E.D. TEX. BANKRUPTCY BENCH BAR · 6 NOVEMBER 2026

AI in Modern Litigation

(November 2026)

What every Texas court now requires when a lawyer uses AI, what happened to the lawyers who skipped it, and how a small firm builds the checks into its own software.

John Henry
John Henry & Associates, PLLC

jhenrylaw.com/ai-in-litigation

A SHORT FILM

Shown in the room.

It writes one word-piece at a time



Pieces, not words

Text is cut into word-pieces called **tokens**. A page of a brief is about 500 of them.

Each piece is a number

The model never sees letters. It sees a list of numbers like the ones under each piece.

One job

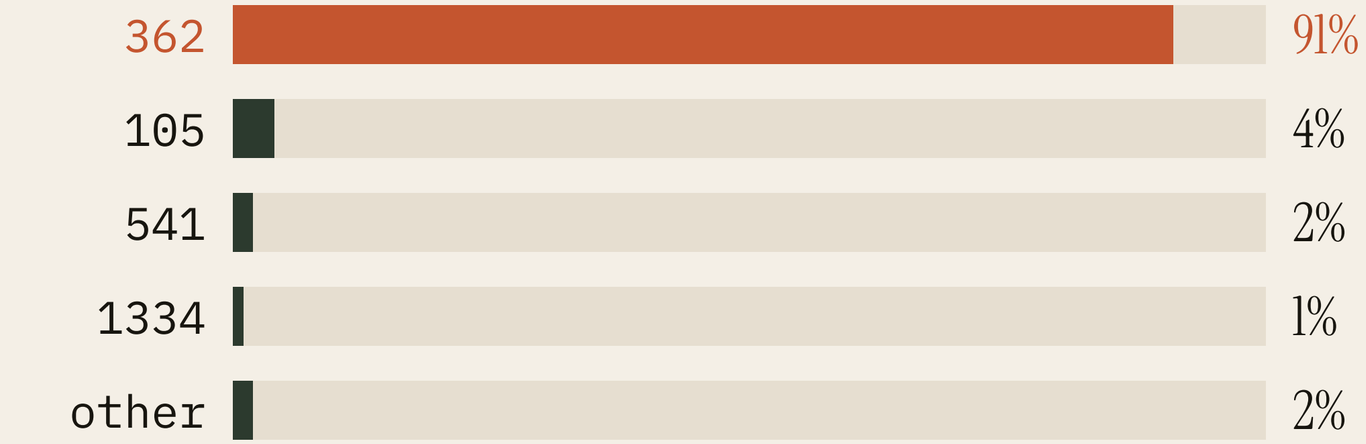
Given every piece so far, predict the **next** one. That is all it ever does.

How a large language model such as Claude produces text. Token pieces, numbers and odds are illustrative; real tokenizers and vocabularies vary by model.

HOW IT WORKS · 2 OF 4

Every next piece is a ranked guess

The automatic stay arises under 11 U.S.C. § ___



Illustrative odds. The model scores every piece in its vocabulary, about 100,000 of them, every time.

PICK ONE, ADD IT, REPEAT

… § **362**

… § 362**(a)**

… § 362(a)**,**

… § 362(a), **which**

A five-page brief is about 2,500 of these guesses in a row.

How a large language model such as Claude produces text. Token pieces, numbers and odds are illustrative; real tokenizers and vocabularies vary by model.

HOW IT WORKS · 3 OF 4

What it learned is not what it can see

What it learned

Training: done once, before you ever use it

> It read a vast library of text and adjusted billions of internal numbers until its guesses got good.

> What it keeps is **patterns**, not documents. There is no list of cases inside it to check against.

> It stops at a date. Anything decided after that, it has never seen.

What it can see

The context: right now, this conversation

> Whatever you hand it: the brief, the docket, the order, the search results. Hundreds of pages at once.

> It can ask for more: search a database, open a file, run a check, and read the answer.

> This is the part you control, and the only place a real case can come from.

How a large language model such as Claude produces text. Token pieces, numbers and odds are illustrative; real tokenizers and vocabularies vary by model.

Why it invents a case

Prompt: Cite a Fifth Circuit case holding that …

> See *In re Example Holdings, LLC*, 97 F.4th 318, 324 (5th Cir. 2024).

LIKELY
A party name shaped like a debtor

LIKELY
A real reporter, a plausible volume

LIKELY
A pin cite after the first page

LIKELY
The right court and a recent year

Every piece was the most likely next piece. Nothing in the loop asks whether the case exists.

The case name on this slide was invented for the illustration; any real decision at that volume and page is unrelated to it.

INSIDE ONE REAL QUESTION · 1 OF 4

A real question goes in, and the answer comes out one piece at a time

IN: THE QUESTION, AS 39 PIECES

`Our` `client` `filed` `Chapter` `11` `on` `Monday` `.`
`On` `Wednesday` `the` `bank's` `lawyer` `emailed` `the`
`CFO` `demanding` `the` `overdue` `loan` `payment` `and`
`threatening` `suit` `.` `Did` `the` `bank` `violate`
`the` `automatic` `stay` `,` `and` `what` `should` `we`
`do` `?`

OUT: ONE PIECE AT A TIME, 93 PIECES

Very likely yes. Section 362(a)(6) stays "any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against the debtor" that arose before the case began. A demand letter sent after the petition on a loan made before it is that kind of act. Today: send the bank's lawyer notice of the filing, ask for written confirmation that collection has stopped, and keep the email. If it happens again, ask the court to enforce the stay.

Illustration of a real exchange. The answer text is accurate to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6); piece counts, map positions, attention weights and odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model.

Sources ↓

The map: context moves a word to its meaning

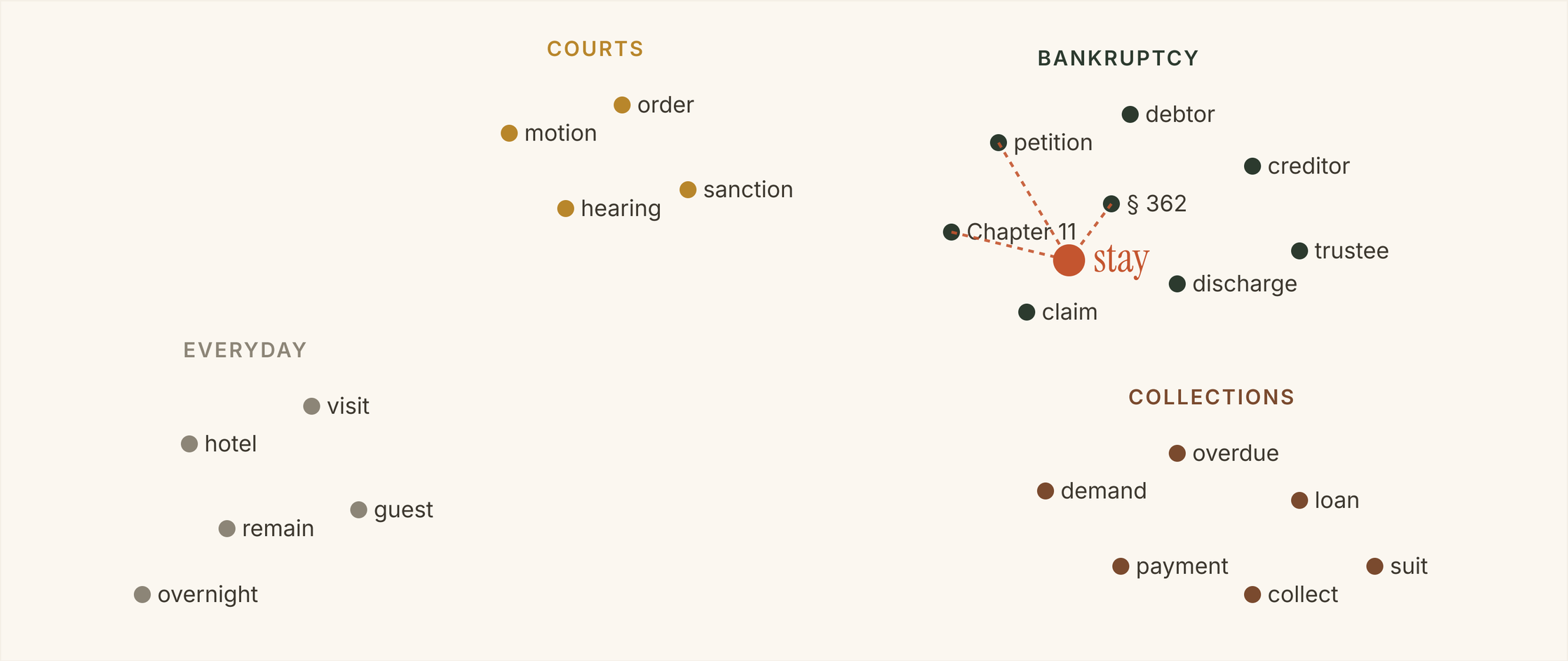
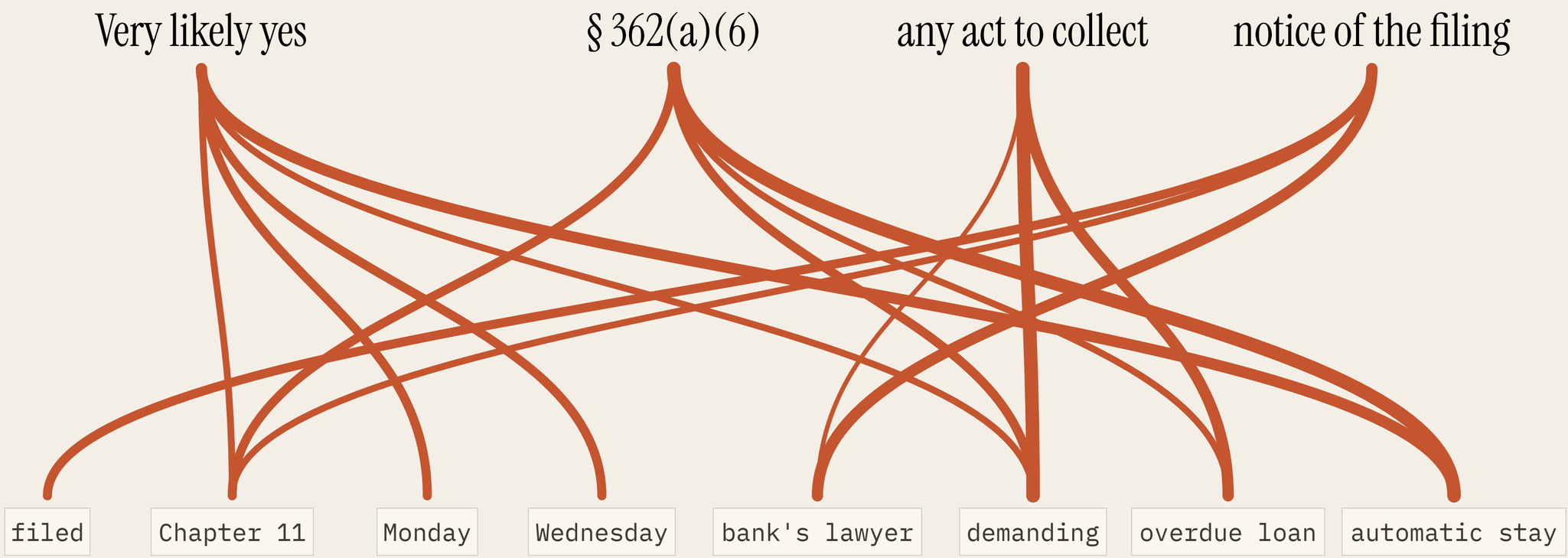


Illustration of a real exchange. The answer text is accurate to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6); piece counts, map positions, attention weights and odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model.

INSIDE ONE REAL QUESTION · 3 OF 4

Attention: what each phrase looks back at

WRITING



READING the question. A thicker line is more weight: as it writes each phrase, the model decides which earlier pieces matter most.

Illustration of a real exchange. The answer text is accurate to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6); piece counts, map positions, attention weights and odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model.

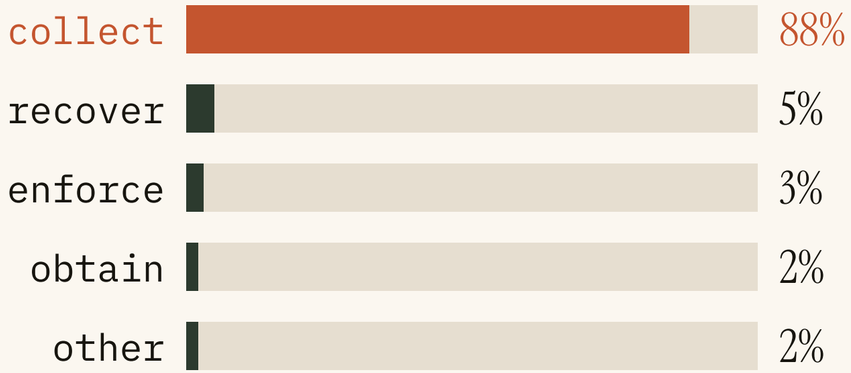
INSIDE ONE REAL QUESTION · 4 OF 4

Where a fake case comes from

The text is known

Quoting § 362(a)(6), which the model has read thousands of times

… stays any act to ___

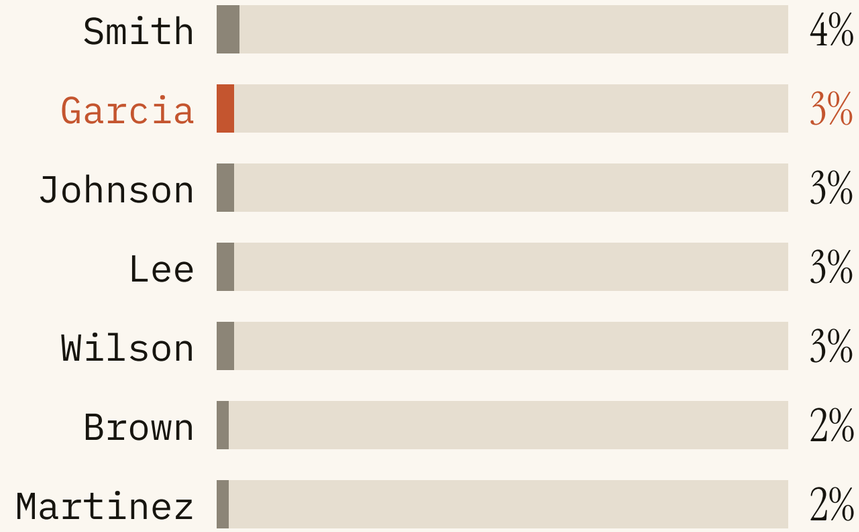


One piece is far ahead. Usually right.

The case is not known

Asked for a Fifth Circuit case it never saw

See *In re* ___

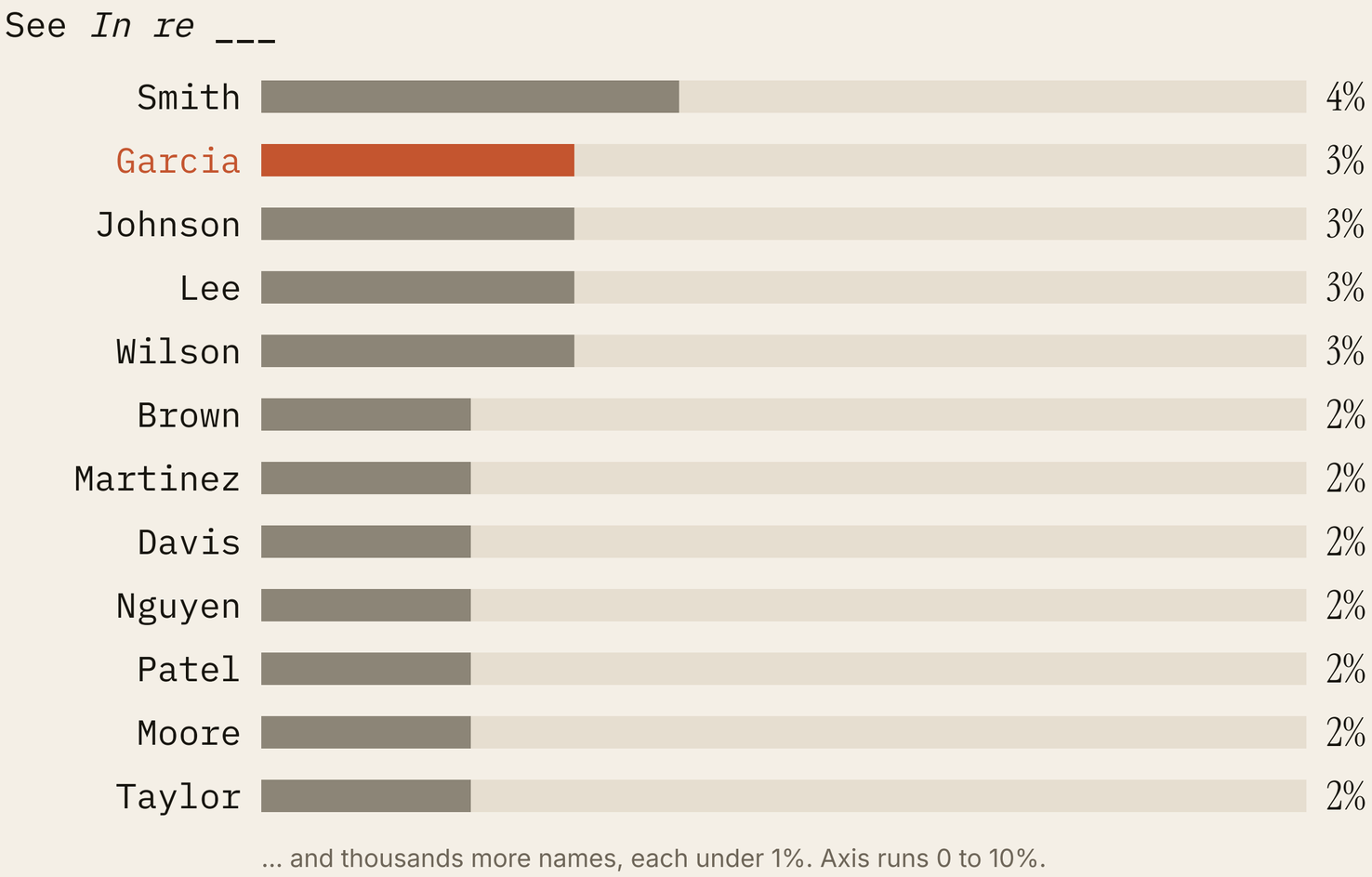


Nothing is ahead. It picks one anyway.

