





# Mission

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We drive innovation and progress  
in courts and justice systems.



# Artificial Intelligence in State Courts: Promise & Peril

**MINKS**

**June 13, 2025**

# Panelists

- ❖ Elizabeth Clement, President & CEO, National Center for State Courts
- ❖ Diane Robinson, PhD, Principal Court Research Associate, National Center for State Courts

# Our Agenda Today

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Context  
Setting

Access to  
Justice

Evidentiary  
Issues

Court Filings

Court  
Operations

Context  
Setting



# Context Setting: AI & the Courts



# Historical Evolution of Technology in the Courts

## **Early Legal Technologies**

Typewriters, Fax Machines

## **Advancements in Computer Systems**

Electronic case management, Electronic filing, document storage

## **Advancements in Data**

Big data, open data, data dashboards

## **Advancements in Court Hearings**

Remote court appearances, electronic notifications

## **AI in Court Management**

How cases are filed, docketed, and scheduled

## **AI in Justice Delivery**

Promise to revolutionize justice delivery by enhancing decision-making and case analysis

# Start with the problem, not the tech

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- **AI is a tool**
- **Define the problem: what do you want to improve?**
- **Identify the constraints**
- **Explore the solutions**

# Poll: How much have you used AI?

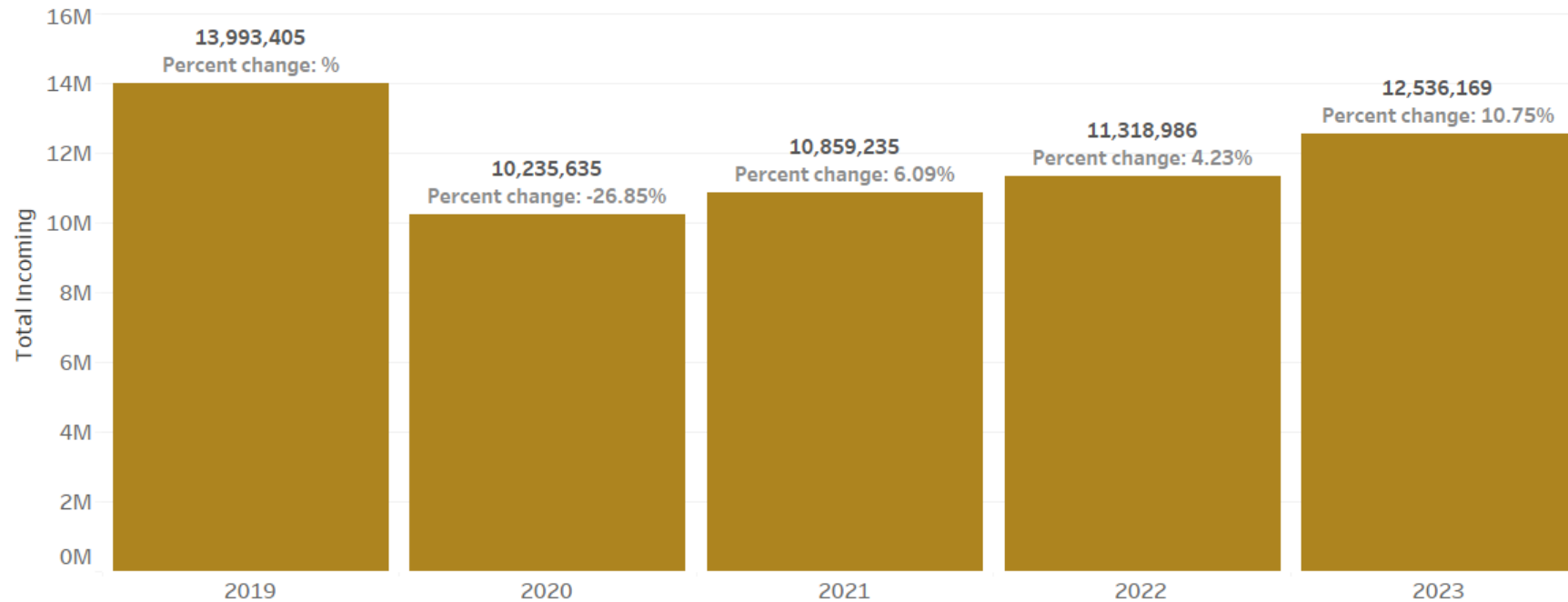
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- I use it actively at work and in my personal life
- I use it actively in my personal life, but not at work
- I use it actively at work, but not in my personal life
- I have experimented with it
- I have never used AI to my knowledge

