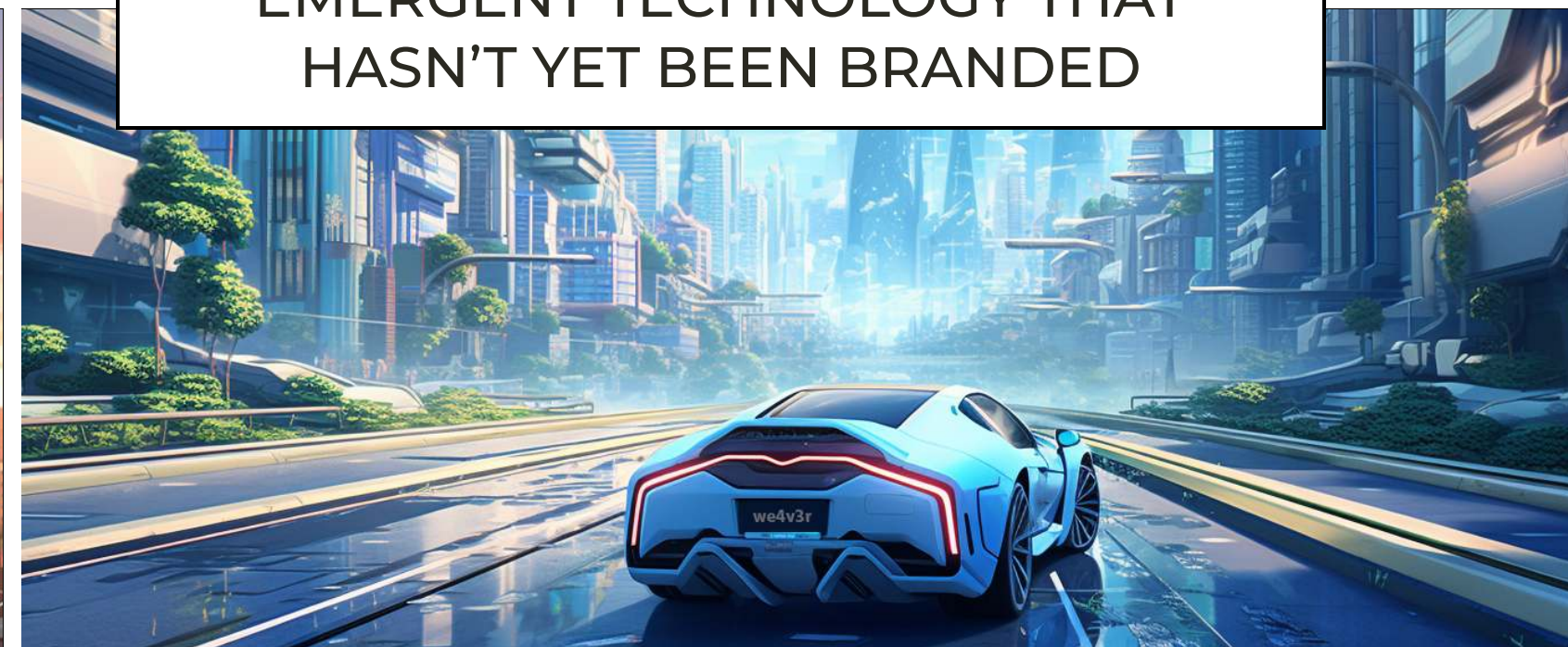


WHAT WILL
AI BECOME?

ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE (AGI) ->
ARTIFICIAL SUPER INTELLIGENCE (ASI)



AI IS OFTEN A PLACEHOLDER FOR
EMERGENT TECHNOLOGY THAT
HASN'T YET BEEN BRANDED





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MACHINE LEARNING

DEEP LEARNING

GENERATIVE AI

LLMs & Agentic AI



Deterministic vs Probabilistic

Computing

- **Traditional Software (Deterministic Computing)**
 - Hyper-literal
 - Rule-based system
 - Static logic
 - Requires explicit programming
 - Fixed outputs
 - Highly predictable
- **AI (Probabilistic Computing)**
 - Adaptive to new information
 - Flexible within constraints
 - Dynamic logic
 - Contextual understanding
 - Creative (bad, acceptable, great)
 - Less predictable

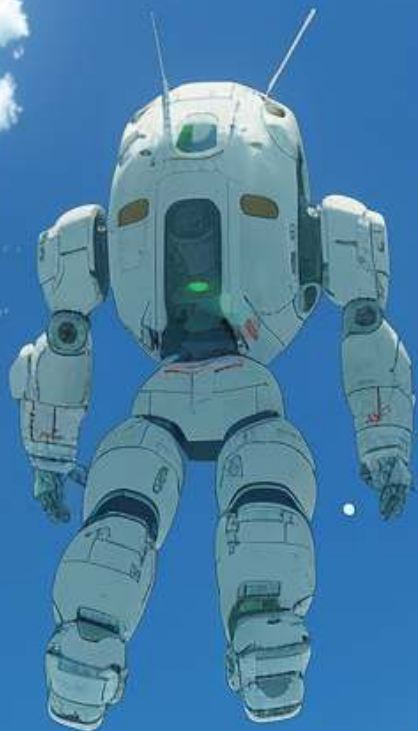


Mirages or Marvels?

Which is it?

- **Hallucination Machine:**
When AI produces a persuasive yet false solution, leading you astray.
- **Dream Machine:**
When AI uncovers a groundbreaking insight, turning complexity into clarity.

WILL WE EVER HAVE ONE
WITHOUT THE OTHER?




A white space capsule with two antennae and a central window is floating in a bright blue sky filled with white, fluffy clouds. The scene is framed by lush green foliage and trees on the left and right sides. Numerous pink and white petals are falling from the sky, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. In the lower portion of the image, several small, dark objects resembling space debris or satellites are visible against the clouds.

THE SKY IS BLUE.