Illustration of a real exchange. The answer text is accurate to 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6); piece counts, map positions, attention weights and odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model.

WHERE A FAKE CASE COMES FROM · 1 OF 3

Every name is about equally likely, and it picks one anyway



… and thousands more names, each under 1%. Axis runs 0 to 10%.

QUOTING THE STATUTE

88%

for “collect”

NAMING THE CASE

3%

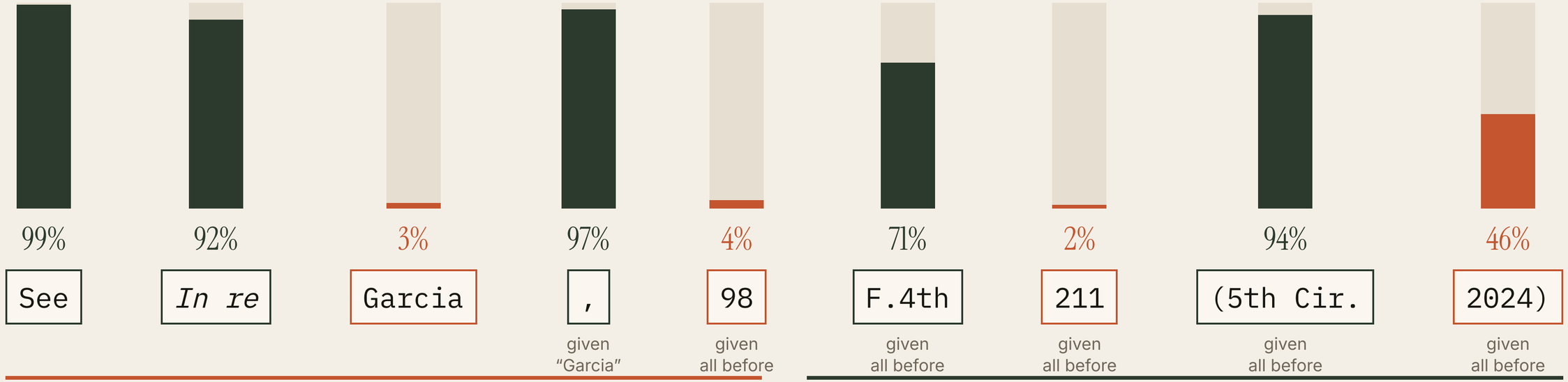
for “Garcia”, the one it picked

Both come out in the same confident sentence.

Illustration. Odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model. The case name In re Garcia was invented for the illustration; 98 F.4th 211 is a real page of a different case, Miller v. Michaels Stores (5th Cir. 2024).

WHERE A FAKE CASE COMES FROM · 2 OF 3

Each next piece assumes the last one was right



The facts were coin flips

The name, the volume, the page and the year: 2 to 46 percent each.

The format was near certain

After a name comes a comma; after a volume, a reporter; then the court you asked for.

Illustration. Odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model. The case name In re Garcia was invented for the illustration; 98 F.4th 211 is a real page of a different case, Miller v. Michaels Stores (5th Cir. 2024).

WHERE A FAKE CASE COMES FROM · 3 OF 3

It never goes back to ask

See *In re Garcia*, 98 F.4th 211 (5th Cir. 2024).

the guess

WRITTEN · FINAL

There, the Fifth Circuit held that a demand letter sent after the petition violates the automatic stay,

takes Garcia as real

WRITTEN · FINAL

and it awarded the debtor its fees for enforcing the stay.

builds on that holding

WRITTEN · FINAL

Garcia is directly on point: the bank should withdraw its demand today.

argues from all of it

THE ONLY QUESTION IT ASKS

What usually comes next?

THE QUESTION IT NEVER ASKS

~~Wait, does *Garcia* exist?~~

A piece, once written, is never taken back. Each new one treats everything before it as true.

Illustration. Odds are drawn to show the mechanism, not measured from a model. The case name In re Garcia was invented for the illustration; 98 F.4th 211 is a real page of a different case, Miller v. Michaels Stores (5th Cir. 2024).

BEFORE THE LAW

After I wasn't able to get any parts as an actor, I did a little stint as a male model in the early 2000s...



The Turtleneck

FALL 2001



The Cologne Ad

SPRING 2002



Summer Fragrance

SUMMER 2002



Out of the Surf

SUMMER 2003



Swimwear, in Pink

SPRING 2004

...right before I met my wife.

Photos: Unsplash License.

PART I · WHAT YOU MUST DO

Every published rule on AI for litigating in Texas, *court by court.*

4 + 4
bankruptcy courts and district courts, and the Fifth Circuit

130+
federal judges' pages, procedures and standing orders read

All 43
counties of this district, through 2,626 local rules and orders

5 Nov
2026: current to yesterday, with every source in the handout

WHAT TEXAS COURTS REQUIRE OF AI USERS

Five steps. Every court stands on the first.



Check it before you sign it.

Every Texas court. All four bankruptcy courts stop here.

Say on page one that AI helped.

N.D. Tex. briefs.

File a certificate when AI drafted any of it.

Judge Crone here. 2 judges, 5 county courts.

File one whether or not you used AI.

Judge Love here. 4 judges, 3 county courts.

No AI-written text at all.

One judge, in Dallas.

Counts are Texas federal judges and E.D. Tex. county courts with a published order, checked against each court's own documents on 5 Nov 2026. Every order is listed in the reference at jhenrylaw.com/ai-in-litigation.

FOR THIS ROOM

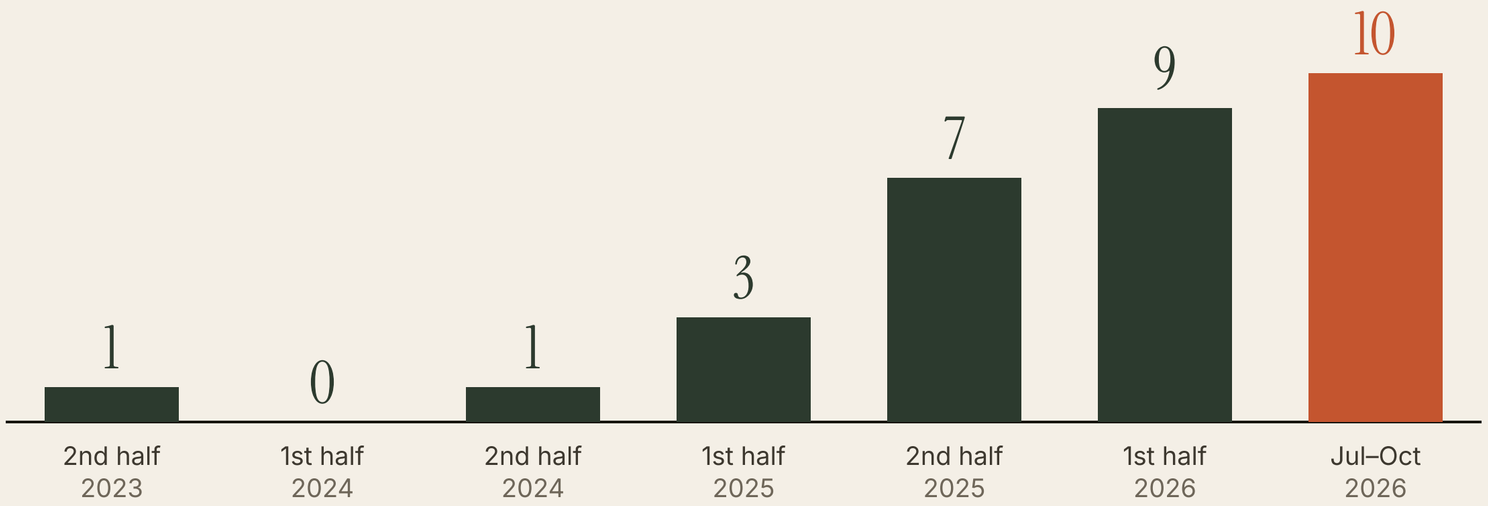
Where you file decides which steps you climb



Solid: required. Ring: restricts AI in the courtroom (Grayson, Liberty, Angelina CCL No. 2) or forbids it in filings (Boyle). E.D. Tex. criminal: proposed L.R. CR-57 (GO 26-10, Nov. 4, 2026), out for comment. Checked 5 Nov 2026.

WHY THE RULES ARE MULTIPLYING

Ten Texas decisions in the last four months



31
decisions involving lawyers: every federal district, the Fifth Circuit, six courts of appeals, two bankruptcy opinions

~67
more involving people without lawyers

0
that faulted a lawyer just for using AI. Every one was about a filing nobody checked.

Texas state and federal decisions and Fifth Circuit decisions addressing AI-fabricated or unverified authority by counsel, by date of decision, through 5 Nov 2026; sanctions, admonitions and show-cause orders. Pro se count: Charlotin, AI Hallucination Cases database. Five fabricated-citation decisions that never mention AI are not counted. Full list in the reference.

THE BANKRUPTCY COURTS OF TEXAS

All four require you to verify. None asks for a certificate.

E.D. TEX. · THIS COURT

LBR 1001-1(i): District Rule AT-3's standards "apply in the Bankruptcy Court."

AT-3(m): the lawyer "must review and verify all content."

Only AT-3 comes in. CV-11(g) and the Crone and Love certificates are district-court rules.

N.D. TEX.

GO 2023-03 (June 2023): check AI language "using print reporters, traditional legal databases, or **other reliable means**." Rule 9011.

LBR 9029-3(a): the district's civil rules "do not apply" here, so the L.R. 7.2(f) disclosure does not either.

S.D. TEX.

District **GO 2025-04**: the signer is responsible "regardless of whether" AI drafted any of it.

It binds here through BLR 1001-1(b), in the new local rules effective **29 Oct 2026**. Both Texas bankruptcy sanctions came from this court.

W.D. TEX.

Nothing on AI. Local rules and the court's standing, archived and administrative orders searched.

Rule 9011 is the rule.

18 sitting bankruptcy judges and one on recall, every page and procedure read: no judge in Texas has an AI order of their own.

On appeal to the district court, the district's rules and that judge's orders apply: 7.2(f) in Dallas, Crone or Love here.

Bankr. E.D. Tex. LBR 1001-1(i) (rev. Aug. 22, 2022); E.D. Tex. L.R. AT-3(m) (as of Feb. 9, 2026); Bankr. N.D. Tex. GO 2023-03 (June 21, 2023), LBR 9029-3(a) (rev. Dec. 1, 2025); S.D. Tex. GO 2025-04 (May 7, 2025); Bankr. S.D. Tex. BLR 1001-1(b) (eff. Oct. 29, 2026); Bankr. W.D. Tex. Local Rules (eff. Feb. 3, 2025). Checked 5 Nov 2026.

Sources ↓

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS · THE DISTRICT COURT

Verify everything, everywhere. In two courtrooms, certify.

L.R. AT-3(m) · CV-11(g) · as amended by GO 25-07

Generative AI "should never replace the lawyer's most important asset – the exercise of independent legal judgment." The lawyer "must review and verify all content."

AT-3(m) binds every attorney, civil and criminal. CV-11(g) binds every civil litigant, represented or not. Since 1 Dec 2025 both say **all content**, not only the citations.

New this week: GO 26-10 proposes L.R. CR-57, the same duty for prosecutors, defense counsel and pro se defendants. Out for comment.

Judge Crone · Standing Order MC-11 · 20 July 2026

If AI drafted or helped draft a pleading: file a "Certificate of Generative Artificial Intelligence Usage" disclosing it, certifying you verified it, and certifying no confidential or privileged information went to an unauthorized party.

Judge Love · Tyler, 9 Apr 2025

A certificate "with all filings": AI used or not, the tool, how, and that you checked facts, citations and authority. No certificate: presumed no AI. GO 26-07: half of listed Tyler and Lufkin referral categories since 1 Sept.

By order in one case

Essandoh (Davis, M.J., Apr 2026), a pro se case: certificate naming each tool. McCormick (Mazzant, C.J., June 2026): a verification certificate on the sanctioned lawyer's filings.

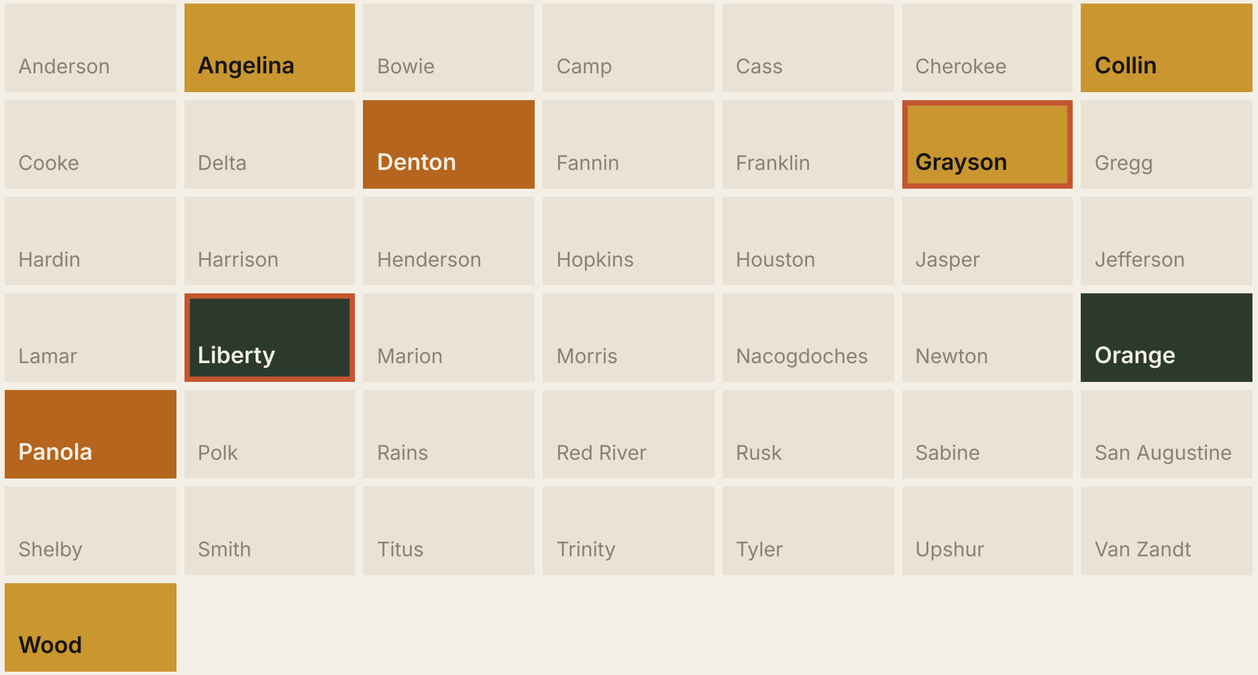
The other 17 district and magistrate judges' pages, standing orders and practice orders were read: nothing further on AI.

E.D. Tex. Local Rules (as of Feb. 9, 2026) AT-3(m), CV-11(g); GO 25-07 (Oct. 31, 2025); GO 26-10 (Nov. 4, 2026) (proposed CR-57); Standing Order MC-11 (Crone, J., July 20, 2026); Standing Order (Love, M.J., Apr. 9, 2025); GO 26-07; Essandoh, No. 4:25-cv-746 (Apr. 16, 2026); McCormick, No. 4:25-cv-773, 2026 WL 1746259.

Sources ↓

THE STATE COURTS OF THIS DISTRICT

Eight of the 43 counties have their own AI rule, most of them new this year.



Denton
Probate courts: every filer certifies. District courts: a May 2026 order makes every filer certify, but it is not yet on the state's site; the posted 2025 order applies if you used AI.

Panola
Every filer, sworn, with the first filing (Aug 2026). No AI-altered evidence; no AI-reliant experts.

Collin
County Courts at Law: disclose and certify every citation (sample form: an unsworn declaration). District courts: verify.

Angelina
Certificate if used (Sept 2026). CCL No. 2: in bold, or the pleading "will not be considered."

Grayson · Wood
Certificate if AI was used (Grayson: with each AI-assisted pleading). Grayson: no AI in the courtroom.

Orange · Liberty
Verify. Liberty: no AI to record, summarize or translate proceedings.

Every county's local rules and standing orders in the state's local-rules database (TOPICS, 2,636 documents, scanned rules OCR'd) and county sites, 5 Nov 2026. Shared certificate text: AI content "verified as accurate through traditional (non-AI) legal sources by a human being."

Sources ↓

TEXAS STATE COURTS

No statewide AI rule is in force. The coming rule's text never says "AI."

PROPOSED TRCP 13(c)(1) · MISC. DKT. 26-9054

By signing, "the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, and holdings are not fabricated."

TRAP 9.1(d) adds "record citations." Sanctions only after notice and a chance to respond, lesser sanctions first (or a written reason they will not do), and a written order with reasons.

Status: approved preliminarily 26 June; the Court expected 1 Oct. **No final order as of 5 Nov**: the Court's orders run to 26-9082 (30 Oct) without it.

Business Court · L.R. 10(c) · new rules 1 Oct 2026
AI "is not prohibited, but the filing attorney or party is independently responsible for the accuracy of all filings."

Courts of appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals
No local AI rules. They sanction under inherent power: Dallas (Rochon-Eidsvig) and Houston's 14th (S.M.T.). Beaumont denied mandamus and left in place a trial court's order to attach every cited authority, highlighted, in any court (Obeginski).

Ethics Opinion 705 · advisory
Verify every output (Rules 1.01, 3.03), protect confidences (1.05), supervise (cf. 5.03), and never bill for time "saved."

Tex. Sup. Ct. Misc. Dkt. No. 26-9054 (June 26, 2026) (proposed TRCP 13, TRAP 9.1, 52.11); Tex. Bus. Ct. L.R. 10(c) (eff. Oct. 1, 2026); Rochon-Eidsvig v. JGB Collateral, No. 05-24-00123-CV (Tex. App.–Dallas June 12, 2025); In re S.M.T., No. 14-25-00151-CV (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] July 30, 2026); In re Obeginski, No. 09-26-00057-CV (Tex. App.—Beaumont Mar. 12, 2026, orig. proceeding); Tex. Comm. on Prof'l Ethics Op. 705 (Feb. 2025).

Sources ↓

IF YOU ALSO FILE IN DALLAS, HOUSTON OR SAN ANTONIO

The other districts, and the judges who add a step

N.D. Tex.