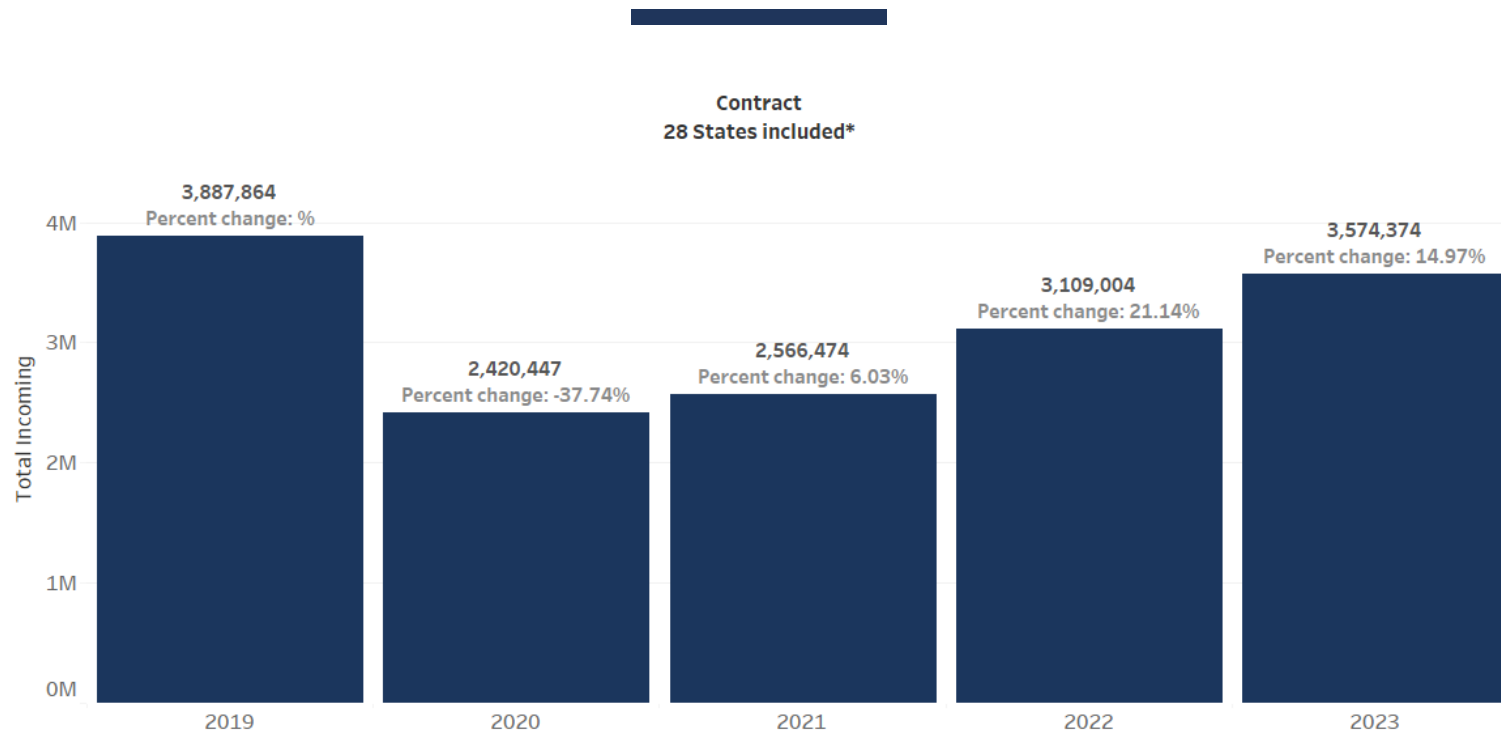
# Court Filings



# Incoming Civil Cases



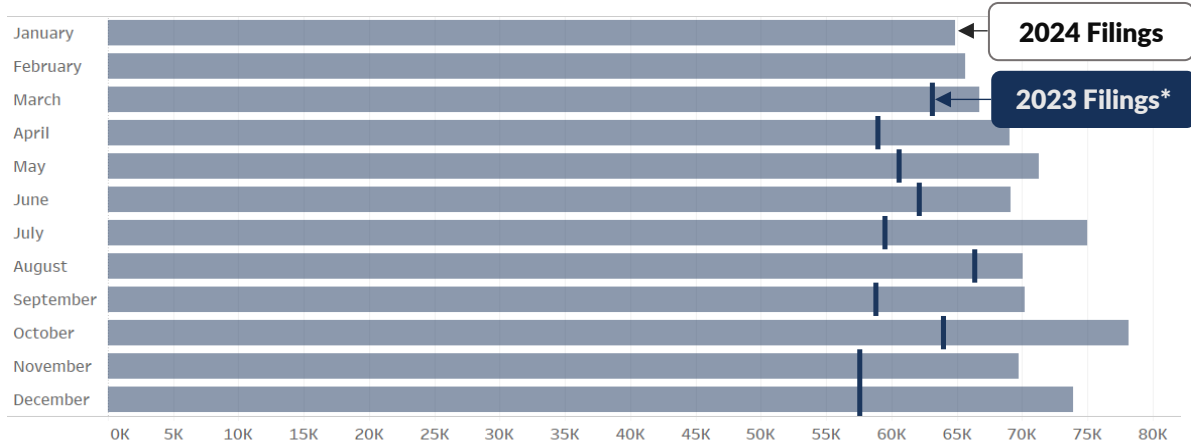
# Incoming Civil Contract Cases



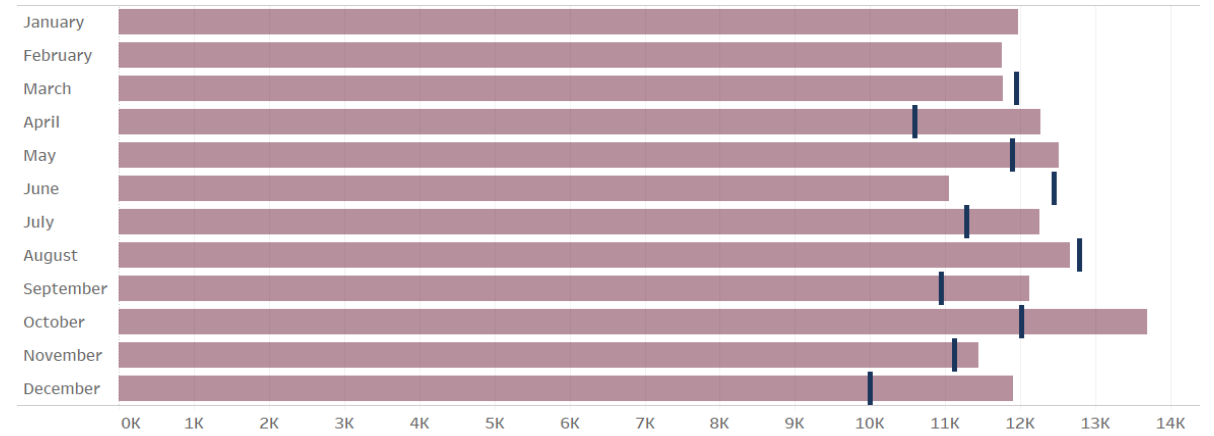
# Comparison of 2023 and 2024 Filings in select civil case types

\* Not all states provided 2023 filings for Jan and Feb, so those data are not shown here