THE SKY IS A CANVAS
WHERE DUSK PAINTS ITS
HUES, A SYMPHONY IN
GRADIENTS OF PINK AND
BLUES.



THE SKY IS A CANVAS
PAINTED WITH WHISPERS
OF CLOUDS, A SERENE
EXPANSE IN SHADES OF
TRANQUIL BLUES.

How does ChatGPT work?

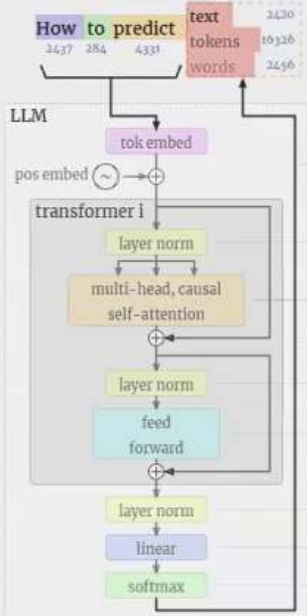
“GPT” stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer



For an excellent, interactive demonstration, see: <https://bbycroft.net/llm>

Chapter: Overview

Table of Contents



- Intro
- Introduction**
- Preliminaries
- Components
 - Embedding
 - Layer Norm
 - Self Attention
 - Projection
 - MLP
 - Transformer
 - Softmax
 - Output

Welcome to the walkthrough of the GPT large language model! Here we'll explore the model *nano-gpt*, with a mere 85,000 parameters.

Its goal is a simple one: take a sequence of six letters:

CBABBC

and sort them in alphabetical order, i.e. to "ABBCC".

Press Space to continue

We call each of these letters a *token*, and the set of the model's different tokens make up its *vocabulary*:

token	A	B	C
index	0	1	2

From this table, each token is assigned a number, its *token index*. And now we can enter this sequence of numbers into the model:

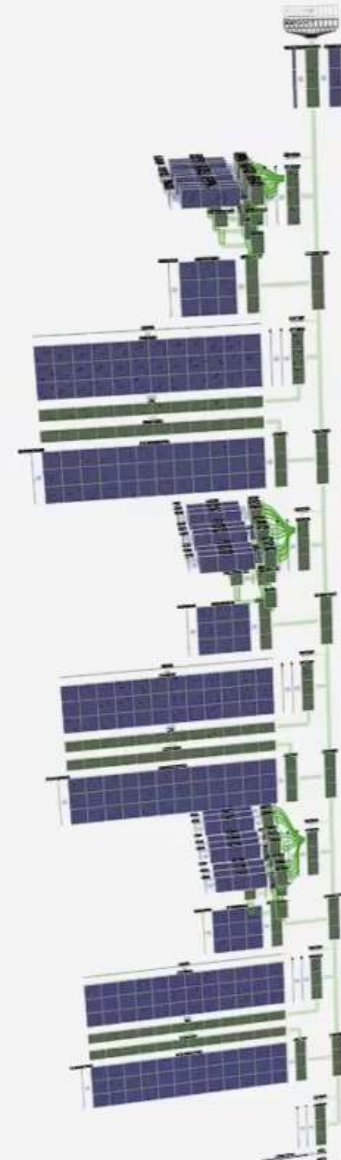
210112

In the 3d view, each green cell represents a number being processed, and each blue cell is a weight.

GPT-2 (small) nano-gpt GPT-2 (XL) GPT-3

nano-gpt

n_params = 85,584



Ethics of AI in Law

What is reasonable?





Ethical Considerations

for lawyers

- Duty of Technology Competency
- Duty of Confidentiality
- Professionalism in Truth and Competency
- Malpractice
- Unlicensed Practice of Law
- Reasonable Fees



Data Privacy & Security

What is reasonable?

- Do not use free software
- Pay for enterprise / team software
- Read the privacy policy
- Confirm that you have opted out of sharing your data to improve the model



THE BILLABLE
HOUR IS DEAD!

LONG LIVE THE
BILLABLE HOUR?

Tools in AI

A survey of popular AI tools and how to start applying those tools in everyday life.





How GenAI Is Being Used Today

the tip of the iceberg

Reading

- NLP powers human-like understanding of input
- Context and memory is a large leap forward from search
- Comprehensive mastery of information previously impossible

Learning

- Access universal human Knowledge
- Endlessly patient, positive, and engaged partner in learning
- Conversational learning experience, leverages nuances of language and semantics

Operating

- Can exist as a layer in every day communications
- Boosts effectiveness and efficiency
- Empowers workers to do more and expand skillsets in ways previously unimaginable

Drafting

- Substantive drafting capabilities
- Eliminates blank page paralysis
- 10-80-10 GenAI rule: you do 10% thinking and planning, GenAI does 80% of the work, you do 10% tidying up



Survey of Popular GenAI Tools

for various modalities

Text

- **ChatGPT o1 Preview - OpenAI**
- Bing (ChatGPT) - Microsoft
- Gemini - Google
- **Claude 3.5 Sonnet - Anthropic**
- Grok - X
- **Perplexity - ChatGPT or Claude**

Images

- Midjourney
- DALLE-2 - OpenAI
- Stable Diffusion
- Magnific
- Adobe Firefly / Photoshop

Audio

- ChatGPT
- ElevenLabs
- Fathom
- Humane AI Pin
- Rabbit r1

Video

- HeyGen
- Runway
- Sora
- Visla

Playground

Chat

Completions

DALL-E (Preview)

Management

Deployments

Models

Data files

Quotas

Content filters (Preview)