Every judge: **disclose** on page one of any brief AI helped write. Silence certifies none was used (L.R. 7.2(f)).

- **Boyle · Dallas**
  Forbids AI-written text; certificate on every filing.
- **Kacsmaryk · Amarillo**
  Certificate with the notice of appearance, or filings are struck.

S.D. Tex.

Every judge: **verify**. You answer under Rule 11 "regardless of whether" AI drafted it (GO 2025-04).

- **Ganjei · Houston**
  Certificate on every motion, response and reply, AI or not. Name the model.
- **Olvera · Brownsville**
  Certificate with the scheduling order, or filings are struck.
- **Galveston · Laredo**
  A fake cite is struck. "AI, staff, or others" is no excuse.

W.D. Tex.

No AI local rule. Rule 11 and the attorney rules govern.

- **E. Gonzalez · Del Rio**
  If AI was used: name the tool, certify verification and no privileged disclosure.

Fifth Circuit

No AI rule, by choice. It proposed a certificate in 2023 and dropped it.

> "'I used AI' will not be an excuse for an otherwise sanctionable offense."

Fletcher v. Experian (Feb 2026): $2,500.

Every other district and magistrate judge in these three districts was checked: nothing beyond the district rule. Detail slides are in the backup.

N.D. Tex. L.R. 7.2(f); Boyle, J., Judge-Specific Requirements (eff. Sept. 1, 2026); Kacsmaryk, J., Mandatory Certification; S.D. Tex. GO 2025-04; Ganjei, J., Procedures §§ 16(j), 30 (Nov. 2026); Olvera, J., Civil Rules § 8.C (Oct. 6, 2026); Galveston R. 20; Garcia Marmolejo and Kazen, JJ., § 8; E. Gonzalez, J., Standing Order (June 25, 2026); 5th Cir. decision on proposed R. 32.3 (June 2024); Fletcher, No. 25-20086.

Sources ↓

CHECKING OUR OWN WORK

We sent the court our summary of its rule, the day before this talk

- 1:00 PM · WE ASK
- 3:03 PM · THE COURT ANSWERS
- 3:13 PM · WE SAY THANK YOU

FROM John Henry <jhenry@jhenrylaw.com>

TO Chambers of the Hon. Jane J. Boyle, N.D. Tex.

SENT Thu, Nov 5, 2026, 1:00 PM

SUBJECT Judge Boyle's AI requirement — confirming our summary before a CLE presentation tomorrow

I am presenting tomorrow, Friday, November 6, at the Eastern District of Texas Bankruptcy Bench Bar Conference on the court rules that govern the use of artificial intelligence in litigation in Texas. The presentation includes a summary of Judge Boyle's requirement, and I want to be sure I state it accurately.

From the Judge-Specific Requirements on Judge Boyle's page (effective September 1, 2026), the presentation will say:

- No text generated by artificial intelligence may be used in any portion of any pleading, motion, brief, or other filing made by an attorney before Judge Boyle.
- Artificial intelligence may be used to identify errors, if that use is disclosed under Local Rule 7.2(f), and any resulting edit must be made and verified by a human attorney.
- Every filing in a case in which Judge Boyle presides must include a signed certificate that the text was generated in its entirety by a human attorney, and a filing without it may be stricken. Parties proceeding pro se are equally responsible.

Could you confirm that this is accurate and current?

From the firm's mailbox, Thursday, November 5, 2026. Times Central. Body excerpted: the greeting, the question about bankruptcy appeals and the sign-off are omitted.

THE COURT ANSWERED

Two hours later: confirmed accurate and current

1:00 PM · WE ASK
3:03 PM · THE COURT ANSWERS
3:13 PM · WE SAY THANK YOU

FROM , Law Clerk to Judge Boyle <>
TO John Henry
SENT Thu, Nov 5, 2026, 3:03 PM
SUBJECT Re: Judge Boyle's AI requirement — confirming our summary before a CLE presentation tomorrow

Mr. Henry,

> I can confirm that the presentation accurately states Judge Boyle's current artificial intelligence requirements for filing.

Thanks for reaching out to check and please let me know if I can assist with anything else.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Jane J. Boyle
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

From the firm's mailbox, Thursday, November 5, 2026. Times Central. Shown as sent and received.

AND WE SAID THANK YOU

Ten minutes after that

1:00 PM · WE ASK
3:03 PM · THE COURT ANSWERS
3:13 PM · WE SAY THANK YOU

FROM John Henry <jhenry@jhenrylaw.com>
TO
SENT Thu, Nov 5, 2026, 3:13 PM
SUBJECT RE: Judge Boyle's AI requirement — confirming our summary before a CLE presentation tomorrow

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Much appreciated.

JH

From the firm's mailbox, Thursday, November 5, 2026. Times Central. Shown as sent and received.

TEXAS · THE PITFALLS, BY CASE

Trial, appellate and bankruptcy courts in Texas have all sanctioned it

$2,000

Gauthier v. Goodyear

E.D. Tex. · Crone, J. · Nov 2024

Drafted with Claude, checked with Lexis AI. Both missed it.

$5,000

McCormick v. Texakoma

E.D. Tex. · Mazzant, C.J. · Jun 2026

Blamed her staff. Public reprimand; re-check every 2026 filing.

$29,877

In re Rosslyn2016

Bankr. S.D. Tex. · Jul 2026

Owed jointly with the clients. Contempt, and 6 hours of CLE.

Fees

Wilson v. KIPP Texas

N.D. Tex. · Kinkeade, J. · Oct 2025

Said nothing under LR 7.2(f). The silence was a false certificate.

$2,500

Fletcher v. Experian

5th Cir. · Elrod, C.J. · Feb 2026

Evasive about AI. Candor would have cost less.

$2,500

Rochon-Eidsvig v. JGB

Tex. App.–Dallas · Jun 2025

Four cases the court could not find. Brief struck; 8 hours of CLE.

$2,500

Elizondo v. Laredo

S.D. Tex. · Jul 2025

The court said the other side could have flagged the fakes.

$10,000

Whitesock v. Bird Rides

250th Dist. Ct., Travis · Jun 2026

A chatbot invented a quote from the Tort Claims Act. Lawyer and firm, jointly.

Gauthier, 1:23-cv-281; McCormick, 2026 WL 1746259; Rosslyn2016, 25-34507; Wilson, 3:24-cv-2578-K; Fletcher, 25-20086; Rochon-Eidsvig, 05-24-00123-CV; Elizondo, 5:25-cv-50; Whitesock, D-1-GN-25-011111. Clay = this district. All 31 decisions involving lawyers are in the handout.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED · 30 ORDERS, READ

We read every Texas order we could find sanctioning a lawyer over an AI citation

31

lawyer cases we found in Texas courts involving AI. We read 30 in the original order; one is not online.

17

caught by the court itself. Opposing counsel caught 12; one order does not say.

8 of 10

money sanctions in the orders we read came when **opposing counsel** caught it first

0

courts said using AI was the wrong. Three said it can be fine.

> “It is a problem that is getting worse—not better.” Fletcher v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc., 168 F.4th 231 (5th Cir. 2026)

Texas state and federal decisions sanctioning or warning a lawyer over AI-fabricated or misstated authority through Nov. 5, 2026, each read in the original order except Ma v. Cogdell (reported by Bloomberg Law). Pro se filers excluded.

Sources ↓

CLOSE TO HOME

From this district and a Texas bankruptcy court

E.D. Tex. · Crone, J. · Nov. 25, 2024

Gauthier v. Goodyear

Two cases that do not exist and invented quotations attributed to real cases, drafted with Claude. Goodyear's reply flagged them; the sur-reply said nothing.

Sanction: $2,000 to the registry; 1 hour of CLE on generative AI; the order to the client.

"This silence is deafening."

No. 1:23-cv-281, 2024 WL 4882651 (E.D. Tex.) (quoting Iovino)

E.D. Tex. · Mazzant, C.J. · June 11, 2026

McCormick v. Texakoma

One invented case, two invented quotations, six unsupported propositions. She blamed a law clerk and a paralegal; the court did not believe her.

Sanction: Public reprimand served on every judge in the district; $5,000 with her firm; every 2026 filing re-checked; a year of verification certificates.

"a half-baked, last-minute story that shifts the blame to everyone but herself"

No. 4:25-cv-773, 2026 WL 1746259, at *8

Bankr. S.D. Tex. · Rodriguez, C.J. · Nov. 4, 2025

In re Kheir

32 citations questioned: 6 to cases that do not exist, 26 to cases that do not say what was claimed. The client had used AI; the lawyer signed.

Sanction: The other side's fees; 6 hours of CLE; the order to the client; **referral to the State Bar**.

"carelessness, good faith, or ignorance are not excuses"

674 B.R. 631 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2025)

Bankr. S.D. Tex. · Rodriguez, C.J. · July 14, 2026

In re Rosslyn2016

Three quotations on Rule 2004 that appear in no case. Westlaw's AI product and an old template; nothing verified. The Chapter 7 Trustee caught it.

Sanction: 6 hours of CLE under Rule 9011; separately, $29,877 to the Trustee for contempt and bad faith, including unverified motions to quash.

"a matter of profound concern regarding the integrity of the bankruptcy process"

No. 25-34507, ECF 312, at 1

Texas state and federal decisions sanctioning or warning a lawyer over AI-fabricated or misstated authority through Nov. 5, 2026, each read in the original order except Ma v. Cogdell (reported by Bloomberg Law). Pro se filers excluded.

Sources ↓

THE EXCUSE

Blaming someone else has never worked

THE LAWYER POINTED AT …	
a legal assistant	Truong (S.D. Tex.)
a law clerk	Elizondo (S.D. Tex.); McCormick (E.D. Tex.)
a paralegal	McCormick (E.D. Tex.)
support staff	Gonzalez (W.D. Tex.)
an associate	Shelton (N.D. Tex.)
the client	Kheir (Bankr. S.D. Tex.)
co-counsel	Cain (W.D. Tex.)
an old template	Rosslyn2016 (Bankr. S.D. Tex.)

0

of them escaped responsibility. In every case that reached a ruling, the court held the lawyer who signed.

> "The Court will not accept the excuse that such content was prepared by AI, staff, or others when assessing potential violations of Rule ll . . . ."

Elizondo v. City of Laredo, No. 5:25-cv-50, 2025 WL 2071072 (S.D. Tex. July 23, 2025), at 4 (quoting the court's procedures). The duty is "nondelegable."

Texas state and federal decisions sanctioning or warning a lawyer over AI-fabricated or misstated authority through Nov. 5, 2026, each read in the original order except Ma v. Cogdell (reported by Bloomberg Law). Pro se filers excluded.

Sources ↓

THE SANCTION

The money is modest. The rest is what follows you.

FIXED AMOUNTS FOR THE CITATIONS · $2,000 TO $10,000



Outside the range: Rosslyn2016's $29,877 was for contempt and bad faith, including filing motions to quash without verifying them. Kheir and Wilson awarded the other side's fees, amount set later. Gonzalez is $3,852.50 in fees plus $108.54 in costs.

WHAT ELSE THE ORDERS SAID

CLE ordered · 1 to 8 hours	8 cases
The order sent to the client	5 cases
Filing struck	3 cases
State Bar referral · Kheir	1 case
Public reprimand, published, with a review of every 2026 filing · McCormick	1 case

Texas state and federal decisions sanctioning or warning a lawyer over AI-fabricated or misstated authority through Nov. 5, 2026, each read in the original order except Ma v. Cogdell (reported by Bloomberg Law). Pro se filers excluded.

THE TOOL

It is not about which AI

THE ONLY 5 ORDERS THAT NAME A PRODUCT

Claude	Gauthier
ChatGPT	Wilson v. KIPP
Lexis AI citation generator	Gonzalez
Westlaw Precision	Rosslyn2016
CoCounsel, vLex and others	Fletcher

Three of the five are legal-research products. Four more orders, left out of our count, never mention AI at all, and the errors look the same: a case that does not exist, a quotation that is not there, a real case cited for what it does not hold.

The common thread is a citation nobody read, not the tool that wrote it.

> AI "can be helpful if done properly and carefully."

Fletcher v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc., 168 F.4th 231 (5th Cir. 2026).

Texas state and federal decisions sanctioning or warning a lawyer over AI-fabricated or misstated authority through Nov. 5, 2026, each read in the original order except Ma v. Cogdell (reported by Bloomberg Law). Pro se filers excluded.

Sources ↓

WHAT THE TEXAS CASES ACTUALLY PUNISH

Not the tool. The silence.

“Had Hersh accepted responsibility and been more forthcoming, it is likely that the court would have imposed lesser sanctions.”

Fletcher v. Experian, 168 F.4th 231 (5th Cir. 2026)

“This silence is deafening.”

Said of a lawyer who did not fix his brief until the court ordered him to show cause.

Gauthier v. Goodyear (E.D. Tex. 2024), quoting Iovino (W.D. Va. 2024)

“...whether the citations were generated by artificial intelligence, copied from prior filings without verification, or typed manually...”

In re Rosslyn2016, LLC (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2026): the problem is the same

“...the Court expects all parties to assist... by alerting the Court to such errors.”

Elizondo v. City of Laredo (S.D. Tex. 2025), which also says its rules “do not prohibit the use of such tools”

Every quotation on this slide was checked against the opinion before it went on the slide.

Sources ↓

TAKE THIS ONE HOME

Before you file in this district with AI's help

01 **Read every authority.** It exists, the quote is verbatim, it says what you say. All content, not only cites.

02 **Don't let one AI vouch for another.** Gauthier ran Lexis AI over Claude's draft.

03 **Check the judge, and the referral judge.** Crone or Love: attach the certificate.

04 **Keep confidences out of tools** you have not vetted, and be ready to certify that.

05 **Check the protective order** before any of the other side's documents go into a tool.

06 **You sign it, you own it.** "My clerk did it" bought a public reprimand.

07 **When they flag a cite, fix it that day.** Courts treated silence after a warning as making it worse.

08 **Check theirs, too.** Elizondo expects every party to flag the fakes.

L.R. AT-3(m), CV-11(g); LBR 1001-1(i); MC-11; Love standing order; Gauthier; McCormick; Fletcher; Elizondo; Tex. Op. 705. In bankruptcy court the vehicle is Rule 9011, not Rule 11.



YALTA, FEBRUARY 1945

The planning committee for Part II.

U.S. Army Signal Corps photograph, public domain.

PART II · HOW WE DO IT

You can do this *without a huge budget.*

One lawyer, one AI subscription, three rented services. What it costs, what it runs on, and what it replaced.

THE BILLS, OCTOBER 2026

Under $300 a month runs the whole thing

PER MONTH

$268

That is the AI, the database, the hosting, the website and the client portal.

Claude The engineer and the first-draft associate. One subscription.	$213
Supabase The database: cases, billing, calendar, the 951k-opinion corpus.	~$33
Vercel Hosting for jhenrylaw.com and the portal. Deploys on every save.	~$22
GitHub Where the code lives, with every change on the record.	$0
Already owned Microsoft 365 for mail and calendar. QuickBooks Desktop for the books.	—

From the firm's invoices: Claude, Oct. 7, 2026 ($213.20, with tax); Supabase Pro, $25 plus the firm's project compute, after credit; Vercel Pro, $20 plus usage. Court data (CourtListener bulk opinions, eFileTexas, PACER) is free or per-page.

THE STACK, ON ONE PICTURE

Public data in, a lawyer's signature out

01 · SOURCES

Court opinions: CourtListener's free bulk data, 951,523 decisions

Dockets: eFileTexas and re:SearchTX, PACER

Records: county deed and appraisal records, the state's local-rules database

The client: email, uploads to the portal

→

02 · CLAUDE

Builds the software: 3,771 changes since 1 Aug 2026

Reads and drafts: research, pleadings, letters, billing entries

Works the desktop: Outlook, the browser, QuickBooks

Under a written rulebook it reads every session

→

03 · OUR PLATFORM

jhenrylaw.com: the public site and the opinion library

The portal: cases, clients, calendar, billing, co-counsel

The checks: daily court watches, Citation Check

Supabase database · Vercel hosting · GitHub

→

04 · THE LAWYER

Decides, edits, checks, signs.

Every action on the record says whether a person or Claude did it.

Nothing here is custom hardware or an enterprise contract. Each layer is a service any firm can rent this afternoon; what is ours is the code Claude wrote on top of it, and the rules it follows.

Commit count from the firm's repository, 1 Aug to 5 Nov 2026. Corpus count from the firm's database, 2 Nov 2026.

WHAT IT REPLACED

We rebuilt our practice-management software inside our own website

BEFORE

MyCase

A per-seat subscription that held the cases, the calendar, the time and the invoices, in its shape rather than ours.

The invoice numbers carried over: MyCase ended at 10306, and the firm’s own system issued 10307.

NOW · JHENRYLAW.COM/PORTAL

Cases and clients

Each client signs in with a second factor and sees only their own case; they can upload, never edit or delete.

Calendar and deadlines

Dates computed from the rule that sets them, and consultations booked straight into Outlook.

Accounting

Claude works QuickBooks Desktop directly on the desktop, as it did for a contractor’s year-end reconciliation, and will for the firm’s own.

Intake and conflicts

Names are screened against the conflict list before anyone reads a document.

Time and invoices

Human time and Claude’s time recorded separately; invoices issued from the record.

Co-counsel

Another firm works the same case on its own side of the wall.

The firm’s portal, Nov. 2026. Built Aug.–Nov. 2026 by one lawyer directing Claude; no outside developer.

THE OTHER RELIABLE MEANS

Our own law library, searched and read by the agents

951,523
opinions, full-text indexed

4.65M
citation links between them

<1 sec
to search the whole corpus for a rare term

Watched every day, without being asked

Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas · the Fifth Circuit · all fifteen Texas courts of appeals · the Supreme Court of Texas pending docket · rule changes

Source: jhenrylaw.com law corpus and court watches, 2 Nov 2026.

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX

Twenty years of my own files is the advantage

THE LAW

951,523

opinions in our own corpus

What every lawyer can reach, held and searched here so every citation is checked against real text.

MY WORK · 20 YEARS

48,500

documents from more than 100 matters

22,400 PDFs, 18,200 emails, 6,800 Word files, 1,000 spreadsheets, all in Google Drive. Nobody else has this library.

HOW WE WORK

The rulebook

CLAUDE.md and the memory files

How we work together, what went wrong and the fix, read at the start of every session.

