
The five-fact trust test

Run this against any legal AI system, including ours. If a vendor cannot answer all five in a single sitting, that is the finding. Write their answers down, because a spoken answer and a written one are often different answers.

1 What material could the system actually search?

Not what it was trained on. What is in the retrievable corpus for your query, right now.

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2 When does that material stop?

A cutoff date, stated plainly. "Continuously updated" is not a date.

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3 Is the authority from the right jurisdiction, and in the right status?

Good law, bad law, overruled, superseded. Jurisdiction and status are separate questions and both matter.

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4 Does the cited passage support this exact claim?

Not the general topic. The specific proposition you are about to rely on. Ask to see the passage.

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5 What does it do when the answer is uncertain or out of scope?

Demonstrated, not described. Ask them to show you a refusal on a question you choose.

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What this is not. An evaluation framework, not a legal standard, certification, or safe harbor. Passing all five does not discharge any professional duty. Your firm's obligations still depend on the workflow, the jurisdiction, and who signs the filing.

Requirements vary by court, and sometimes by judge

There is no single sentence that states every US lawyer's AI filing obligations. Start with the jurisdiction, court, judge, matter and today's date, then work down this table. Not finding a rule is not proof that no requirement exists.

AUTHORITY LAYER	WHAT MUST BE VERIFIED FOR THIS USE	ACCOUNTABLE REVIEWER	RECHECK	YOURS
Model guidance	Relevant professional-responsibility analysis, and whether it has been adopted, cited or modified locally.	Ethics / risk counsel	WITHIN 72 HOURS	
State or jurisdiction	Binding rules, ethics opinions, confidentiality duties, disclosure rules and local interpretations.	Licensed local counsel	EVENT + USE CASE	
Court-wide rule	Standing orders, local rules, filing certifications, prohibited uses and effective dates.	Matter team	BEFORE FILING	
Judge-specific order	Individual chambers requirements, and changes that do not appear in any general summary.	Filing lawyer	EACH MATTER	
Client + matter controls	Engagement terms, protective orders, client instructions and data classification.	Relationship partner	EACH MATTER	

How to use the last column. Write the actual authority you found and the date you checked it. A blank cell is a finding: it means nobody has looked, not that nothing applies. Have qualified counsel recheck the top two rows within 72 hours of relying on them, because those change most often.