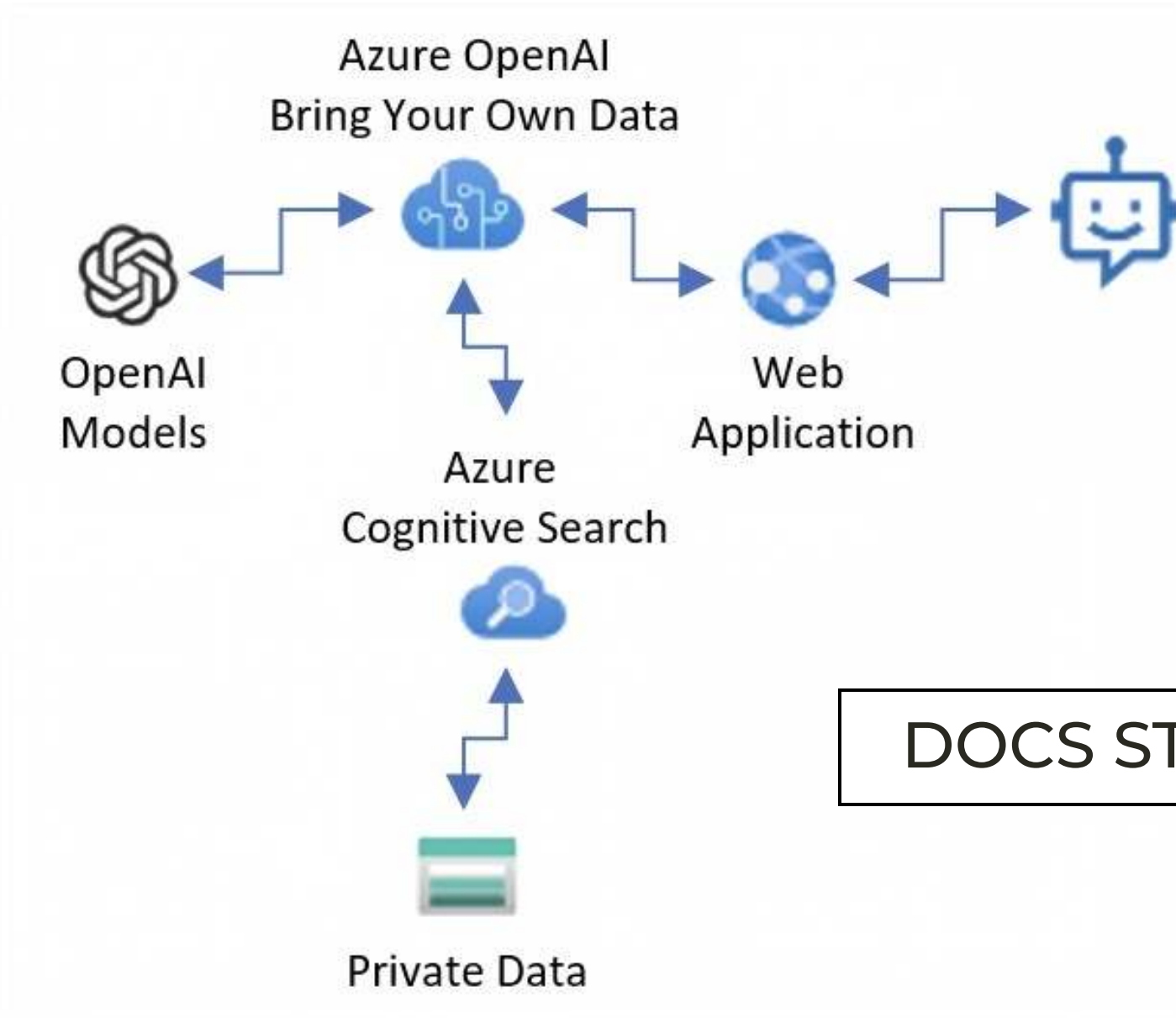
Chat session

✕ Clear chat 📄 View code Show raw JSON



Start chatting

Test your assistant by sending queries below. Then adjust your assistant setup to improve the assistant's responses.