START FROM A CASE THAT WORKED

`Intake` → `Engagement` → `Letters` → `Pleadings` → `Motions` → `Orders` → `Outcome` × many

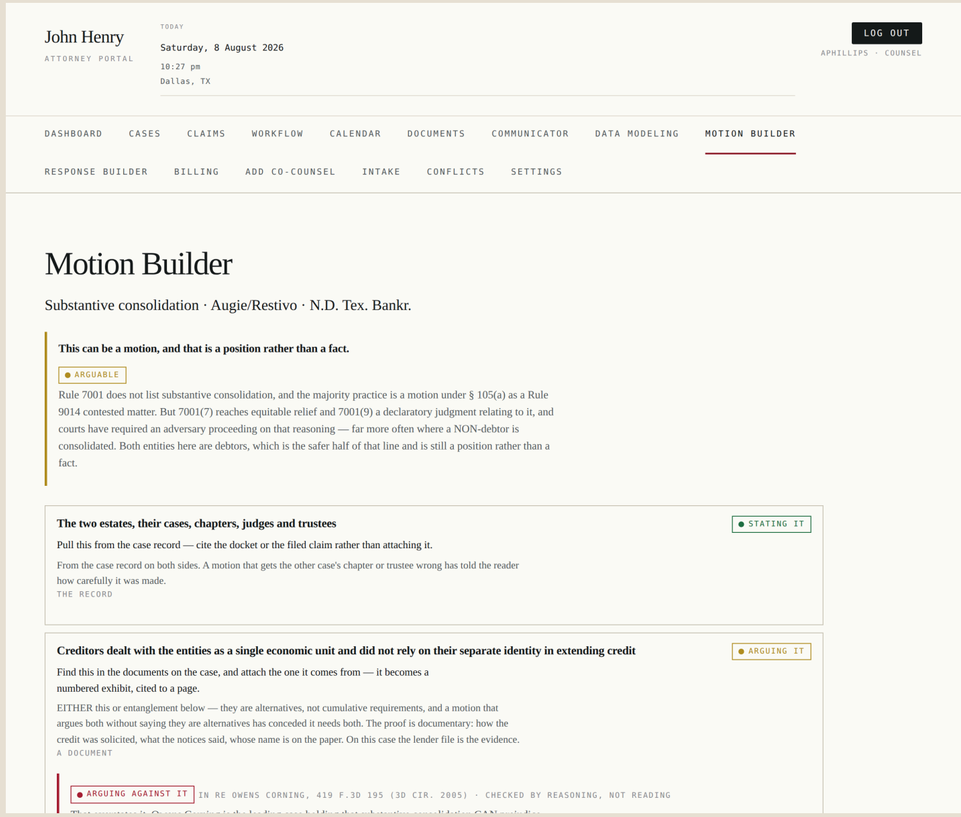
Corpus count: jhenrylaw.com law corpus, 2 Nov 2026. Document count: the firm's Google Drive on 5 Nov 2026, personal and family folders excluded (73,678 files, 101 GB in all). CLAUDE.md and the memory files are plain-text instructions the model reads at the start of each session.

THE ONE RULE

A model may assert a *text*. It may not assert a *holding*.

A statute or rule is short, stable and checkable in fifteen seconds. The model may mark it settled.

What a court decided stays yellow until the opinion is actually read or a lawyer signs off. A warning is never capped.



Screenshot: proposition-by-proposition grading on a test motion.

GUARDRAILS THAT LIVE IN CODE

Every failure the courts punish has an answer in code

What courts punish	What the system enforces
Fabricated or misread authority	Citation Check marks every cite green, red or grey; case holdings stay yellow until read
Unsupported AI expert work	Damages and deadlines computed by deterministic code with hand-checked tests
Unverified, unsigned output	A sign-off is tied to a fingerprint of the exact text approved
AI work passed off as the lawyer’s	Every action records whether a person or Claude did it
Billing for time “saved”	Human time and model time are recorded separately
Disclosing client confidences	Zero-retention model access; conflicts run before any model reads intake

A rule a model is asked to follow is a rule it can fail to follow silently. So the rules are enforced where the output is stored, not in the prompt.

CITATION CHECK · ONE RUN

Catch the fake case: three citations, three answers

SAMPLE BRIEF, PAGE 4

A demand for payment of a pre-petition loan, sent after the petition, is “any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against the debtor.” 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6)[1]. The Fifth Circuit has awarded a debtor its fees for exactly this conduct. *See In re Garcia*, 98 F.4th 211 (5th Cir. 2024)[2]. Because this brief was prepared with generative AI, counsel certifies that use, as the Fifth Circuit now requires. *See Fletcher v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, 168 F.4th 231 (5th Cir. 2026)[3].

1

VERIFIED

11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6)

The quotation matches the statute word for word.

2

NOT FOUND

***In re Garcia*, 98 F.4th 211 (5th Cir. 2024)**

No case by that name at that cite. 98 F.4th 211 is *Miller v. Michaels Stores* (5th Cir. Apr. 4, 2024).

Closest name: *In re Garcia White* (5th Cir. Sept. 30, 2024), a different case at a different cite.

3

CHECK THE HOLDING

***Fletcher v. Experian* (5th Cir. Feb. 18, 2026)**

The case is real. It requires no AI certificate: it sanctions a lawyer under the rules that already exist, and recounts the court’s decision not to adopt an AI-specific rule.

Sample brief written for this demonstration. Each result is what the firm’s corpus shows for that citation, read 5 Nov 2026. The tool never calls a real case fake: what it cannot confirm it marks for a person to read.

Sources ↓

HOW WE GET IT RIGHT · THE RED TEAM

Before we file, an agent plays the other side's best lawyer

THE DRAFT UNDER ATTACK

Complaint and claim objections

23 pages · 98 paragraphs
19 counts

Checked against the court's local rules before any lane began.

FIVE LANES, READ AS OPPOSING COUNSEL

Candor	Is every allegation true for every item it covers?
Deadlines	What date could the other side use against us?
Procedure	Can these claims be joined the way we joined them?
Authority	Can this court enter final judgment? Who gets a jury?
Local rules	Does every page meet this court's own rules?

WHAT CAME BACK

FIXED BEFORE FILING

An allegation that was not true for 5 of the items it covered: a Rule 9011 problem in our own pleading.

RAISED TO THE LAWYER

A deadline the other side could have used.

RAISED TO THE LAWYER

A joinder question under the claims-objection rule.

RAISED TO THE LAWYER

Final-judgment authority and jury exposure.

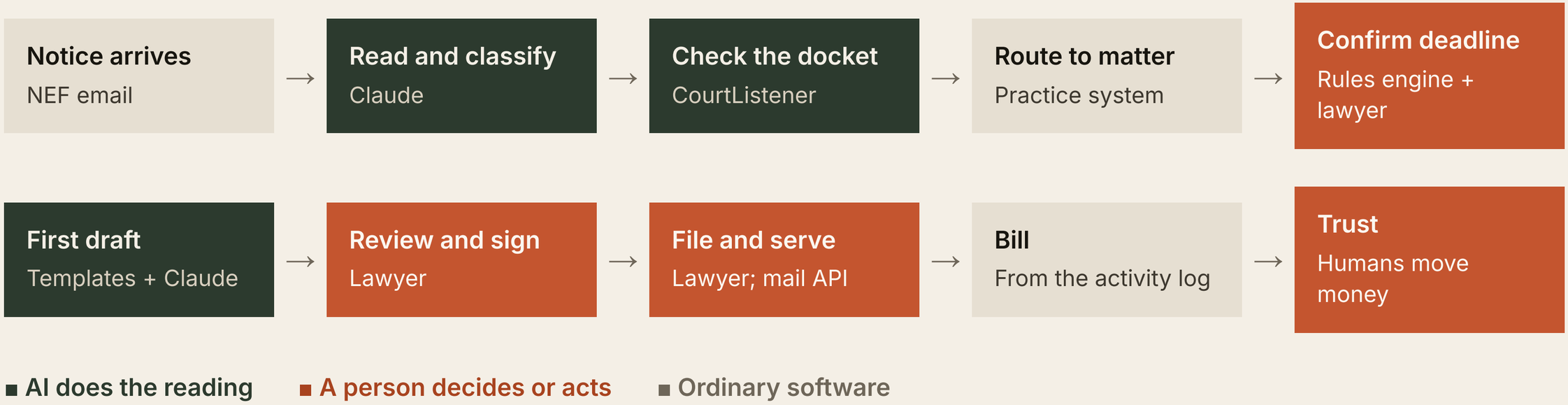
Findings go to the lawyer, never straight into the draft.

Same pass, this week: a discovery set read from the other side's chair held five requests back for deposition; an appeal package was attacked before it was filed.

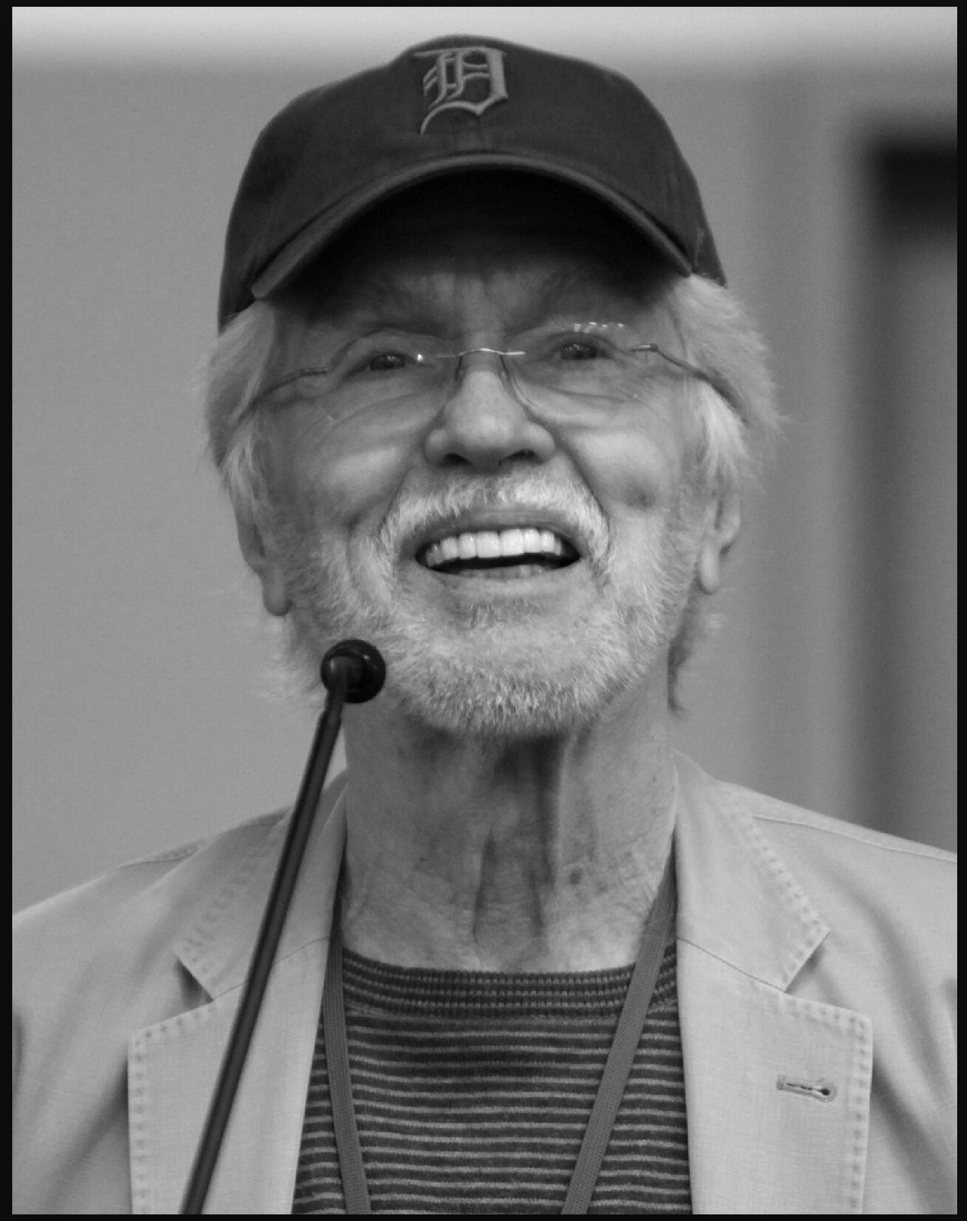
A real pleading in a Texas bankruptcy matter, anonymized. Each lane is a separate agent given only the draft and the rules, told to find what opposing counsel would use.

BUILD IT YOURSELF

From the court's notice to the trust account



The model classifies; a rules engine counts the days; a lawyer confirms. No agent files, serves, or touches the trust account.



“Maverick, you’ll get your RIO when you get to the ship. And if you don’t, give me a call.

I’ll fly with you.”

Viper, *Top Gun* (1986)

Tom Skerritt
1933–2026

Photo: Gage Skidmore, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

WHAT WE CAN BUILD NOW

The court already reads the docket. So build on *the docket.*

Every entry, opened up: the dates it set, the document’s versions, each party’s comments and sign-off, the evidence behind the numbers, and what was said at the hearing. Everyone working from it, each on their own side.

THE DOCKET, AUGMENTED

Every entry opens into what hangs off it

In re Example Debtor, LLC

Case No. 25-40000 · Chapter 11 · test data

THE DOCKET, AUGMENTED

1	03/14/2025	Voluntary Petition under Chapter 11
412	10/20/2026	ORDER SETTING HEARING on Objection to Claims (Dkt 405). Hearing Dec 9 at 1:30 p.m. TRIGGERED · Serve notice · Nov 21 · Responses · Dec 2 · Exhibit lists · Dec 6 · Hearing · Dec 9 · Pool: JH&A · Co-counsel
418	10/27/2026	Agreed Order Resolving Claim No. 47 (proposed) — circulating VERSIONS v1 v2 **v3** · **Lender's counsel:** ¶ 4 — "allowed" not "deemed allowed" · **Trustee:** agree, v3 · SIGN-OFF ON V3 JH&A · Co-counsel · Trustee · Lender's counsel · READY TO UPLOAD
425	10/29/2026	Exhibit List; Exhibit 12 (bank statements, x4471) OBJECTS · 6 statements · hashed · DATA · 24 figures · each pinned to a page · Mar re-produced → Ex. 12 v2
431	10/30/2026	ORDER RESETTING HEARING to Dec 16 at 1:30 p.m. RECOUNTED · Responses · Dec 9 · Exhibit lists · Dec 13 · Hearing · Dec 16 · both firms · same second
440	11/02/2026	Hearing held. Witness examined. LISTENING · 3 answers checked · 1 inconsistent · Ex. 12 p.2 · transcript linked to the record

Live at jhenrylaw.com/portal/docket on a test case. The animation runs the full four-party sign-off; on the live page, John signs v3 for JH&A.

TWO FIRMS, ONE RECORD

The court moves the hearing; every date moves for both firms

THE DOCKET **Dkt 431** · Order resetting the hearing · **Dec 16**



JH&A lead counsel · protector

Nov 21	Serve notice of hearing · Ours to decide	Us · JH&A
Dec 9	Responses due · Movable by order	Them (watch)
Dec 13	Exhibit and witness lists · Movable by order	Task: co-counsel · To do assigned by the protector
Dec 16	Hearing · Set by the court	Us · the protector

Co-counsel firm special counsel

Nov 21	Serve notice of hearing · Ours to decide	Us · JH&A
Dec 9	Responses due · Movable by order	Them (watch)
Dec 13	Exhibit and witness lists · Movable by order	Your task · To do assigned by the protector
Dec 16	Hearing · Set by the court	Us · the protector

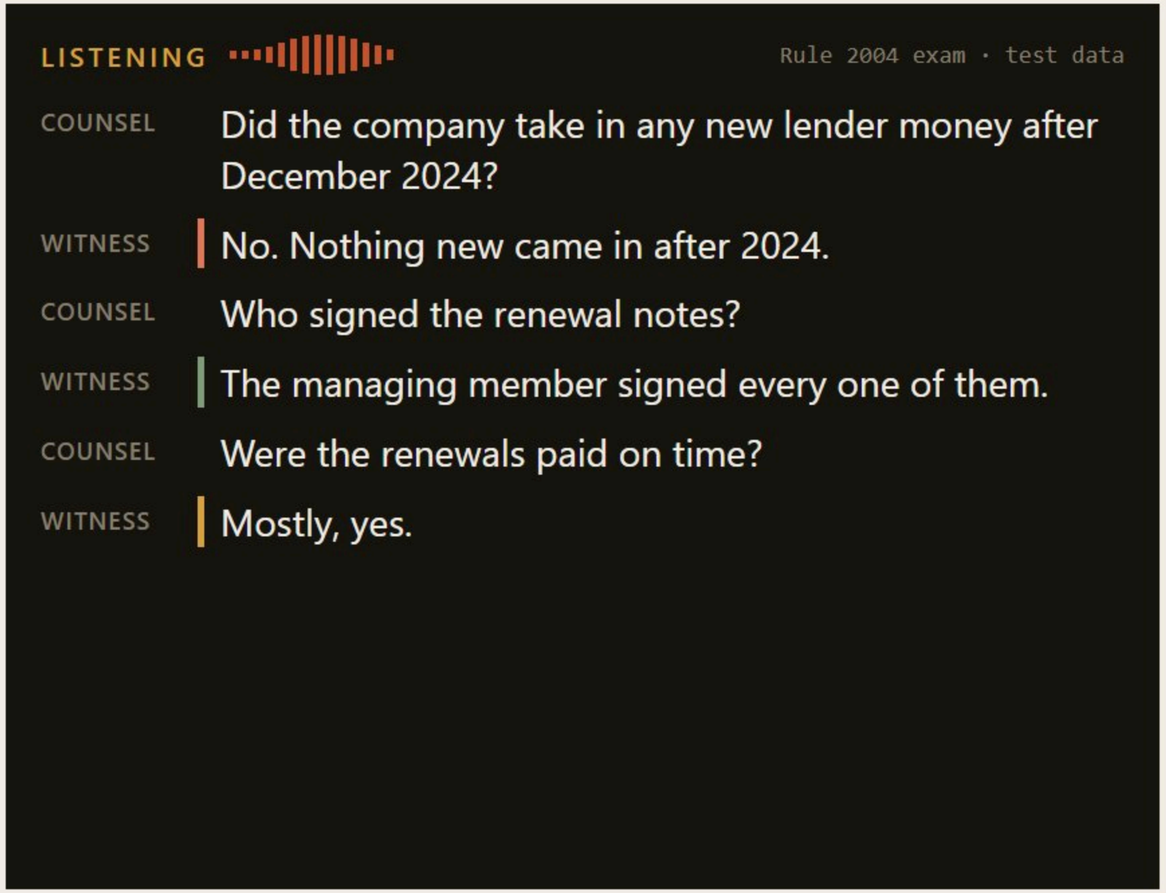
Dkt 431 moved 3 dates · recounted from the order · both firms, same second

SAME DATA, BOTH SIDES

The pools, roles and rule chips come from a live case sandbox. The dates here are illustrative.