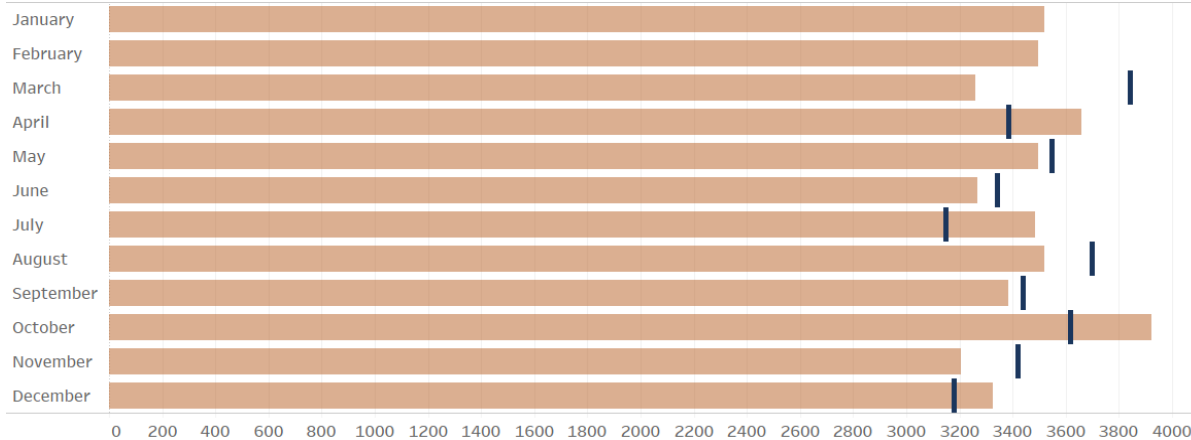
## Contract



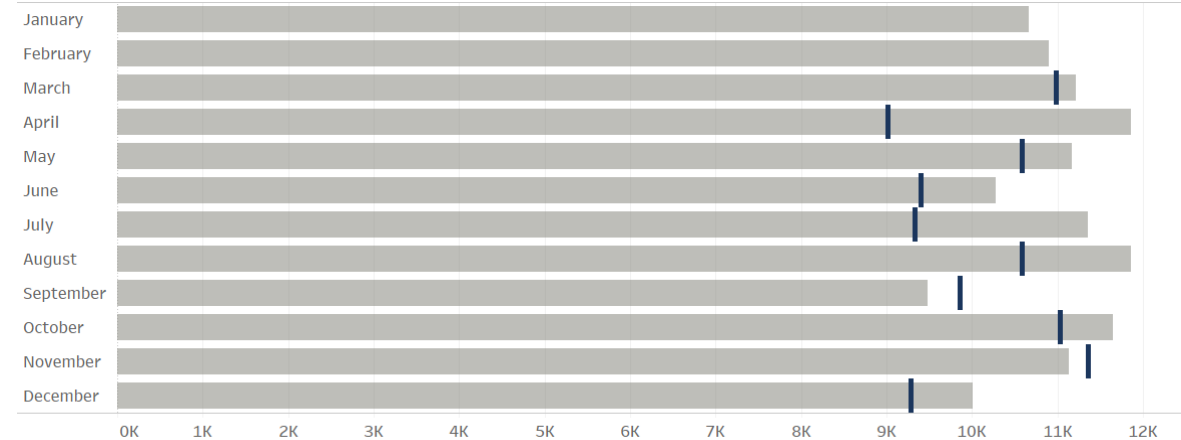
## Tort



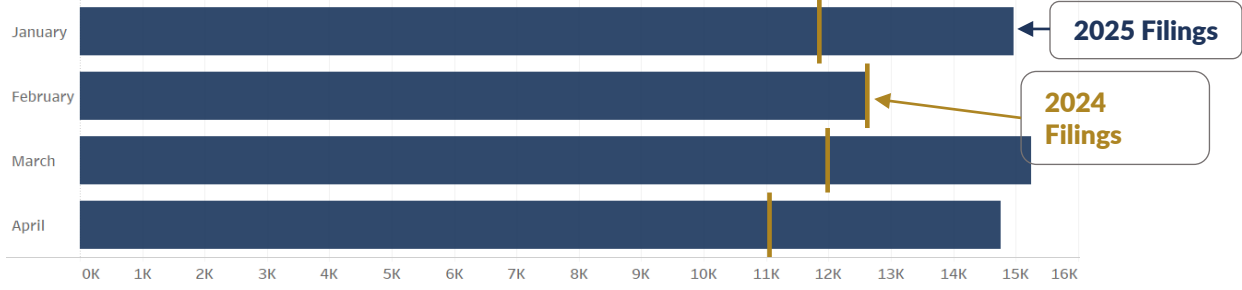
## Real Property



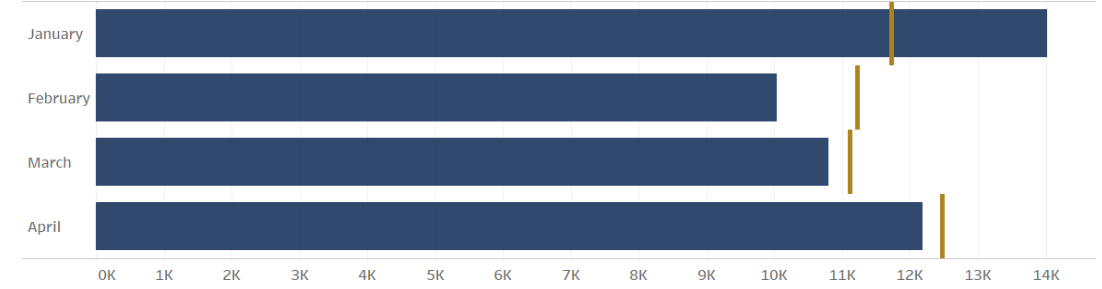
## Other



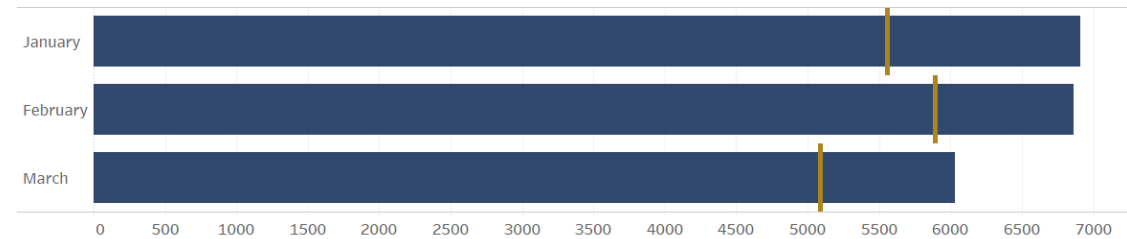