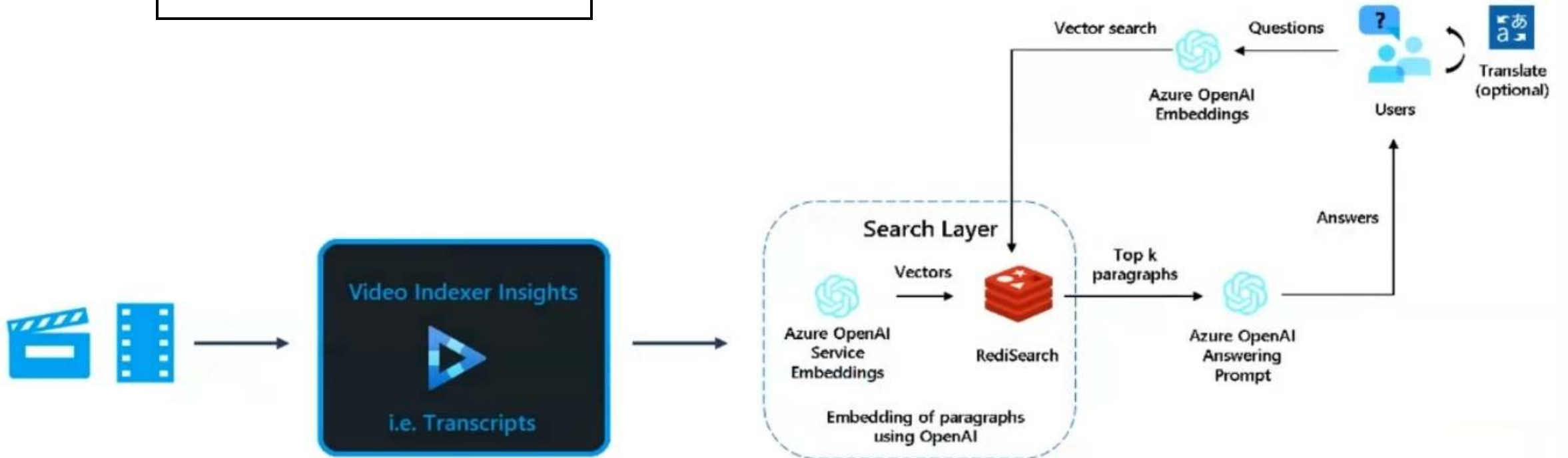
Azure Video Indexer + OpenAI

Generative AI search on media transcripts

Fardau van Neerden
Sr. Program Manager



VIDEO STACK



ChatGPT **PLUS**

Help me study

vocabulary for a college entrance exam

Brainstorm edge cases

for a function with birthdate as input, horoscope as output

Design a database schema

for an online merch store

Make up a story

about Sharky, a tooth-brushing shark superhero



Send a message



Where knowledge begins

What I

☰ Focus ⊕ Attach

● Copilot



how might ai change the way legal cases are resolved ↵


what are some concerns that chief justice roberts has about ai in the courts ↵

what are some potential benefits of ai in the legal field ↵

how does the number of stars in the milky way compare to other galaxies ↵

what is the estimated number of planets in the milky way ↵

how do astronomers estimate the number of stars in the milky way ↵



No file is open

Create new note (Ctrl + N)

Go to file (Ctrl + O)

See recent files (Ctrl + O)

Close

Hi, I'm ChatGPT with access to your notes via Smart Connections. Ask me a question about your notes and I'll try to answer it.



Hi Joshua, lets get started 😊

Type what you'd like to learn and get an original study plan
personalized for you.

Teach me comput

Let's go

What about existing software?

CASE STUDIES

What can you use today and how might it affect you?





Four Part Framework

For deploying AI in your firm today.

Reading

- NLP powers human-like understanding of input
- Context and memory is a large leap forward from search
- Comprehensive mastery of information previously impossible

Writing

- Substantive drafting capabilities
- Eliminates blank page paralysis
- 10-80-10 GenAI rule: you do 10% thinking and planning, GenAI does 80% of the work, you do 10% tidying up

Learning

- Access universal human Knowledge
- Endlessly patient, positive, and engaged partner in learning
- Conversational learning experience, leverages nuances of language and semantics

Operating

- Can exist as a layer in every day communications
- Boosts effectiveness and efficiency
- Empowers workers to do more and expand skillsets in ways previously unimaginable



Survey of Popular GenAI Tools

for various modalities

Text

- **ChatGPT-4o - OpenAI**
- **Claude Sonnet 3.5 - Anthropic**
- Bing (ChatGPT) - Microsoft
- Gemini Pro 1.5 - Google
- Grok - X
- **Perplexiy.ai**

Images

- Midjourney
- DALLE-2 - OpenAI
- Stable Diffusion
- Magnific
- Adobe Firefly / Photoshop