AT THE HEARING · LIVE

It listens, and checks each answer against the record



AGAINST THE RECORD

3 statements checked

THE RECORD DOES NOT SETTLE IT

Ledger · 61 renewals paid late · 412 on time

Ask: "How many were late? Would 61 surprise you?"

CONSISTENT WITH THE RECORD

Note register · every note signed by the managing member

INCONSISTENT WITH THE RECORD

Bank stmt x4471 · Mar 2025 · p.2 l.14 — $412,000 wire in

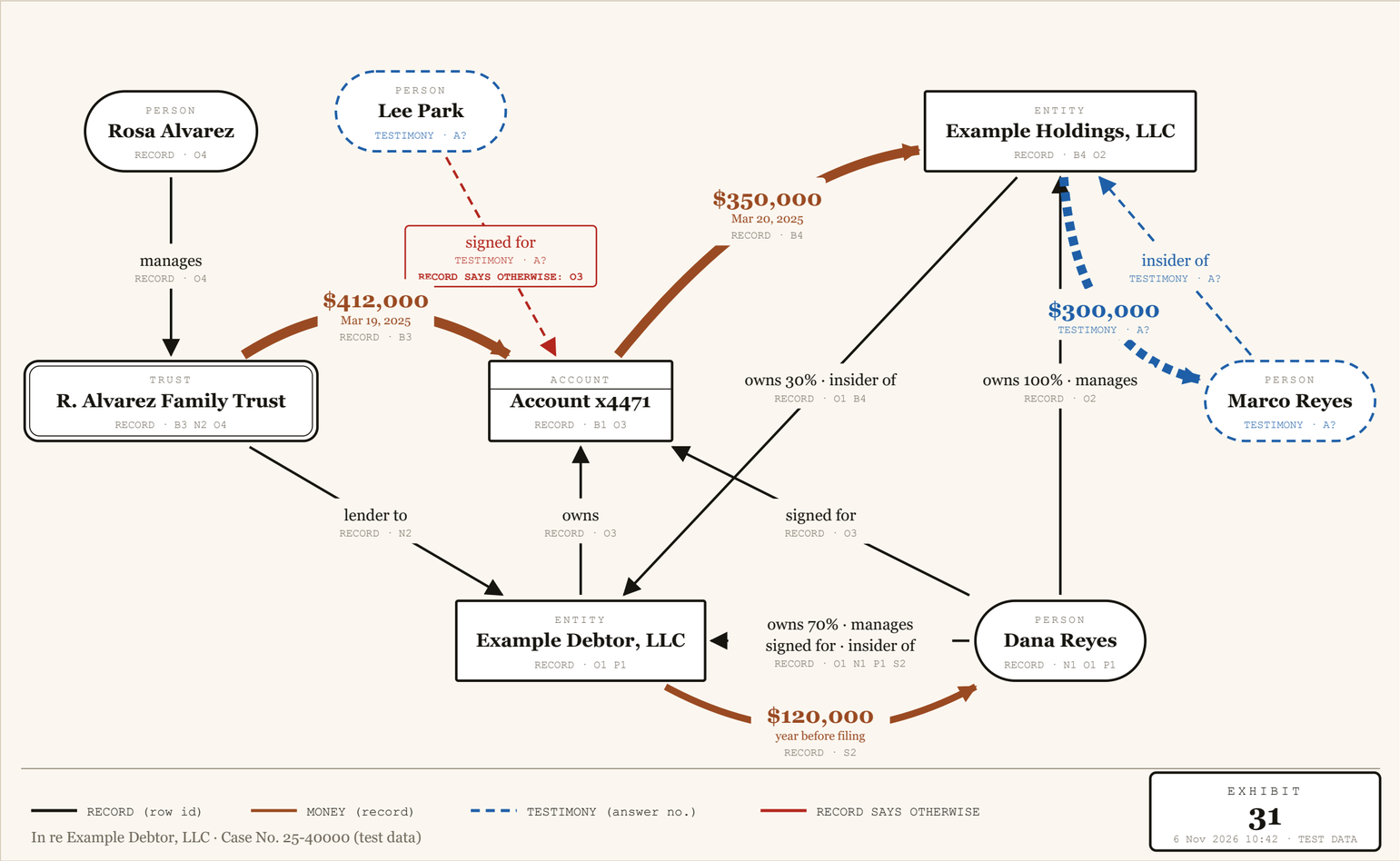
Note #117 · dated Feb 18, 2025 · $400,000

Ask: "I'm handing you Exhibit 12, page 2. What is the wire on line 14?"

Running now at jhenrylaw.com/portal/listen, on a test-data record. Red: the record says otherwise. Green: it agrees. Amber: it does not settle it.

AT THE DEPOSITION · LIVE

Who owns what, who signed, and where the money went



01

The record draws the map

Owners, signers and money, each line resting on a record row with page and line.

02

The deponent adds to it

Each answer proposes a party, a payment or a relationship. Dashed blue until the lawyer accepts it.

03

The record answers back

A claim the record contradicts turns red and names the row that says otherwise.

04

Freeze it as an exhibit

Ex. 30, show the witness, keep going, Ex. 31. Print it or save it as an image.

Exhibit 31 as the live page draws it, on test data: two people the deponent named, a $300,000 payment, and a signer the signature card contradicts.
jhenrylaw.com/portal/relmap

EVIDENCE THAT STAYS CURRENT · LIVE

The exhibit is drawn from the evidence, and redrawn on the bench

1 · OBJECTS PRODUCED

- **Statement · Jan 2025** — x4471 · sha 3f9a… — v1
- **Statement · Feb 2025** — x4471 · sha b21c… — v1
- **Statement · Mar 2025** — x4471 · sha 9c0e… · v1 kept — v2
- **Statement · Apr 2025** — x4471 · sha 0c41… — v1
- **Statement · May 2025** — x4471 · sha e95a… — v1
- **Statement · Jun 2025** — x4471 · sha 5d13… — v1

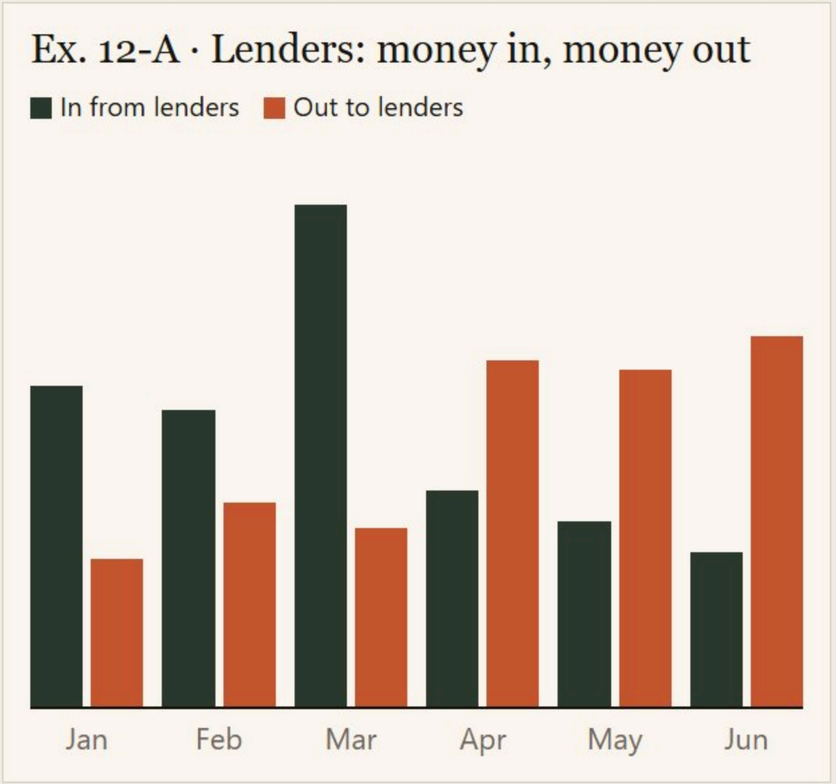
Mar re-produced · v1 kept, superseded

2 · DATA DRAWN FROM THEM

Month	In	Out	Closing
Jan	$612k p.1 1.12	$288k p.2 1.30	$1,204k p.3 1.4
Feb	$540k p.1 1.13	$402k p.2 1.31	$1,342k p.3 1.4
Mar	$881k p.1 1.14	$512k p.2 1.32	$1,711k p.3 1.4
Apr	$402k p.1 1.15	$615k p.2 1.33	$1,498k p.3 1.4
May	$355k p.1 1.16	$590k p.2 1.34	$1,263k p.3 1.4
Jun	$298k p.1 1.17	$640k p.2 1.35	$921k p.3 1.4

4 figures changed · each still pinned

3 · THE EXHIBIT

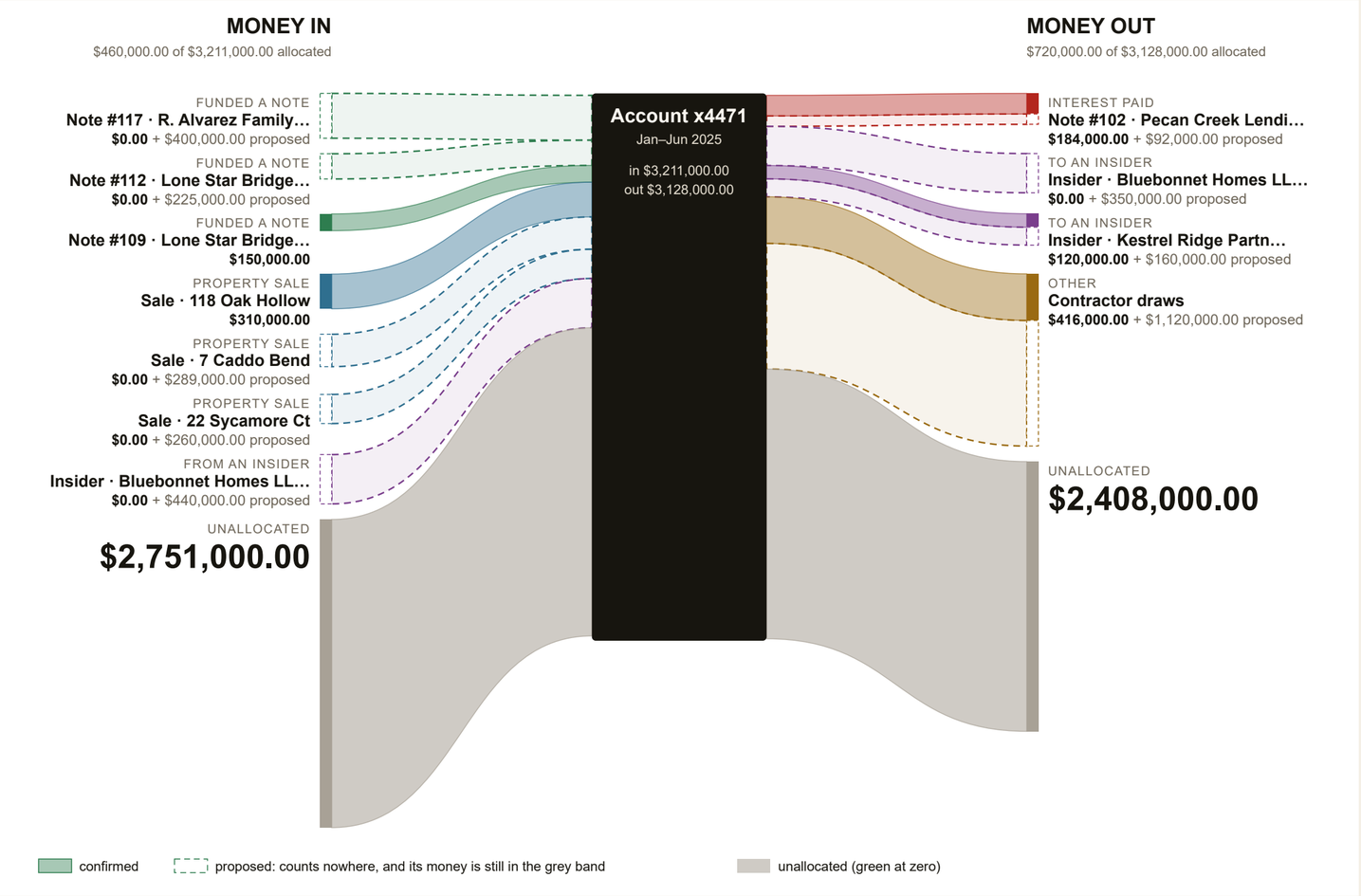


Ex. 12-A cut from the same data, on the bench

Running now at jhenrylaw.com/portal/exhibits, on test data. Every figure carries its page and line; a re-production is a new version, never an overwrite.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY · LIVE

Every dollar on the statements, assigned or still grey



01

Every dollar points at a page

Each part of a statement line is allocated to a note, a property, interest or an insider, with the document behind it.

02

The system proposes, the lawyer confirms

A memo naming a note, a wire matching its principal, a payment matching its interest. Dashed until confirmed.

03

Grey is what nobody has explained

The unallocated total, in and out, in large type. It turns green at zero.

04

A re-produced statement is flagged

Allocations on a superseded line go to review; the new line starts grey.

Drawn by the live page from the test case: $460,000 of $3.21M in confirmed, $720,000 of $3.13M out; the rest is still grey. jhenrylaw.com/portal/allocate

FOLLOWING THE MONEY · HOW WE ACTUALLY DID IT

Every line of the bank record, claimed by a rule or left grey

2019-03-04	WIRE IN · ref 88213	$100,000	Note 0021 funded · Lender 007 · amount and date match the note
2019-04-04	WIRE OUT · ref 90114	−$1,500	Interest · Note 0021 · $1,500 due the 4th, paid the 4th
2019-04-11	CHECK 1147	−$35,000	Promoter fee · Note 0021 terms
2019-05-02	TITLE CO DISB	−$186,400	Land · Lot 14 · deed of record
2019-05-04	WIRE OUT · ref 90377	−$1,500	Interest · Note 0021 · matches schedule
2019-05-09	WIRE IN · ref 91002	$250,000	Note 0024 funded · Lender 013 · match
2019-05-14	TRANSFER OUT	−$48,000	Not explained by any note, fee or deed
2019-06-04	WIRE OUT · ref 92210	−$1,500	Interest · Note 0021 · matches schedule
2019-06-09	WIRE OUT · ref 92288	−$4,375	Interest · Note 0024 · $4,375 due the 9th, paid the 9th
2019-06-20	CHECK 1162	−$61,500	Not explained by any note, fee or deed
2019-07-01	WIRE IN · ref 93541	$150,000	Note 0027 funded · Lender 007 · match
2019-07-03	TITLE CO DISB	−$212,750	Land · Lots 22–23 · deed of record
2019-07-09	WIRE OUT · ref 94020	−$4,375	Interest · Note 0024 · matches schedule
2019-07-15	CHECK 1170	−$22,500	Promoter fee · Note 0027 terms
2019-07-26	CASH WITHDRAWAL	−$9,000	Not explained by any note, fee or deed

Note money in, matched
$46.73M

Debt service, matched to schedule
$24.90M

Promoter fees, per the notes
$5.47M

Land, per deeds and schedules
$10.65M

Left over: not explained
$5.71M

1 A deposit that equals a note's principal on its funding date is that note.

2 A payment that equals the note's scheduled interest on its due date is that interest.

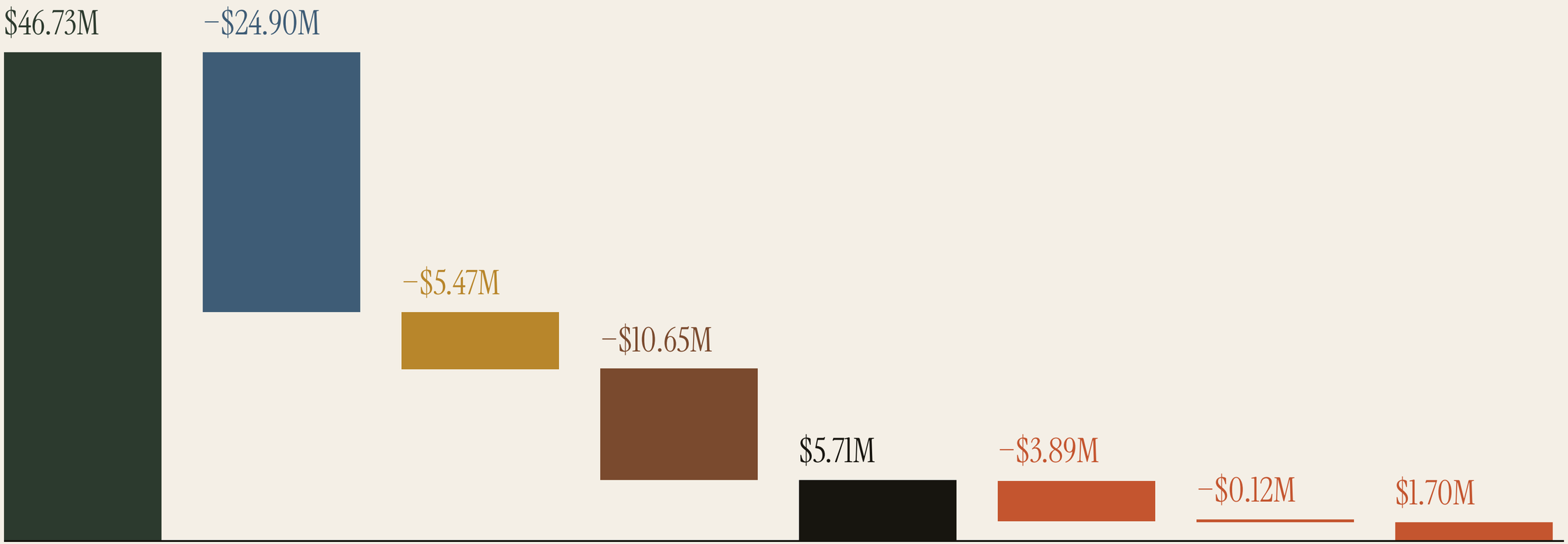
3 Fees the notes themselves promise; **4** land closings on the deed record.