# Kentucky



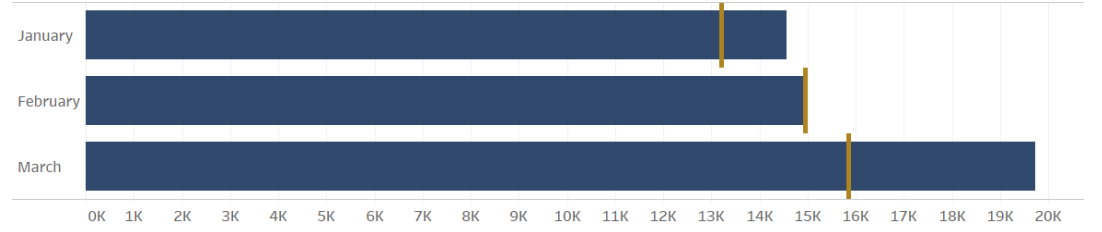
# Wisconsin



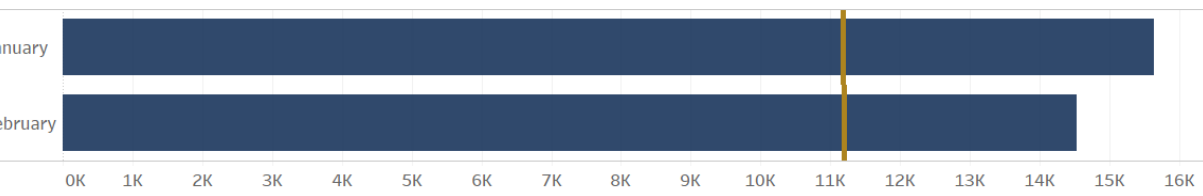
# Arkansas



# Los Angeles County



# Pennsylvania



Contract caseload data are shown for each state in months where **2024** and **2025** data were provided.