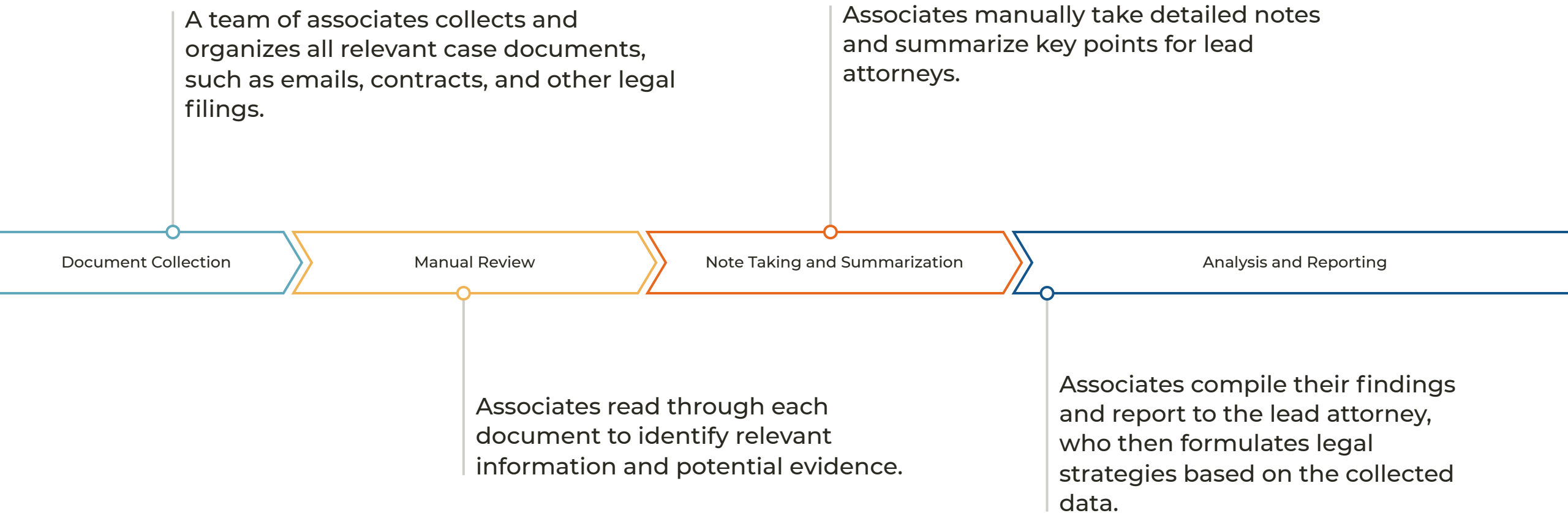
Audio

- ChatGPT
- ElevenLabs
- Fathom
- Humane AI Pin
- Rabbit r1

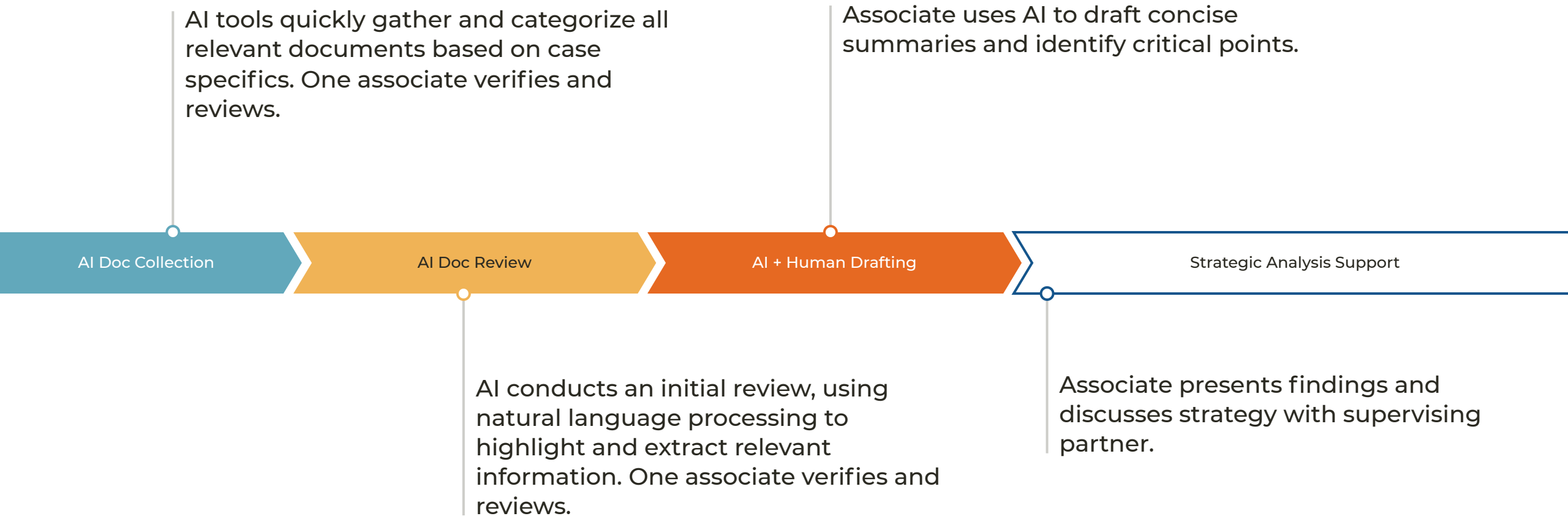
Video

- Runway
- Sora
- HeyGen
- Adobe Premier
- Veo

Scenario 1: Litigation Doc Review (Reading)



Scenario 1: Litigation Doc Review (Reading)



Potential Ethical Considerations

- **Duty of Technology Competency**

The attorney must ensure they understand how the AI tool works and its limitations.

- **Professionalism and Competency**

The attorney should validate the accuracy of the AI-generated reports and not rely solely on the tool's output.

- **Reasonable Fees**

The use of the AI tool could result in cost savings for the client, which should be reflected in the attorney's fees.

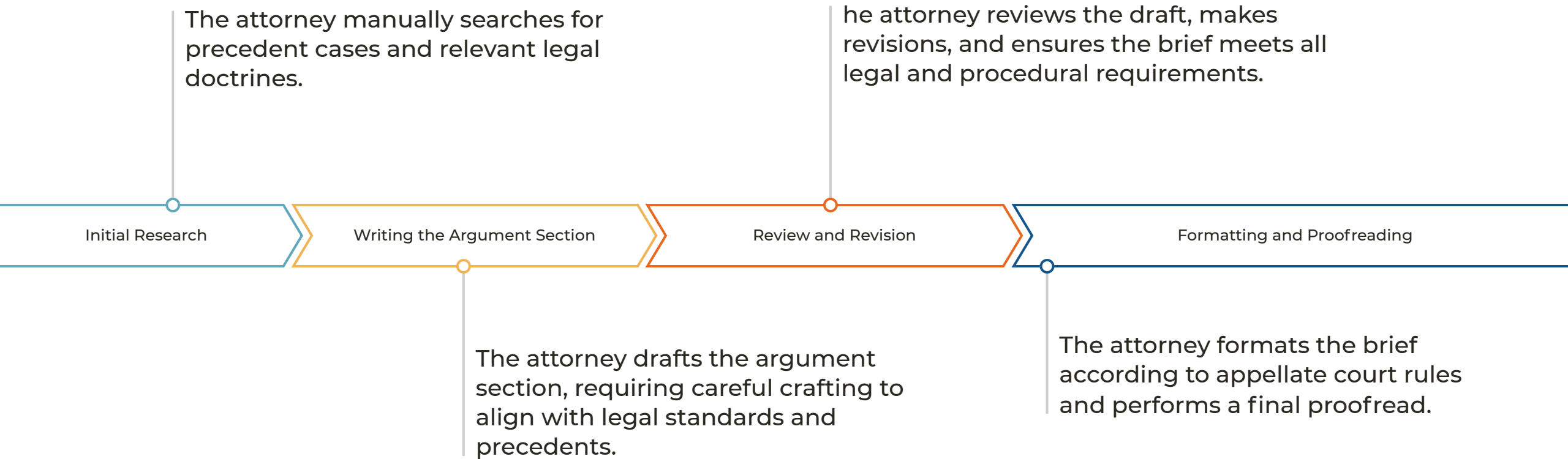
- **Malpractice**

The attorney should carefully review and verify the AI-generated reports to minimize the risk of malpractice claims arising from missed or inaccurate information.