5 Whatever no rule claims stays grey, for a person.

Anonymized demonstration on synthetic data shaped like a real Chapter 11 reconstruction: 171 notes from 74 lenders over ten years. Rows shown are a sample; the totals run over the full synthetic ledger.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY · WHERE IT GOT US

From $46.7 million raised to $1.7 million still to find



Anonymized demonstration on synthetic data with the shape of a real reconstruction. In the real case the same steps turned an eight-figure question into a short list of transfers for the subpoenas.

WHAT THE METADATA SHOWS

Every file carries its own history, and we read all of it, instantly

ONE FILE, X-RAYED

Committee_Minutes_A.pdf

Created	[date], [time]
Version B created	same day, 2 minutes later
Author	opposing counsel's staff
Meeting it records	months earlier
Signed	no one
Made with	a word processor, then PDF

Two versions of one meeting, written by the other side's lawyers' office, two minutes apart.

From the discovery demo. Read in seconds; became an RFP for the native files and paired RFAs.

Word & PDF files

WE SEE Created, modified, author, last saved by, revision count, editing time, the software that made it, tracked changes left behind

Date a document against the date it claims. Find who really wrote it.

Email

WE SEE Every server hop and time stamp, message ID, reply chain, time zone, attachment fingerprints

Prove when it was sent and received, and that the copy produced is the one sent.

Photos

WE SEE When taken, the camera or phone, GPS location, whether it was edited and with what

Put a person, a lot or a vehicle at a place and time, or show that it was not.

Court filings

WE SEE E-filing envelope times, file stamps, entered-on-docket times, service times

Count every deadline from the true event, to the minute.

Productions

WE SEE Bates continuity, image-only pages, file hashes, which pages are scans and which are natives

Spot the missing page, the re-produced copy and the document that changed.

Text messages

WE SEE Thread order, sender, exact time, what came just before and after

Ask for the whole thread when only the convenient line was produced.

The x-ray is a produced file from a real matter, anonymized. Metadata can be stripped or altered, so it is a lead to prove, not proof by itself; ask for the native file, then authenticate.

TWO QUESTIONS FOR THE BENCH

1. Does this bench think a rule more restrictive than the ones now in place is necessary?
2. What do you *want* to see in the courtroom?

Thank you

"AI is a tool that belongs in the workflow, but not on the bench." Judge Scott Schlegel, AI in Chambers (2025)

John Henry
John Henry & Associates, PLLC

jhenrylaw.com/ai-in-litigation

Sources ↓

EXHIBIT

The sources for these slides

Every quotation on the slides that comes from a rule, an order, an opinion, a statute or a judge's writing, shown on the page of the document it comes from, with the words highlighted. This is the check the talk asks of every lawyer who files with AI's help: go back to the source, and read it.

Sources for the slides

AI in Modern Litigation (November 2026) · E.D. Tex. Bankruptcy Bench Bar · John Henry & Associates, PLLC

Every quotation on the slides that comes from a rule, an order, an opinion, a statute or a judge's writing, shown on the page of the document it comes from, with the words highlighted. The band at the top of each page names the slide and the document. Documents were retrieved from the issuing court or publisher; web pages were printed on 6 November 2026. The Angelina County order is a scan, so its sentence was located by OCR and the highlight marks the line.

Index

Slide 7	“any act to collect , assess , or recover a claim against …” — 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6), as published by Cornell LII	p. 3
Slide 19	“apply in the Bankruptcy Court.” — Local Bankruptcy Rules, E.D. Tex.	p. 4
Slide 19	“must review and verify all content.” — Local Rules, E.D. Tex. (as of Feb. 9, 2026)	p. 5
Slide 19	“using print reporters, traditional legal databases, or ot…” — Bankr. N.D. Tex. General Order 2023-03	p. 6
Slide 19	“do not apply” — Local Bankruptcy Rules, E.D. Tex.	p. 7
Slide 19	“regardless of whether” — S.D. Tex. General Order 2025-04 (May 7, 2025)	p. 8
Slide 20	“should never replace the lawyer’s most important asset - …” — E.D. Tex. General Order 25-07 (amending the local ru	p. 9
Slide 20	“must review and verify all content.” — Local Rules, E.D. Tex. (as of Feb. 9, 2026)	p. 10
Slide 20	“Certificate of Generative Artificial Intelligence Usage” — Judge Crone, Standing Order MC-11 (E.D. Tex. July 20	p. 11
Slide 20	“with all filings” — Judge Love, Standing Order on generative AI (E.D. Te	p. 12
Slide 21	“will not be considered.” — Angelina County Court at Law No. 2, Standing Order (	p. 13
Slide 21	“verified as accurate through traditional (non-AI) legal s…” — Denton County Probate Courts, Standing Order Regardi	p. 14
Slide 22	“the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy,…” — Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 26-9054 (pr	p. 15
Slide 22	“record citations.” — Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 26-9054 (pr	p. 16
Slide 22	“is not prohibited, but the filing attorney or party is in…” — Texas Business Court Local Rules (eff. Oct. 1, 2026)	p. 17
Slide 23	“regardless of whether” — S.D. Tex. General Order 2025-04 (May 7, 2025)	p. 18
Slide 23	“AI, staff, or others” — Judge Kazen (Laredo), civil procedures (S.D. Tex.)	p. 19
Slide 23	“‘I used AI’ will not be an excuse for an otherwise sancti…” — Fifth Circuit, decision not to adopt proposed Rule 3	p. 20
Slide 28	“It is a problem that is getting worse—not better.” — Fletcher v. Experian, No. 25-20086, 168 F.4th 231 (5	p. 21
Slide 29	“This silence is deafening.” — Gauthier v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (E.D. Tex. No	p. 22
Slide 29	“a half-baked, last-minute story that shifts the blame to …” — McCormick v. Texakoma Financial, Inc., No. 4:25-cv-7	p. 23
Slide 29	“carelessness, good faith, or ignorance are not excuses” — Kheir v. Titan Team (Nov. 4, 2025)	p. 24
Slide 29	“a matter of profound concern regarding the integrity of t…” — In re Rosslyn2016, LLC (Bankr. S.D. Tex. July 14, 20	p. 25
Slide 30	“The Court will not accept the excuse that such content wa…” — Judge Kazen (Laredo), civil procedures (S.D. Tex.)	p. 26
Slide 30	“nondelegable.” — Elizondo v. City of Laredo, No. 5:25-cv-50 (S.D. Tex	p. 27
Slide 32	“can be helpful if done properly and carefully.” — Fletcher v. Experian, No. 25-20086, 168 F.4th 231 (5	p. 28
Slide 33	“Had Hersh accepted responsibility and been more forthcomi…” — Fletcher v. Experian, No. 25-20086, 168 F.4th 231 (5	p. 29
Slide 33	“This silence is deafening.” — Gauthier v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (E.D. Tex. No	p. 30
Slide 33	“…whether the citations were generated by artificial intel…” — In re Rosslyn2016, LLC (Bankr. S.D. Tex. July 14, 20	p. 31
Slide 33	“…the Court expects all parties to assist… by alerting the…” — Elizondo v. City of Laredo, No. 5:25-cv-50 (S.D. Tex	p. 32
Slide 33	“do not prohibit the use of such tools” — Elizondo v. City of Laredo, No. 5:25-cv-50 (S.D. Tex	p. 33
Slide 44	“any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against th…” — 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(6), as published by Cornell LII	p. 34
Slide 58	“AI is a tool that belongs in the workflow, but not on the…” — Judge Scott U. Schlegel, “AI in Chambers: A Framewor	p. 35

(2) the enforcement, against the debtor or against property of the estate, of a judgment obtained before the commencement of the case under this title;

(3) any act to obtain possession of property of the estate or of property from the estate or to exercise control over property of the estate;

(4) any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien against property of the estate;

(5) any act to create, perfect, or enforce against property of the debtor any lien to the extent that such lien secures a claim that arose before the commencement of the case under this title;

(6) any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against the debtor that arose before the commencement of the case under this title;

(7) the setoff of any debt owing to the debtor that arose before the commencement of the case under this title against any claim against the debtor; and

(8) the commencement or continuation of a proceeding before the United States Tax Court concerning a tax liability of a debtor that is a corporation for a taxable period the bankruptcy court may determine or concerning the tax liability of a debtor who is an individual for a taxable period ending before the date of the order for relief under this title.

(b) The filing of a petition under section 301, 302, or 303 of this title, or of an application under section 5(a)(3) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, does not operate as a stay—

(1) under subsection (a) of this section, of the commencement or continuation of a criminal action or proceeding against the debtor;

(2) under subsection (a)—

(A) of the commencement or continuation of a civil action or proceeding—

(i) for the establishment of paternity;

(ii) for the establishment or modification of an order for domestic support obligations;

(iii) concerning child custody or visitation;

(iv) for the dissolution of a marriage, except to the extent that such proceeding seeks to determine the division of property that is property

Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1001-1. GENERAL SCOPE; APPLICABILITY OF DISTRICT COURT LOCAL RULES; ATTORNEY ADMISSIONS AND DUTIES; JUDGE'S REGULATIONS AND CLERK'S INTERNAL OPERATING PROCEDURES.

(a) Title

These Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and Forms govern procedure in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas. These rules may be abbreviated in citations as "LBR," and the forms may be abbreviated as a "TXEB Local Form." These rules must be construed consistently with the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure ("Fed. R. Bankr. P.") to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every case and proceeding.

(b) Scope and Effective Date

1. These Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, as amended, become effective August 22, 2022. They supersede all Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure issued prior to that date, and they govern a case, contested matter, or proceeding pending or commenced after such date.

2. Any appendix or local form to these Local Rules may be modified by the Court without the necessity of a formal amendment to the Local Rules.

3. On motion of a party in interest or acting *sua sponte*, the Court may -- for the convenience of the parties or other good cause -- suspend or modify any Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure in a particular case.

4. These Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure may be superseded or modified with respect to documents filed, signed or verified by electronic means in compliance with the *Administrative Procedures for the Filing, Signing, and Verifying of Documents by Electronic Means* as set forth in *TXEB Appendix 5005* and such Appendix controls in the event of a conflict between its procedures and these Local Rules. The procedures for electronic filing set forth in *TXEB Appendix 5005* may be modified by the Court from time to time without the necessity of a formal amendment to these Local Rules.

(c) Incorporated Local Court Rules of the United States District Court (the "District Court Rules")

1. The District Court Rules governing attorney admission, suspension, and disbarment apply in the Bankruptcy Court; provided, however, "Court" or "Clerk" in the District Court Rules means the Bankruptcy Court or Bankruptcy

attorney by filing a notice of substitution that identifies the attorney being replaced. Unless the presiding judge otherwise directs, the notice effects the withdrawal of the attorney being replaced. Change of counsel will not be cause for delay.

(d) **Change of Address**. Notices will be sent only to an e-mail and/or mailing address on file. A *pro se* litigant must provide the court with a physical address (i.e., a post office box is not acceptable) and is responsible for keeping the clerk advised in writing of his or her current physical address. *Pro se* litigants must also advise the court of the case numbers of all pending cases in which they are participants in this district.

(e) **Request for Termination of Electronic Notice**. If an attorney no longer desires to receive electronic notification of filings in a particular case due to settlement or dismissal of his or her client, the attorney may file a request for termination of electronic notice.

(f) **Sanctions Concerning Vexatious *Pro Se* Litigants**. The court may make orders as are appropriate to control the conduct of a vexatious *pro se* litigant. *See* Local Rule CV-65.1(b).

(g) **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technology**. All litigants remain responsible for the accuracy and quality of legal documents produced with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence technology. Litigants are cautioned that certain generative artificial intelligence technologies may produce factually or legally inaccurate content. If a litigant chooses to employ generative artificial intelligence technology, the litigant continues to be bound by the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 and must review and verify all content to ensure that it complies with all such standards. *See also* Local Rule AT-3(m).

LOCAL RULE CV-12 Filing of Answers and Defenses

An attorney may request that the deadline be extended for a defendant to answer the complaint or file a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b). Unless otherwise ordered by the court, where the requested extension: (1) is not opposed; and (2) does not result in an overall extension of the defendant's deadline exceeding forty-five days, the request shall be by application to the clerk, not motion. The application shall be acted upon with dispatch by the clerk on the court's behalf, and the deadline to answer or otherwise respond is stayed pending action by the clerk.

LOCAL RULE CV-26 Provisions Governing Discovery; Duty of Disclosure

(a) **No Excuses**. Except in cases involving qualified immunity or a court order to the contrary, a party is not excused from responding to discovery because there are pending motions to dismiss, to remand, or to change venue.

“using print reporters, traditional legal databases, or other reliable means .”

CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

ENTERED

THE DATE OF ENTRY IS ON
THE COURT'S DOCKET

The following constitutes the ruling of the court and has the force and effect therein described.

Signed June 21, 2023

United States Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:	§	
	§	
PLEADINGS USING GENERATIVE	§	**GENERAL ORDER**
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	§	**2023-03**
	§	

If any portion of a pleading or other paper filed on the Court's docket has been drafted utilizing generative artificial intelligence, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, or Google Bard, the Court requires that all attorneys and pro se litigants filing such pleadings or other papers verify that any language that was generated was checked for accuracy, using print reporters, traditional legal databases, or other reliable means. Artificial intelligence systems hold no allegiance to any client, the rule of law, or the laws and Constitution of the United States and are likewise not factually or legally trustworthy sources without human verification. Failure to heed these instructions may subject attorneys or pro se litigants to sanctions pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9011.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

###END OF ORDER###

Clerk when an attorney appears in Bankruptcy Court. No decision by the Bankruptcy Court shall affect the ability of an attorney to appear before the District Court.

2. Other Local Court Rules of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas do not apply in the Bankruptcy Court, except as specified in these Local Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure or in a separate order of the Court.

(d) Admission Pro Hac Vice

A request for temporary admittance when an attorney is not admitted to practice in the Eastern District of Texas is generally governed by the Eastern District Court Rule AT-1(d) except that:

(1) the Court will rule upon the application and the applicant must attach a separate proposed order to the request;

(2) the prescribed admission fee is waived if the attorney has not previously asked for temporary admittance within one year of the request;

(3) the applicant must list, by case style, case number and application filing date, all other *pro hac vice* applications granted in the Bankruptcy Court within the year preceding the application.

Attorneys frequently appearing before the Bankruptcy Court must seek admission to practice in the Eastern District of Texas pursuant to Eastern District Court Rule AT-1. Unless otherwise authorized by the Court, an attorney may not be admitted to practice before the Bankruptcy Court on a *pro hac vice* basis on more than three (3) occasions in any given 12-month period.

(e) Attorney Obligation to Court

An attorney must promptly notify the Court of a formal grievance proceeding, disbarment, suspension, or other status change which impacts such person's eligibility to practice law.

(f) [Reserved for Future Use]

(g) Judges’ Regulations

Each bankruptcy judge may adopt regulations in accordance with Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9029(b). *TXEB Appendix 1001-g* contains the current regulations and must be carefully reviewed as the regulations may make important additions or modifications to these Rules.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE: USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT FILINGS	§ § §	GENERAL ORDER 2025-04

Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that an attorney or self-represented litigant certifies their claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are warranted by existing law and the factual contentions have evidentiary support. Attorneys and self-represented litigants are cautioned against submitting to the Court any pleading, written motion, or other paper drafted using generative artificial intelligence (*e.g.*, ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, generative AI services) without checking the submission for accuracy as certain technologies may produce factually or legally inaccurate content and should never replace the lawyer’s independent legal judgment.

Any attorney or self-represented litigant who signs a pleading, written motion, or other paper submitted to the Court will be held responsible for the contents of that filing under Rule 11, regardless of whether generative artificial intelligence drafted any portion of that filing. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c) (providing for imposition of an “appropriate sanction”—including nonmonetary directives, a penalty payable to the court, or payment to the opposing party of attorney's fees and expenses directly resulting from the violation—if, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the Court determines that Rule 11(b) has been violated).

Signed this 7th day of May 2025.

RANDY CRANE
CHIEF JUDGE

United States Courts has now provided clarity to the clerk of the court, the proposed revisions make the clerk's hearing and trial exhibit disposal authority clear, consistent with similar rules in the other districts of Texas. Under current practice, exhibits to be included in the record for review purposes are uploaded to the CM/ECF system by the courtroom deputy or, if ordered by the presiding judge, the parties directly. Physical or electronic copies of exhibits left in the court's custody outside of those in the CM/ECF system will be disposed of following final disposition of the case in accordance with a published schedule available on the court's website.

SECTION III: ATTORNEYS

LOCAL RULE AT-3 Standards of Practice to be Observed by Attorneys

Attorneys who appear in civil and criminal cases in this court shall comply with the following standards of practice in this district:

***

(m) If the lawyer, in the exercise of his or her professional legal judgment, believes that the client is best served by the use of generative artificial intelligence technology ~~(e.g., ChatGPT, Google Bard, Bing AI Chat, or generative artificial intelligence services)~~, then the lawyer is cautioned that certain technologies may produce factually or legally inaccurate content and should never replace the lawyer's most important asset – the exercise of independent legal judgment. If a lawyer chooses to employ generative artificial intelligence technology in representing a client, the lawyer continues to be bound by the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, Local Rule AT-3, and all other applicable standards of practice and must review and verify all ~~any computer-generated~~ content to ensure that it complies with all such standards.

COMMENT: See Comment for CV-11 above.

attorney by filing a notice of substitution that identifies the attorney being replaced. Unless the presiding judge otherwise directs, the notice effects the withdrawal of the attorney being replaced. Change of counsel will not be cause for delay.

(d) **Change of Address**. Notices will be sent only to an e-mail and/or mailing address on file. A *pro se* litigant must provide the court with a physical address (i.e., a post office box is not acceptable) and is responsible for keeping the clerk advised in writing of his or her current physical address. *Pro se* litigants must also advise the court of the case numbers of all pending cases in which they are participants in this district.

(e) **Request for Termination of Electronic Notice**. If an attorney no longer desires to receive electronic notification of filings in a particular case due to settlement or dismissal of his or her client, the attorney may file a request for termination of electronic notice.

(f) **Sanctions Concerning Vexatious *Pro Se* Litigants**. The court may make orders as are appropriate to control the conduct of a vexatious *pro se* litigant. *See* Local Rule CV-65.1(b).