**What's causing contract, but not other  
civil case types, to increase?**

# Access to Justice



# If Filings are Being Increased by AI

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- Self-represented litigants
- Level of default judgments

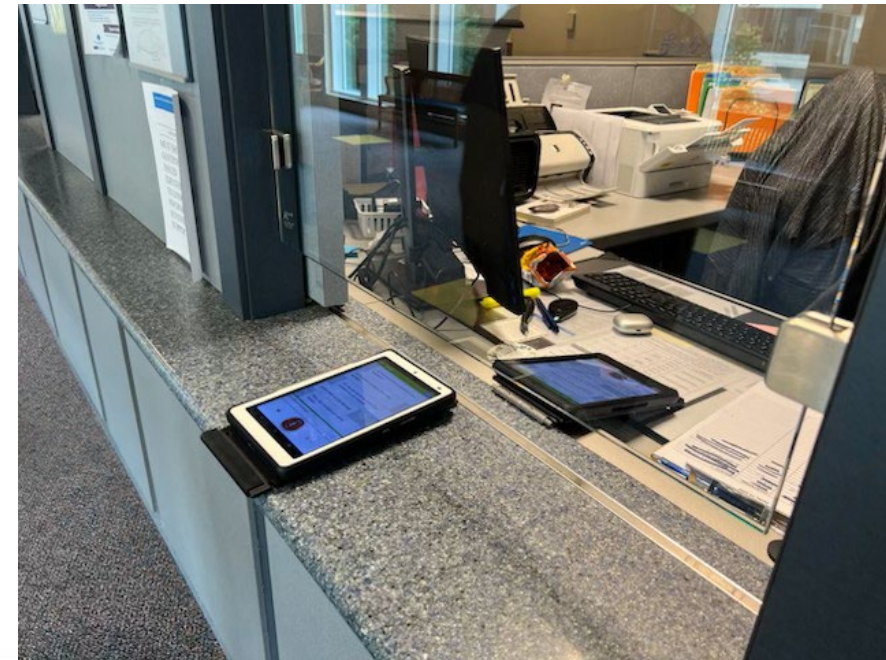
## Garbage In/Garnishment Out?

- Use of AI to check sufficiency of petitions?

# Increasing Access to Justice

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- Self-help chatbots
  - (Alaska, Beagle Plus in Vancouver)
- AI-assisted translation of documents
  - (Orange County, CA)
- AI-assisted interpretation at the clerk's window (Pilot in Virginia)



# Court Operations



# AI in Court Operations

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- Case filings
- Invoice processing
- HR functions
- Internal Chatbots (upskilling staff)

# Budget and Finance

## Washington, DC

- Bot for Invoice Processing
- Validates and lists Exceptions
- Reduced staff time from 16 hours per day between four staff to 4 hours each day, one staff
- Allows additional time for Data Analysis



# Human Resources

## Municipal Court in Texas

- Using ChatGPT for job descriptions and Performance Improvement Plans
- Reduced time for job description development by 60%
- Performance Improvement Plans drafted in hours, not days

## ChatGPT in HR



# Employee Training

Orange County Superior Court, California - Eva

- 150 Civil Procedures incorporated in their Chatbot
- Reduced staff training from 2 to 3 months to 2 to 3 weeks



# E-Filing Automation

## Palm Beach County Florida

- 150 documents
- 9 bots = 45 Full Time Employees
- 42% of filings are never reviewed by a human
- 4 times number of filings processed by bot vs. human