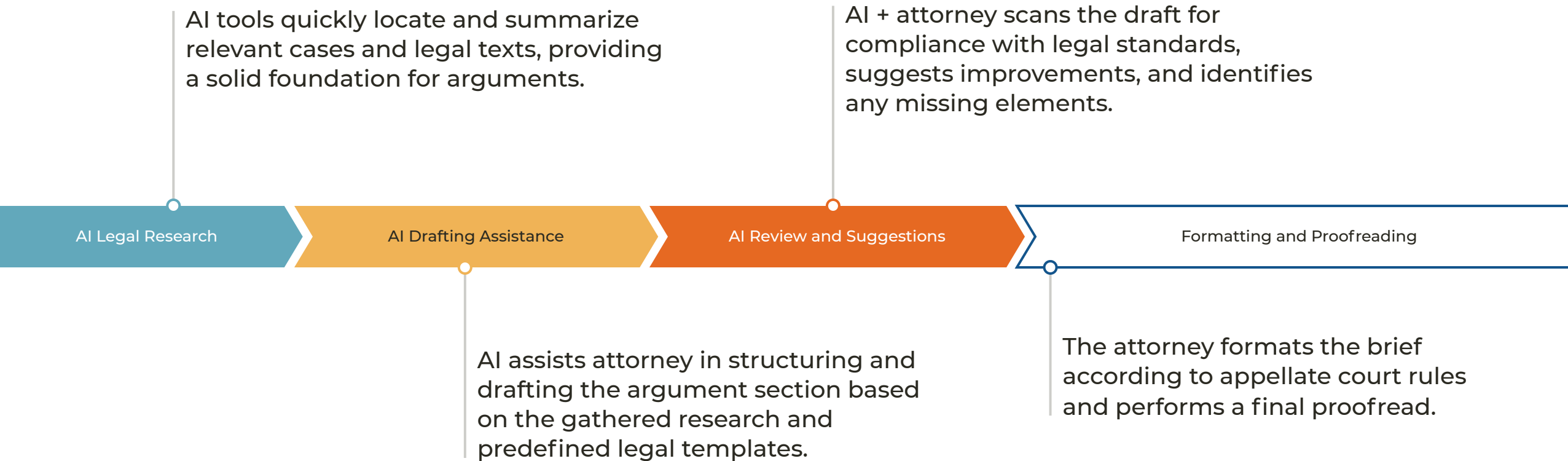
- **Data Privacy & Security**

The firm should use an enterprise tool with adequate data privacy and security measures so as not to upload sensitive information to an inappropriate tool.

Scenario 2: Drafting a Legal Brief for Appellate Court (Writing)



Scenario 2: Drafting a Legal Brief for Appellate Court (Writing)



Potential Ethical Considerations

- **Duty of Technology Competency**

The attorney must ensure they understand how the AI tool works and its limitations.

- **Professionalism and Competency**

The attorney should validate the accuracy of the AI-generated reports and not rely solely on the tool's output.

- **Reasonable Fees**

The use of the AI tool could result in cost savings for the client, which should be reflected in the attorney's fees.

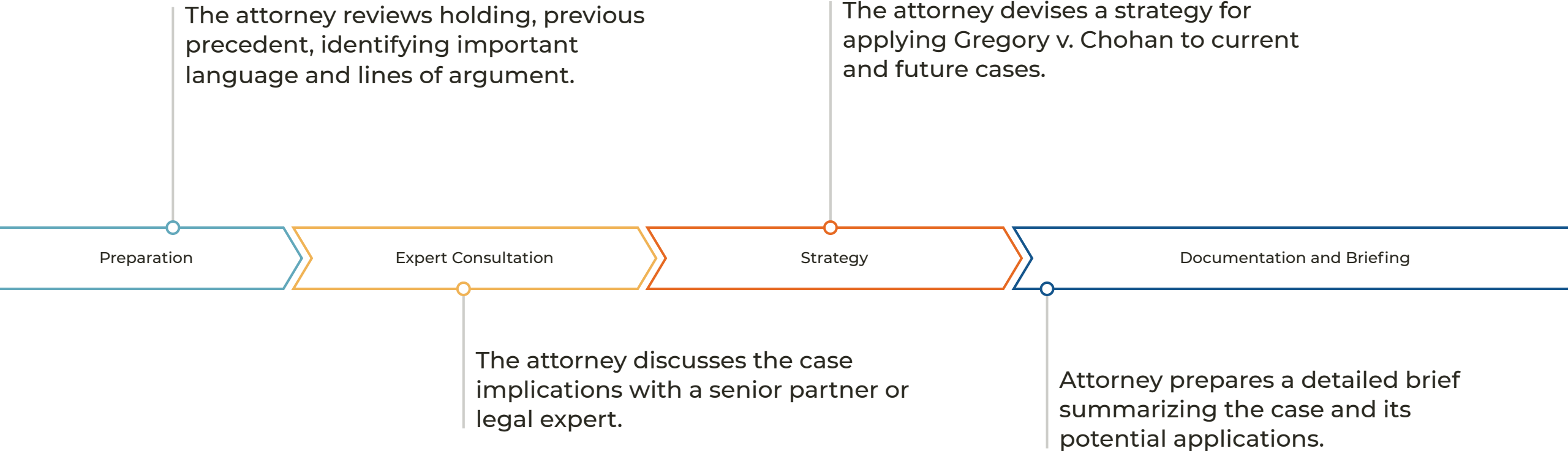
- **Malpractice**

The attorney should carefully review and verify the AI-generated reports to minimize the risk of malpractice claims arising from missed or inaccurate information.