(g) **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technology**. All litigants remain responsible for the accuracy and quality of legal documents produced with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence technology. Litigants are cautioned that certain generative artificial intelligence technologies may produce factually or legally inaccurate content. If a litigant chooses to employ generative artificial intelligence technology, the litigant continues to be bound by the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 and must review and verify all content to ensure that it complies with all such standards. *See also* Local Rule AT-3(m).

LOCAL RULE CV-12 Filing of Answers and Defenses

An attorney may request that the deadline be extended for a defendant to answer the complaint or file a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b). Unless otherwise ordered by the court, where the requested extension: (1) is not opposed; and (2) does not result in an overall extension of the defendant's deadline exceeding forty-five days, the request shall be by application to the clerk, not motion. The application shall be acted upon with dispatch by the clerk on the court's behalf, and the deadline to answer or otherwise respond is stayed pending action by the clerk.

LOCAL RULE CV-26 Provisions Governing Discovery; Duty of Disclosure

(a) **No Excuses**. Except in cases involving qualified immunity or a court order to the contrary, a party is not excused from responding to discovery because there are pending motions to dismiss, to remand, or to change venue.

existing law or for establishing new law." FED. R. CIV. P. 11(b)(2). Moreover, the Eastern District of Texas's Local Rules explicitly caution attorneys and *pro se* litigants that AI may produce factual and legal inaccuracies and remind all litigants that they are responsible for reviewing and verifying the contents of their filings. *See* Rule CV-11(g); Local Rule AT-3(m); *see also* Local Rule AT-3(b) (stating that a lawyer owes a duty to exercise candor, diligence, and utmost respect to the judiciary).

Pursuant to the court's inherent supervisory authority over the conduct of parties appearing before it, and in light of the court's responsibility to uphold the integrity of the judicial process, the court may impose sanctions for a party's filing of documents that violate these principles. Sanctions may include fines, dismissal of the responsible party's case, non-monetary directives such as completing education programs, reporting to the relevant disciplinary boards, and other appropriate measures. The fact that AI was used to create the offending document will not excuse or absolve ethical infractions.

In addition, the court imposes the following **disclosure and certification requirement** on all parties—represented or appearing *pro se* in criminal cases and/or civil cases—when they submit a filing with this court: If a party utilizes AI to draft or assist in drafting a pleading, the party must include with the pleading a "Certificate of Generative Artificial Intelligence Usage." The certificate must disclose the use of AI and certify that the party has independently verified the accuracy of any portion of the document drafted or assisted by the tool. The party must further certify that the use of AI has not resulted in the disclosure of confidential or privileged information to an unauthorized party.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

se litigants). Given the recent rise of filings in this court that have improperly utilized generative artificial intelligence, the court now finds it necessary to impose additional requirements on attorneys and *pro se* litigants when they file documents with the court that have been assisted by generative artificial intelligence.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the following procedures shall be followed when an attorney or *pro se* litigant submits a filing to this court:

1. **Certification Requirement**

   Consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b), and the certifications required thereunder, any party, whether appearing *pro se* or through counsel, must include with all filings a “**Certificate of Generative Artificial Intelligence Usage**” that discloses: (1) “generative artificial intelligence”[2] was used (or not used); (2) the specific tool the party used; (3) how the party used the tool in preparing the relevant document; and (4) that the party certifies they have checked the accuracy of any portion of the document drafted or assisted by the tool, including all factual and procedural background, citations, and legal authority.

   The court presumes that a party who files a document that does not contain this certification certifies that no part of the document was prepared using generative artificial intelligence.

2. **Responsibility**

   If generative artificial intelligence is utilized in the preparation of any documents filed with the court, the attorney or *pro se* litigant will be held responsible for the contents thereof under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11 and applicable rules of professional conduct and attorney discipline.

3. **Possibility of Sanctions**

   If the court has good reason to suspect that a filing has relied on generative artificial intelligence in violation of this Standing Order, and the party has not reasonably dispelled of the court’s concerns, such violation may result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11,

[2] “Generative artificial intelligence” means a computer tool (whether referred to as “generative artificial intelligence” or by another name) that is capable of generating new content (e.g., images, text, etc.) in response to a submitted prompt and/or query by learning from a large reference database of examples. This term also encompasses computer tools that are substantially similar to the computer tools encompassed by the above definition, but differ in some unique way.

information from any person involved, nor have I attached evidence that was created, edited, enhanced, or altered using generative AI.

So Sworn on _____

Signature: _____

VI. Consequence of Non-Compliance.

If an attorney or self-represented litigant utilizes generative AI in their work product, research, or drafting of a pleading, and that pleading fails to contain the exact, verbatim verification in **bold** print as set forth above, the pleading **will not be considered by the Court.**

VII. Court-Ordered Prohibitions Regarding Generative AI.

To protect the integrity of the judicial process, maintain absolute confidentiality, and ensure the reliability of evidence, the Court hereby enters the following mandatory prohibitions. A violation of any of the following provisions constitutes a direct violation of this Standing Order and may subject the offending party or counsel to contempt of court, the striking of pleadings, monetary fines, or other appropriate judicial sanctions:

- **Failure to File Verification:** It is a violation of this Standing Order if an attorney or self-represented litigant uses generative AI in their work product, research, or drafting of a pleading and fails to include the mandatory verbatim verification in **bold** print.
- **Filing Fabricated or Inaccurate Pleadings:** Attorneys and self-represented litigants are strictly prohibited from filing pleadings, motions, or briefs that contain misstatements of law, misrepresentations of case law holdings, or citations to non-existent case law.
- **Inputting Confidential Data into AI Systems:** Attorneys and self-represented litigants are strictly prohibited from entering or disclosing any sensitive, confidential, or privileged information of any person involved in the case into any generative AI program, large language model, or external machine learning database.
- **Fabricating or Altering Evidence via AI:** Attorneys and self-represented litigants are strictly prohibited from using artificial intelligence to create, edit, enhance, or alter any evidence (including text, documents, images, audio, or video) to be submitted or admitted in any hearing (whether oral or by submission) or trial.

SO-2025-00002

FILE FOR RECORD
DENTON COUNTY CLERK
DEC 12 2025
JULI LUKE
FC DEPUTY

STANDING ORDER REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
Denton County Probate Courts

This Standing Order of the Probate Courts of Denton County applies to every pending or hereafter filed case in the Probate Courts of Denton County. Nothing in this Order should be construed as relieving an attorney or self-represented litigant of any legal or ethical obligation required by law, statute, or rule, including rules of procedure, evidence, or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

Generative artificial intelligence systems (such as ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, Claude, Google Copilot, OpenAI, Bing, Lexis+ AI, Westlaw AI-Assisted Research, Ask Practical Law AI, and others) are being incorporated into common professional use. The abilities of these systems vary widely depending on the application, version, and underlying technology used. While technology is developing quickly, it is currently unreliable, prone to bias, and may fabricate information. The creators of these systems are not attorneys of record, licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of Texas, and are not bound by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.

WHEREAS the signing of a pleading or motion in Texas certifies that each claim, defense, or other legal contention in the pleading or motion is warranted by existing law or by a non-frivolous argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law or the establishment of new law;

WHEREAS courts have the inherent power to sanction parties for violation of rules, orders, standing orders, and statutory obligations; and,

WHEREAS a court on its own initiative may direct a court participant to show cause why his or her conduct has not violated a rule, order, standing order, or statutory obligation;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

All self-represented litigants and attorneys whether or not they say they utilize any form of artificial intelligence for legal research, drafting, or analysis in connection with a case before this Court shall sign and submit the attached certification form, stating that:

1. All language, quotations, sources, citations, arguments, and legal analysis created or contributed to by generative artificial intelligence were, before submission, verified as accurate through traditional (non-AI) legal sources by a human being; and,
2. The attorney or self-represented litigant submitting such information understands and acknowledges that they are and will be held responsible and potentially sanctioned for their own, their staff's, or their co-counsel's failure to comply with this Order.

This Order is effective immediately for all cases filed or pending in the Denton County Probate Courts. This Order remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by the Probate Courts of Denton County and may be modified or amended at any time.

"the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, and holdings are not fabricated."

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

RULE 13. ~~EFFECT OF SIGNING PLEADINGS, MOTIONS AND OTHER PAPERS;~~SIGNING FILINGS; REPRESENTATIONS TO COURT; SANCTIONS (Redline Form)

(a) *Signature Required.* A party's pleading, plea, motion, or other paper filed with the court must be signed:

(1) if the party is represented by an attorney, by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name; or

(2) if the party is self-represented, by the party.

(b) *Contact Information Required.*

(1) An attorney who signs a court filing must list the attorney's State Bar of Texas identification number, address, telephone number, and email address.

(2) A party who signs a court filing must list the party's address, telephone number, and email address.

(c) *Representations by Signer.* ~~The signatures of attorneys or parties constitute a certificate by them that they have read the pleading, motion, or other paper;~~By signing a court filing, the signer represents to the court that:

(1) the signer reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, and holdings are not fabricated; and

(2) to the best of ~~their~~the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry the ~~instrument~~filing is not groundless, ~~and~~ brought in bad faith, or ~~groundless and~~ brought for the purpose of harassment. ~~Attorneys or parties who shall bring a fictitious suit as an experiment to get an opinion of the court, or who shall file any fictitious pleading in a cause for such a purpose, or shall make statements in pleading which they know to be groundless and false, for the purpose of securing a delay of the trial of the cause, shall be held guilty of a contempt.~~

(d) *Groundless Defined.* "Groundless" for purposes of this rule means no basis in law or fact and not warranted by good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.

(e) *Sanctions.*

~~party not represented by an attorney shall sign his pleadings, state his address, telephone number, email address, and, if available, fax number.~~

~~**Notes and Comments**~~

~~Comment to 1990 change: To supply attorney telecopier information with other identifying information on pleadings. Documents telephonically transferred are permitted to be filed under changes in Rule 45.~~

Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure

Rule 9. Documents Generally

9.1. Signing

(a) *Represented Parties*. If a party is represented by counsel, a document filed on that party's behalf must be signed by at least one of the party's attorneys. For each attorney whose name appears on a document as representing that party, the document must contain that attorney's State Bar of Texas identification number, mailing address, telephone number, ~~fax number, if any,~~ and email address.

(b) *Unrepresented Parties*. A party not represented by counsel must sign any document that the party files and give the party's mailing address, telephone number, ~~fax number, if any,~~ and email address.

(c) *Electronic Signatures*. A document that is electronically served, filed, or issued by a court or clerk is considered signed if the document includes:

(1) a "/s/" and name typed in the space where the signature would otherwise appear, unless the document is notarized or sworn; or

(2) an electronic image or scanned image of the signature.

(d) *Representations by Signer*. By signing a filed document, the signer represents to the court that the signer has:

(1) reviewed the filing and verified its accuracy, including that the legal citations, quotations, holdings, and record citations are not fabricated; and

(c) **Artificial Intelligence.** Use of artificial intelligence is not prohibited, but the filing attorney or party is independently responsible for the accuracy of all filings and must comply with all legal and ethical duties, including TRCP 13 and Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Chapters 9–10.

(d) **Remote Proceedings.** No party or attorney is required to appear in a remote proceeding in which oral testimony is heard, but a party or attorney shall be deemed to agree to remote attendance at a court proceeding under Texas Government Code § 25A.017(e) and Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 358 unless that party or attorney files an objection to the remote proceeding within three business days of the filing containing the notice or order of the setting.

Attorneys, parties, and others attending proceedings through remote tele-conferencing must share video and display their names during the hearing. Parties and attorneys for parties must also display their role in the case (e.g. "Plaintiff X," "attorney for Defendant Y").

(e) **Amicus briefs:**

(i) **Leave Required**. A party seeking to file an amicus brief must file a motion for leave to file that complies with Local Rule 5 and is accompanied by the proposed brief.

(ii) **Contents of an Amicus Brief.** An amicus brief must avoid the repetition of facts or legal arguments contained in the principal briefs and must focus on points either not made or not adequately discussed in those briefs. The brief must comply with Local Rule 5 and specifically set forth, under separate headings:

(1) the identity and interest of the amicus curiae in the outcome of the litigation;

(2) the source of any fee paid or to be paid for preparing the brief; and

(3) disclose whether any party's counsel authored the brief in substantial part.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE: USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT FILINGS	§ § §	GENERAL ORDER 2025-04

Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that an attorney or self-represented litigant certifies their claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are warranted by existing law and the factual contentions have evidentiary support. Attorneys and self-represented litigants are cautioned against submitting to the Court any pleading, written motion, or other paper drafted using generative artificial intelligence (*e.g.*, ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, generative AI services) without checking the submission for accuracy as certain technologies may produce factually or legally inaccurate content and should never replace the lawyer's independent legal judgment.

Any attorney or self-represented litigant who signs a pleading, written motion, or other paper submitted to the Court will be held responsible for the contents of that filing under Rule 11, regardless of whether generative artificial intelligence drafted any portion of that filing. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c) (providing for imposition of an "appropriate sanction"—including nonmonetary directives, a penalty payable to the court, or payment to the opposing party of attorney's fees and expenses directly resulting from the violation—if, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the Court determines that Rule 11(b) has been violated).

Signed this 7th day of May 2025.

RANDY CRANE
CHIEF JUDGE

2) an alphabetically arranged table of all citations to cases, statutes, rules, textbooks, and other authorities that appear in memorandum;

3) a short statement of the nature and stage of the proceeding;

4) a statement of the issues to be ruled on by the Court and, with respect to each issue, a short statement (supported by authority) of the standard of review;

5) a short summary of the argument;

6) succinct headings dividing the argument into separate points;

7) a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought; **and**

8) proposed orders (except on summary judgment motions).

B. Copies of Authorities and Other Materials Cited.

1) Do not append copies of cases and the relevant parts of authorities that are cited in a brief, memorandum, or motion unless the authorities are not published or reasonably available through Westlaw or Lexis-Nexis.

2) Copies of supporting affidavits, deposition testimony excerpts, and other discovery materials referred to in the briefs should be separately filed in one or more appendices.

8. USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Attorneys and self-represented litigants must ensure that any filing prepared with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, or similar tools), is thoroughly reviewed for factual and legal accuracy prior to submission. These tools are capable of producing content that may be factually incorrect or legally unsound.

All counsel and pro se parties are reminded that, consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, the person signing any pleading, motion, or other paper remains fully responsible for its content, regardless of whether it was drafted in whole or in part by generative AI. The Court will not accept the excuse that such content was prepared by AI, staff, or others when assessing potential violations of Rule 11 or applicable ethical obligations.

Attorneys are further reminded of their professional obligations under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, including the duty of candor to the tribunal and the prohibition against knowingly offering false statements of law. *See* Tex. Disciplinary Rules Prof'l Conduct r. 3.03(a) (Tex. Bar Ass'n 2024). Attorneys must also remain proficient and competent in the practice of law, including recognizing the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology. *See id.* at 1.01, cmt. 8.

The Court adopts and incorporates by reference Chief Judge Randy Crane's General Order 2025-04 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Court Filings.

"'I used AI' will not be an excuse for an otherwise sanctionable offense."

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COURT DECISION ON PROPOSED RULE

"The court, having considered the proposed rule, the accompanying comments, and the use of artificial intelligence in the legal practice, has decided not to adopt a special rule regarding the use of artificial intelligence in drafting briefs at this time. Parties and counsel are reminded of their duties regarding their filings before the court under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 46(b)(1)(B). Parties and counsel are responsible for ensuring that their filings with the court, including briefs, shall be carefully checked for truthfulness and accuracy as the rules already require. "I used AI" will not be an excuse for an otherwise sanctionable offense."

filings.[3] It is a problem that is getting worse—not better. If it were ever an excuse to plead ignorance of the risks of using generative AI to draft a brief without verifying its output, it is certainly no longer so. To ethically use generative AI in the practice of law—which we do not dispute can be helpful if done properly and carefully—a lawyer must "ensure that the legal propositions and authority generated are trustworthy." *ByoPlanet Int'l, LLC v. Johansson*, 792 F. Supp. 3d 1341, 1347 (S.D. Fla. 2025). Failure to do so "abdicate[s] one's duty, waste[s] legal resources, and lower[s] the public's respect for the legal profession and judicial proceedings." *Id.*

II

A

A brief recitation of the facts underlying this case is helpful. This is an appeal of a sanctions award against Shawn Jaffer, plaintiff's counsel in the district court, and his law firm, Jaffer & Associates. Jaffer sued two defendants for violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The gist of the

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[3] *See, e.g.*, *Woodward Harbor L.L.C. v. City of Mandeville*, 2026 WL 315061, at *9 (E.D. La. Feb. 5, 2026); *Holmes v. Univ. of Tex. at Austin*, 2026 WL 297630, at *7 (W.D. Tex. Feb. 4, 2026); *Billups v. Louisville Mun. Sch. Dist.*, 2025 WL 3691871, at *4–5 (N.D. Miss. Dec. 19, 2025); *Disability Rights Miss. v. Palmer Home for Child.*, 2025 WL 3691876, at *4 (N.D. Miss. Dec. 19, 2025); *Shelton v. Parkland Health*, 2025 WL 3141108, at *3 (N.D. Tex. Nov. 10, 2025); *In re Kheir*, 674 B.R. 631 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2025); *Weatherford Int'l, LLC v. Ameen*, 2025 WL 4089353, at *3 n.2 (S.D. Tex. Oct. 16, 2025); *Thackston v. Driscoll*, 2025 WL 2715267, at *2–5 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2025); *Lee v. R&R Home Care, Inc.*, 2025 WL 2481375, at *1–4 (E.D. La. Aug. 28, 2025); *Elizando v. City of Laredo*, 2025 WL 2071072, at *1–3 (S.D. Tex. July 23, 2025); *Gauthier v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, 2024 WL 4882651, at *1–3 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 25, 2024). Again, these are all cases in which a lawyer—not a *pro se* litigant—submitted a brief with hallucinations. That is not to say that *pro se* litigants are immune from sanctions for committing the same misconduct. *See, e.g.*, *Ferris v. Amazon.com Servs., LLC*, 778 F. Supp. 3d 879, 882 (N.D. Miss. 2025) (requiring a *pro se* litigant to pay "costs incurred by Defendant attributable to responding to [plaintiff's] fabricated citations").