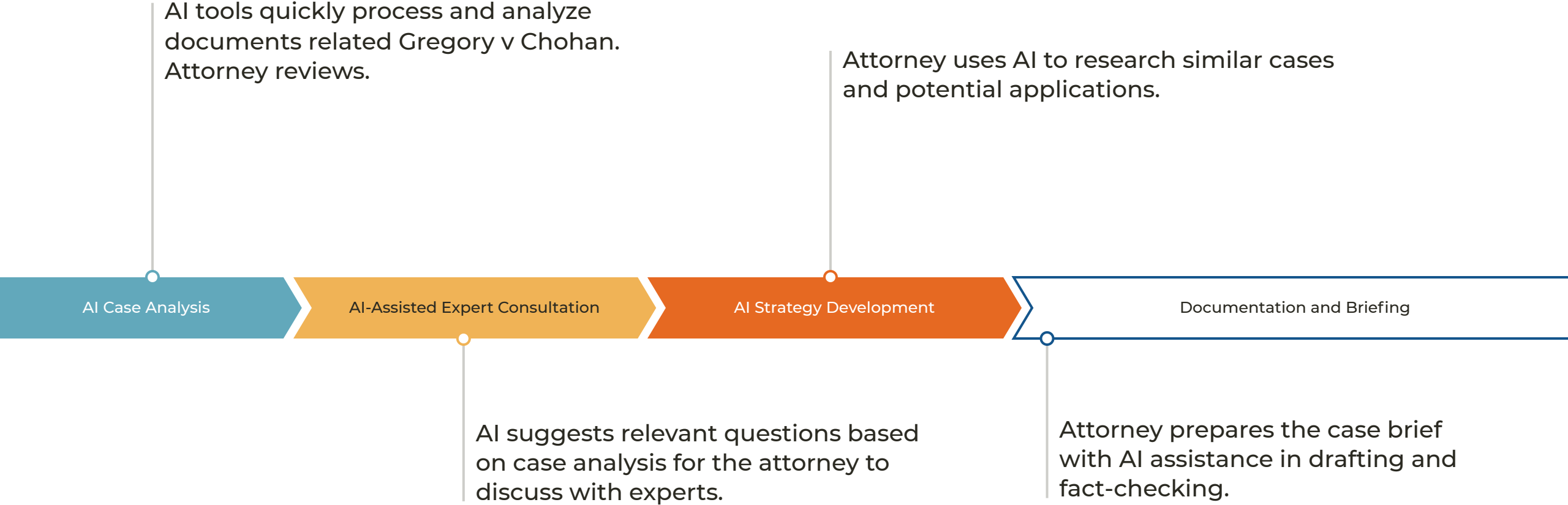
- **Data Privacy & Security**

The firm should use an enterprise tool with adequate data privacy and security measures so as not to upload sensitive information to an inappropriate tool.

Scenario 3: Briefing on Gregory v Chohan (Learning)



Scenario 3: Briefing on Gregory v Chohan (Learning)



Potential Ethical Considerations

- **Duty of Technology Competency**

The attorney must ensure they understand how the AI tool works and its limitations.

- **Professionalism and Competency**

The attorney should validate the accuracy of the AI-generated reports and not rely solely on the tool's output.

- **Reasonable Fees**

The use of the AI tool could result in cost savings for the client, which should be reflected in the attorney's fees.

- **Malpractice**

The attorney should carefully review and verify the AI-generated reports to minimize the risk of malpractice claims arising from missed or inaccurate information.

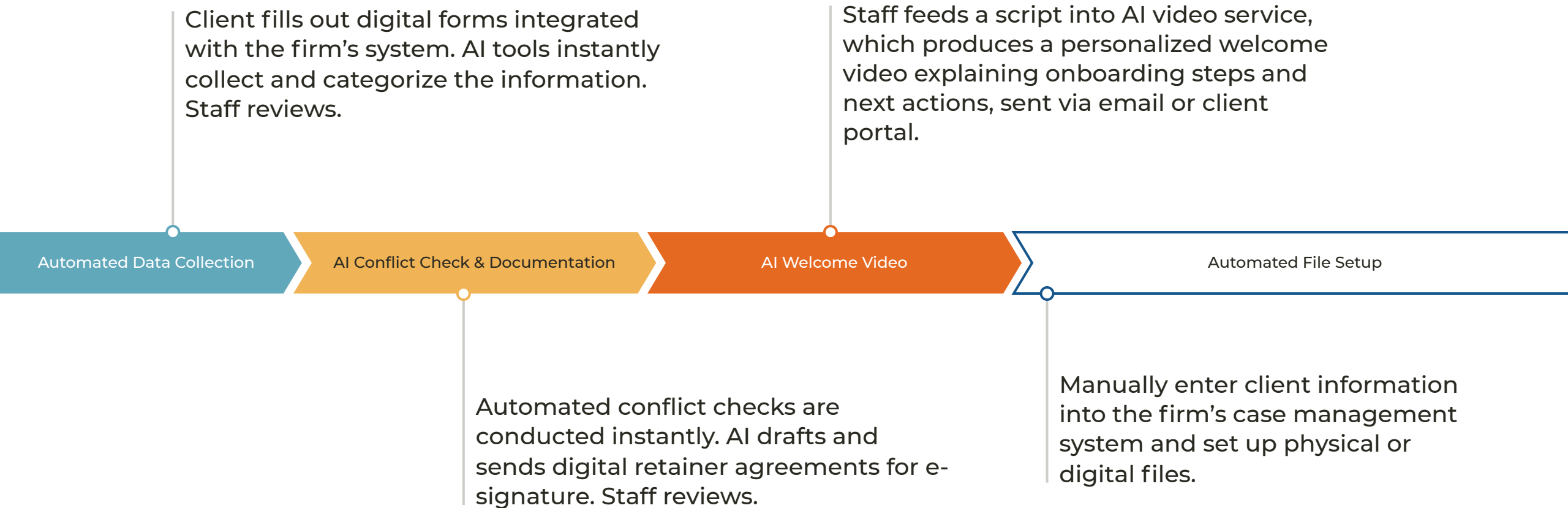
- **Data Privacy & Security**

The firm should use an enterprise tool with adequate data privacy and security measures so as not to upload sensitive information to an inappropriate tool.

Scenario 4: Client Intake and Onboarding (Operations)



Scenario 4: Client Intake and Onboarding (Operations)



Potential Ethical Considerations

- **Duty of Technology Competency**

The attorney must ensure they understand how the AI tool works and its limitations.

- **Data Privacy & Security**

The firm should use an enterprise tool with adequate data privacy and security measures so as not to upload sensitive information to an inappropriate tool.

Prompt Engineering

The first practical skill to master when using GenAI.



THE PERFECT PROMPT

You are an experienced professional writer. Your focus is on writing books for attorneys. You are currently working on a trusts and estates book for new attorneys. Please explain the following phrase: No interest is good unless it must vest, if at all, not later than twenty-one years after some life in being at the creation of the interest. The explanation should break down the confusing phrases and explain what they mean in simple and accurate terms. Your tone should be simple, clear, and educational.

persona

context

task

examples /
tone



Prompt Engineering Exercise

preparing for GenAI

- What are some ways we can use GenAI capabilities for reading, drafting, or learning at work?
- Explore a "oneshot" approach to prompting using one or more of these examples.
e.g. write an email updating my team about YXZ.
- Try using the "perfect prompt" format to improve the result. Observe and reflect on outcomes.
Set a persona, add context, assign a specific task, give examples or additional specifics, set the tone.



Prompt Engineering Tips

do more of this:

- **Take tasks one step at a time**

"Let's start by brainstorming and outlining the topics. After that, we'll storyboard, then develop the script one at a time for each video, then we'll move on to creating the videos."

- **Don't be afraid to question, correct, and revise**

"This isn't quite right, we need to focus the discussion on the law as it applies in Michigan."

- **Have fun and experiment**

A curious mind will be rewarded with greater satisfaction and enjoyment--this is an endlessly patient and optimistic partner.

TRENDS TO WATCH



Key Trend to Watch in 2024

any modality input ->
any modality output

Key Trends to Watch in 2024

large context windows
allow LLMs to operate on
whole document libraries

Key Trends to Watch in 2024

LLMs become task oriented
with agentic enhancements

Key Trends to Watch in 2024

AI integration in existing commercial products

Q&A and Discussion

How can AI spark joy in your life?





Group Discussion

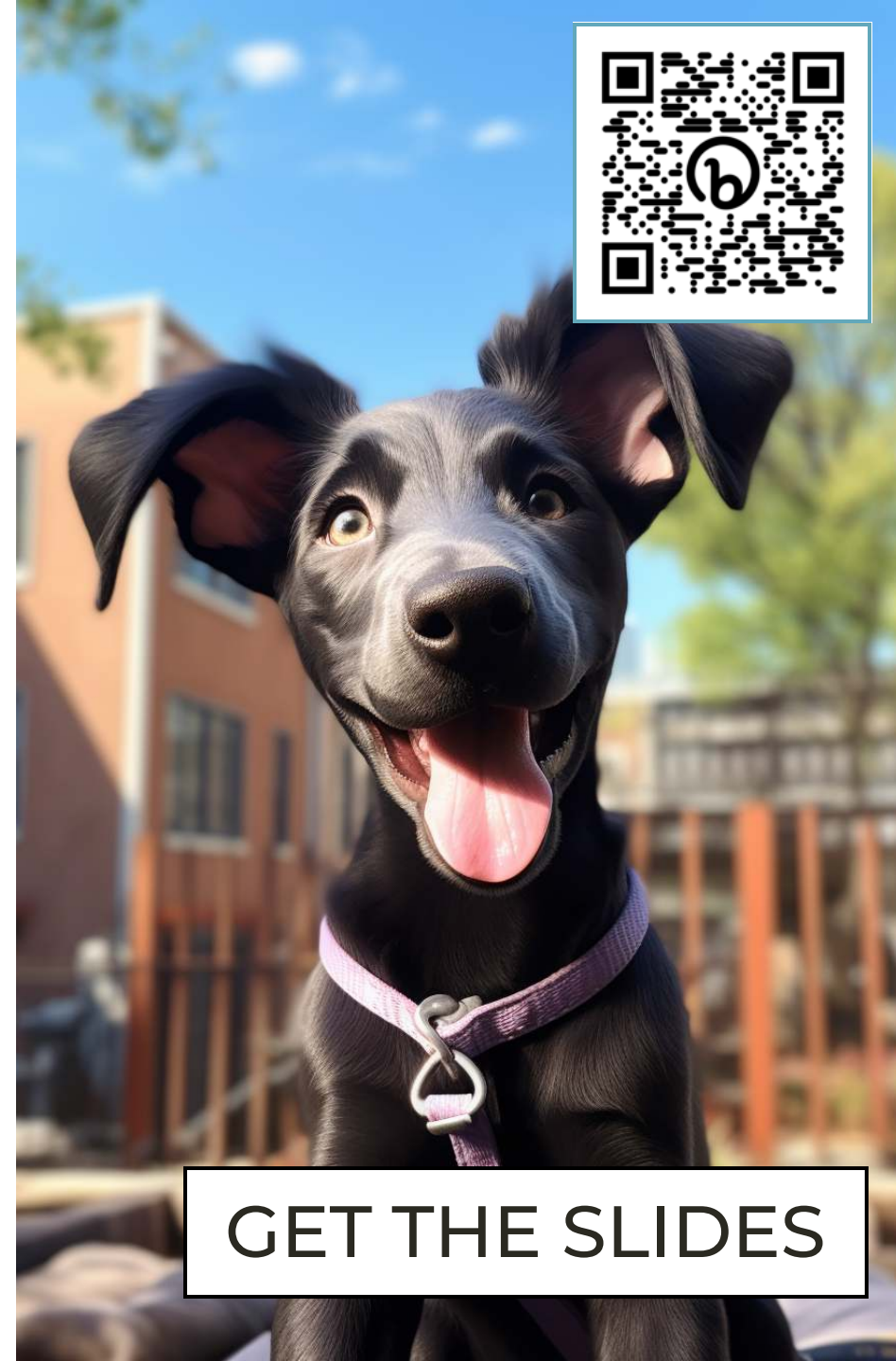
- Can you Identify 3-5 ways GenAI could help improve your experience of work?
- What are some potential practical issues you can spot?
- How does adapting to GenAI align with your personal views and beliefs?
- Can you come up with a plan for how to give GenAI a try over the next month?
- What kind of support do you need to succeed with GenAI?

Questions?

find me @

we4v3r on X

joshua weaver esq on LinkedIn



GET THE SLIDES