No. 21-10589, 2021 WL 4998684, at *2 (5th Cir. Oct. 27, 2021); *Jeanty v. Txfm, Inc.*, No. 4:19-CV-366-ALM-CAN, 2020 WL 8084980, at *1 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2020) (quoting *Jabary v. McCullough*, 325 F.R.D. 175, 182-83 (E.D. Tex. 2018)*), adopted by* No. 4:19-CV-366, 2021 WL 89982 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 11, 2021); *Iris Connex, LLC*, 235 F. Supp. 3d at 855 (stating that "the district court is vested with considerable discretion in determining the 'appropriate' sanction to impose" upon the party violating Rule 11 (quoting *Thomas v. Cap. Sec. Servs., Inc.*, 836 F.2d 866, 876-77 (5th Cir. 1988))).

"Many harms flow from the submission of fake opinions." *Mata*, 678 F. Supp. 3d at 448. For instance:

> The opposing party wastes time and money in exposing the deception. The Court's time is taken from other important endeavors. The client may be deprived of arguments based on authentic judicial precedents. There is potential harm to the reputation of judges and courts whose names are falsely invoked as authors of the bogus opinions and to the reputation of a party attributed with fictional conduct. It promotes cynicism about the legal profession and the American judicial system. And a future litigant may be tempted to defy a judicial ruling by disingenuously claiming doubt about its authenticity.

Id. at 448-49.

Here, Monk submitted the Response without reading the cases cited, or even confirming the existence or validity of the cases included therein. In fact, it is unclear what legal research, if any, Monk completed before filing the Response. Furthermore, after Goodyear specifically identified the nonexistent legal authorities contained in the Response, Monk took no action to verify his research. He failed to withdraw or otherwise address theses issues when raised by Goodyear. In fact, Monk's sur-reply to Goodyear's reply makes no mention of the problems inherent in the Response. "This silence is deafening." *Iovino v. Michael Stapleton Assocs., Ltd.*, No. 5:21-CV-00064, 2024 WL 3520170, at *7 (W.D. Va. July 24, 2024). It was only after the

she determined the propositions were unsupported, she should have left the cases blank, because the Court ordered her to “highlight[ ] the text that supports the propositions,” not to highlight what she thinks someone else might think supports them (Dkt. #23 at p. 2).

* * *

***8** Ginsburg claims that she is taking ownership of her mistakes, but her actions say otherwise. Rather than owning up to her ethical violations, Ginsburg came forward with a half-baked, last-minute story that shifts the blame to everyone but herself and raises more questions than answers. The Court does not believe it. Instead, the Court finds Ginsburg's narrative was a failed attempt to avoid responsibility.

III. The Court's Sanctions

Ginsburg's signature appears on a document stained by a fictitious case, fictitious quotes, and unsupported propositions, so she will be sanctioned. *See, e.g., Mata v.*

United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
November 04, 2025
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

IN RE:	§	
	§	**CASE NO: 24-35814**
DEONDRA JOYCE KHEIR,	§	
	§	**CHAPTER 7**
Debtor.	§	
	§	
DEONDRA JOYCE KHEIR,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
VS.	§	**ADVERSARY NO. 25-3033**
	§	
TITAN TEAM LLC, THE MONEY SOURCE INC., and AUCTION.COM,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

MEMORANDUM OPINION

As a matter of first impression, this Court has been tasked with determining whether Mr. Derrick D. King, counsel for Deondra Joyce Kheir ("*Plaintiff*"), utilized generative artificial intelligence to manufacture legal authority without verifying the content within such authorities, or the existence of such authorities, in violation of the Southern District of Texas General Order 2025-04. The Court publishes this opinion to remind lawyers that confirming the accuracy of cited caselaw is a basic, routine matter, and something to be expected from a practicing attorney, especially because carelessness, good faith, or ignorance are not excuses for submitting materials that are non-compliant with Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9011 ("*Bankruptcy Rule*"). No lawyer should be using ChatGPT or any other generative AI product to perform legal research without verifying the results, much less placing such unverified results in pleadings filed in this Court.

United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Texas
ENTERED
July 14, 2026
Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

IN RE:	§	
	§	**CASE NO: 25-34507**
ROSSLYN2016, LLC	§	
and	§	
TEXAS ESENCIA 2019 LLC	§	
and	§	
TIMBERS2020 LLC,	§	
Debtors.	§	**Jointly Administered**
	§	**CHAPTER 7**

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This Court addresses a matter of profound concern regarding the integrity of the bankruptcy process, the professional responsibility of counsel, and the proper administration of justice. The facts are troubling and warrant the Court's careful attention. Three entities, Kitchen Central, LLC, CirCir, LLC, and Adil Property, Inc. (collectively, the "*Petitioning Creditors*"), filed involuntary petitions against the three debtors in this case (the "*Debtors*"), represented by attorney Gregory W. Mitchell ("*Mitchell*"). The claims underlying these involuntary petitions were riddled with inconsistencies that alerted Allison D. Byman, the Chapter 7 Trustee, ("*Trustee*") to potential fraud on the court. In response, the Trustee served Bankruptcy Rule 2004 document requests to determine whether the Petitioning Creditors' claims had any evidentiary support. The Petitioning Creditors, through Mitchell, responded with motions to quash containing fabricated quotations, non-existent citations, and invented legal authority apparently generated by artificial intelligence and submitted them to the Court without verification.

This Court denied the frivolous motions to quash on April 30, 2026, and ordered production of documents within seven days. The Petitioning Creditors and Mitchell failed to comply. No documents were produced by the May 7, 2026, deadline. When the Trustee filed a motion for

2) an alphabetically arranged table of all citations to cases, statutes, rules, textbooks, and other authorities that appear in memorandum;

3) a short statement of the nature and stage of the proceeding;

4) a statement of the issues to be ruled on by the Court and, with respect to each issue, a short statement (supported by authority) of the standard of review;

5) a short summary of the argument;

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The Court adopts and incorporates by reference Chief Judge Randy Crane's General Order 2025-04 on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Court Filings.

II. LEGAL STANDARDS

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b)(2) requires attorneys presenting legal filings to the Court to certify that "the claims, defenses, and other legal contentions are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law." The rule requires the signing attorney "to satisfy himself that the filed paper is factually and legally responsible," and by signing, he indicates "that he personally has applied his own judgment." *Pavelic & LeFlore v. Marvel Ent. Grp.*, 493 U.S. 120, 125 (1989). This is a "nondelegable responsibility." *Id.* at 126. An attorney's subjective good faith is no shield against Rule 11 sanctions. *Jenkins v. Methodist Hosps. of Dall., Inc.*, 478 F.3d 255, 264 (5th Cir. 2007) (citation omitted). The same is true for local rule violations. *In re Goode*, 821 F.3d 553, 559 (5th Cir. 2016) (Prado, J.).

After finding a Rule 11 violation, district courts retain "considerable discretion in determining the 'appropriate' sanction to impose upon the violating party." *Thomas v. Cap. Sec. Servs.*, 836 F.2d 866, 877 (5th Cir. 1988) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c)). However, "the sanction imposed should be the least severe sanction adequate to the purpose of Rule 11," which is "deterrence, punishment, and compensation." *Id.* at 878–79; *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(c)(4) ("A sanction imposed under this rule must be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated.").

In the Southern District of Texas, Chief Judge Crane issued General Order 2025-04 on May 7, 2025, addressing generative AI use in court filings. U.S. Southern District of Texas General Order No. 2025-04 (May 7, 2025), https://www.txs.uscourts.gov/

filings.[3] It is a problem that is getting worse—not better. If it were ever an excuse to plead ignorance of the risks of using generative AI to draft a brief without verifying its output, it is certainly no longer so. To ethically use generative AI in the practice of law—which we do not dispute can be helpful if done properly and carefully—a lawyer must "ensure that the legal propositions and authority generated are trustworthy." *ByoPlanet Int'l, LLC v. Johansson*, 792 F. Supp. 3d 1341, 1347 (S.D. Fla. 2025). Failure to do so "abdicate[s] one's duty, waste[s] legal resources, and lower[s] the public's respect for the legal profession and judicial proceedings." *Id.*

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Hersh is referring to a case summary generated by AI as a "paraphrased summar[y]," her response is evasive, misleading, and sanctionable.

In sum, the court finds that Hersh used artificial generative intelligence to draft a substantial portion—if not all—of her reply brief and failed to check the brief for accuracy. It is also likely that she used artificial generative intelligence in her response to the show-cause order. Had Hersh accepted responsibility and been more forthcoming, it is likely that the court would have imposed lesser sanctions. However, when confronted with a serious ethical misstep, Hersh misled, evaded, and violated her duties as an officer of this court.

III

Modern generative AI may be a new technology, but the same sanctions rules apply, and the rules we have are well equipped to handle these types of cases.[10] *First*, Rule 46(c) allows us to discipline an attorney who practices before us for "conduct unbecoming a member of the bar or for failure to comply with any court rule." Discipline under Rule 46(c) may include monetary sanctions. *In re Violation of Rule 28(d)*, 635 F.3d 1352, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2011); *see* 16AA Wright & Miller's Federal Practice and Procedure § 3992.2 (5th ed. 2025).

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[10] We note that Hersh has been previously sanctioned in federal court. *See Powell v. Nelnet, Inc.*, 2025 WL 1584694, at *2 (E.D. Tex. June 4, 2025). In that case, the magistrate judge found that Hersh had "acted recklessly in [her] representation," but noted that he "trust[ed]" that Hersh had "learned the importance of diligence and candor in [her] representation of clients." *Id.* at *6. The magistrate judge declined to order monetary sanctions but suggested that "[c]onduct of the same or a similar nature in future litigation would likely warrant" monetary sanctions. *Id.* Hersh, as managing attorney of Jaffer & Associates, submitted a sworn declaration in that case affirming that "[t]he firm ha[d] taken measures to reinforce compliance with professional and ethical standards, including discussions regarding diligence, candor, and adherence to court rules." ECF No. 130, *Powell v. Nelnet, Inc.*, 4:23-cv-783 (June 5, 2025).

No. 21-10589, 2021 WL 4998684, at *2 (5th Cir. Oct. 27, 2021); *Jeanty v. Txfm, Inc.*, No. 4:19-CV-366-ALM-CAN, 2020 WL 8084980, at *1 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2020) (quoting *Jabary v. McCullough*, 325 F.R.D. 175, 182-83 (E.D. Tex. 2018)*), adopted by* No. 4:19-CV-366, 2021 WL 89982 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 11, 2021); *Iris Connex, LLC*, 235 F. Supp. 3d at 855 (stating that "the district court is vested with considerable discretion in determining the 'appropriate' sanction to impose" upon the party violating Rule 11 (quoting *Thomas v. Cap. Sec. Servs., Inc.*, 836 F.2d 866, 876-77 (5th Cir. 1988))).

"Many harms flow from the submission of fake opinions." *Mata*, 678 F. Supp. 3d at 448. For instance:

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Id. at 448-49.

Here, Monk submitted the Response without reading the cases cited, or even confirming the existence or validity of the cases included therein. In fact, it is unclear what legal research, if any, Monk completed before filing the Response. Furthermore, after Goodyear specifically identified the nonexistent legal authorities contained in the Response, Monk took no action to verify his research. He failed to withdraw or otherwise address theses issues when raised by Goodyear. In fact, Monk's sur-reply to Goodyear's reply makes no mention of the problems inherent in the Response. "This silence is deafening." *Iovino v. Michael Stapleton Assocs., Ltd.*, No. 5:21-CV-00064, 2024 WL 3520170, at *7 (W.D. Va. July 24, 2024). It was only after the

past." *Id.* at 1, ¶ 2. Lastly, Mitchell asserts that "[u]pon information and belief, the citations included in the Motions to Quash were taken from a prior filing made several years ago." *Id.*

Mitchell's suggestion that the "Precision" version of Westlaw, which is a generative AI tool offered by Westlaw, should be given different treatment from non-legal AI tools demonstrates Mitchell's disregard for the General Orders of the Southern District of Texas. S.D. Tex. General Order 2025-04 expressly cautions lawyers against using generative AI services without checking accuracy, and does not differentiate between legal AI services and general AI services. S.D. Tex. Gen. Order 2025-04. In fact, S.D. Tex. General Order 2025-04 mentions Harvey.AI, a legal specific AI service, as an example of an AI tool that should be used with caution. *Id.*

Mitchell also explained that the legal citations in his Motions to Quash resulted from his use of a prior template but admitted that they were misleading and inaccurate. June 10, 2026 H'rg (Mitchell testifying). S.D. Tex. General Order 2025-04 provides that "[a]ny attorney or self-represented litigant who signs a pleading, written motion, or other paper submitted to the Court will be held responsible for the contents of that filing under Rule 11, *regardless of whether generative artificial intelligence drafted any portion of that filing*." S.D. Tex. Gen. Order 2025-04 (emphasis added). Thus, whether the citations were generated by artificial intelligence, copied from prior filings without verification, or typed manually, the fundamental problem remains: Mitchell submitted citations and quotations that he had not verified and that do not support his legal contentions. This is the precise conduct prohibited by Rule 11(b).

As such, the Court finds that Mitchell violated Rule 11(b) when he submitted the Motions to Quash, containing multiple fabricated quotations and citations to non-existent authority, without verifying the accuracy of the legal authorities and assertions in the Motions to Quash.

4. The Safe Harbor Does Not Apply

678 F. Supp. 3d 443, 448 (S.D.N.Y. 2023) ("Many harms flow from the submission of fake opinions."); *Ferris v. Amazon.com Servs.*, No. 3:24-CV-304-MPM-JMV, 2025 WL 1122235, at *1 (N.D. Miss. Apr. 16, 2025) ("AI is a powerful tool, that when used prudently, provides immense benefits. When used carelessly, it produces frustratingly realistic legal fiction that takes inordinately longer to respond to than to create."). Given that the Laredo Division is one of the busiest court dockets in the nation, there are scant resources to spare ferreting out erroneous AI citations in the first place, let alone surveying the burgeoning caselaw on this subject.

The seriousness of filing fictitious case citations—and the corresponding waste of judicial and party resources—warrants a penalty sufficient to deter future violations like Mr. Piña's, which courts have unfortunately "seen a rash of" in recent years. *Willis v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n as Tr., Igloo Series Tr.*, No. 3:25-CV-516-BN, 2025 WL 1224273, at *2 (N.D. Tex. Apr. 28, 2025) (citations omitted); *see also Benjamin*, 2025 WL 1195925, at *1 (collecting cases).

The Court also observes that Defendant, the City of Laredo, could have flagged these fictitious citations in a reply brief or supplemental filing. *See Gauthier*, 2024 WL 4882651, at *1 (opposing party flagged AI misuse in its reply brief); *Ferris*, 2025 WL 1122235, at *1 (opposing party alerted the court to hallucinated cases). Although this oversight does not rise to the level of sanctionable conduct, the Court expects all parties to assist in maintaining the integrity of the judicial process by alerting the Court to such errors. The Court encourages greater diligence in flagging citation errors in the future—otherwise, the risk is too great that such errors will persist undetected, potentially leading to an outcome unsupported by law.

Lastly, the Court appreciates Mr. Piña's efforts to take corrective measures at his firm by prohibiting the use of generative AI in response to this incident (Dkt. No. 24 at 6). But it bears emphasizing that the Court's rules do not prohibit the use of such tools. Rather, as explained in General Order 2025-04 and the Undersigned's local rules, attorneys must exercise independent legal judgment and thoroughly review any filing prepared with the assistance of generative AI before submission.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court **SANCTIONS** Edward L. Piña as follows:

1. A monetary sanction of $2,500, to be paid into the Court registry **within fourteen days of this Order**.
2. **Completion of a minimum of three hours of Continuing Legal Education** in ethics or legal technology, **including at least one hour on the use of generative AI in the legal context**, **within ninety days of this Order**, with proof of compliance filed on the docket.
3. **Service of a copy of this Order on Plaintiff Karina Elizondo** and filing of a certificate of service **within fourteen days of this Order**.

It is so **ORDERED**.

SIGNED July 23, 2025.

Marina Garcia Marmolejo
United States District Judge

(2) the enforcement, against the debtor or against property of the estate, of a judgment obtained before the commencement of the case under this title;

(3) any act to obtain possession of property of the estate or of property from the estate or to exercise control over property of the estate;

(4) any act to create, perfect, or enforce any lien against property of the estate;

(5) any act to create, perfect, or enforce against property of the debtor any lien to the extent that such lien secures a claim that arose before the commencement of the case under this title;

(6) any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim against the debtor that arose before the commencement of the case under this title;

(7) the setoff of any debt owing to the debtor that arose before the commencement of the case under this title against any claim against the debtor; and

(8) the commencement or continuation of a proceeding before the United States Tax Court concerning a tax liability of a debtor that is a corporation for a taxable period the bankruptcy court may determine or concerning the tax liability of a debtor who is an individual for a taxable period ending before the date of the order for relief under this title.

(b) The filing of a petition under section 301, 302, or 303 of this title, or of an application under section 5(a)(3) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, does not operate as a stay—

(1) under subsection (a) of this section, of the commencement or continuation of a criminal action or proceeding against the debtor;

(2) under subsection (a)—

(A) of the commencement or continuation of a civil action or proceeding—

(i) for the establishment of paternity;

(ii) for the establishment or modification of an order for domestic support obligations;

(iii) concerning child custody or visitation;

(iv) for the dissolution of a marriage, except to the extent that such proceeding seeks to determine the division of property that is property

AI in Chambers: A Framework for Judicial AI U



JUDGE SCOTT SCHLEGEL
SEP 16, 2025

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Today I am releasing *AI in Chambers: A Framework for Judicial AI Use*, a practical gui for judges and their staff who are considering or already using AI tools in their chambers.

This is not a technical manual or a recommendation that every judge begin using A It is simply a structured approach for those who have decided to explore these tools The decision depends on your comfort level, your court’s policies, and available resources. For many, waiting may be the right choice.

But for those ready to proceed, this framework offers a disciplined methodology an rests on a principle I’ve found useful:

AI is a tool that belongs in the workflow, but not on the bench.

These tools can organize filings, synthesize briefs, summarize transcripts, and accelerate drafting. But they cannot think like a judge, understand nuance, or weigl credibility. The burden of getting it right remains entirely with the judge.

The attached guide reflects this reality through clear, judge-controlled phases. Eacl step preserves ownership, verification, and judicial independence.

AI is already entering our profession. This guide attempts to provide one framewor for thoughtful engagement with appropriate safeguards.

Please feel free to share it, criticize it or ignore it. The path forward will vary amon courts, and this framework will certainly need refinement based on our collective