# Small Claims Filing Automation

## Small Claims Court in Florida

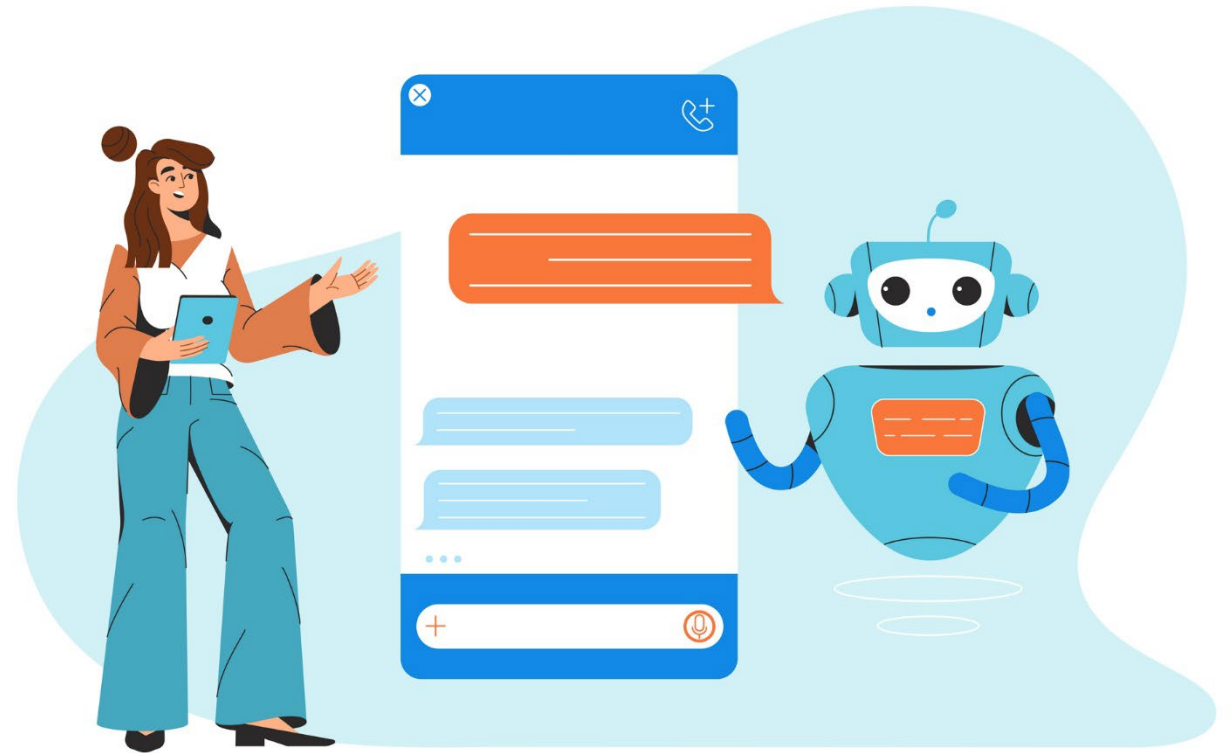
- Had to review every filing to determine if “Rules of Civil Procedure” were invoked
- AI solution reduced review time from 15 hours a week to 2-3 hours



# Online Public Chatbot

Los Angeles Superior Court – Gina

- Traffic Citations
- Pay ticket
- Register Traffic School
- Schedule a Court Date



# Jury Tool

## Los Angeles Superior Court

- AI tool allows jurors to:
  - Reschedule
  - Get excused
  - Transfer to another courthouse



THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### Jury Duty

Welcome to the Jury Duty Portal

Log in to get started.

Please enter the information from your jury summons card to access your profile.

#### Login

\*Juror ID Number (JID):

XXXXXXXX

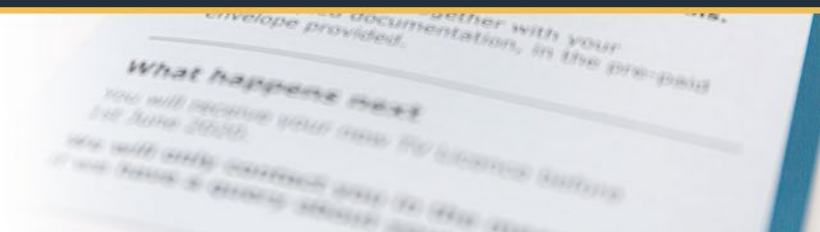
\*Personal ID Number (PIN):

XXXX

\*What is your Birth Year (YYYY)?

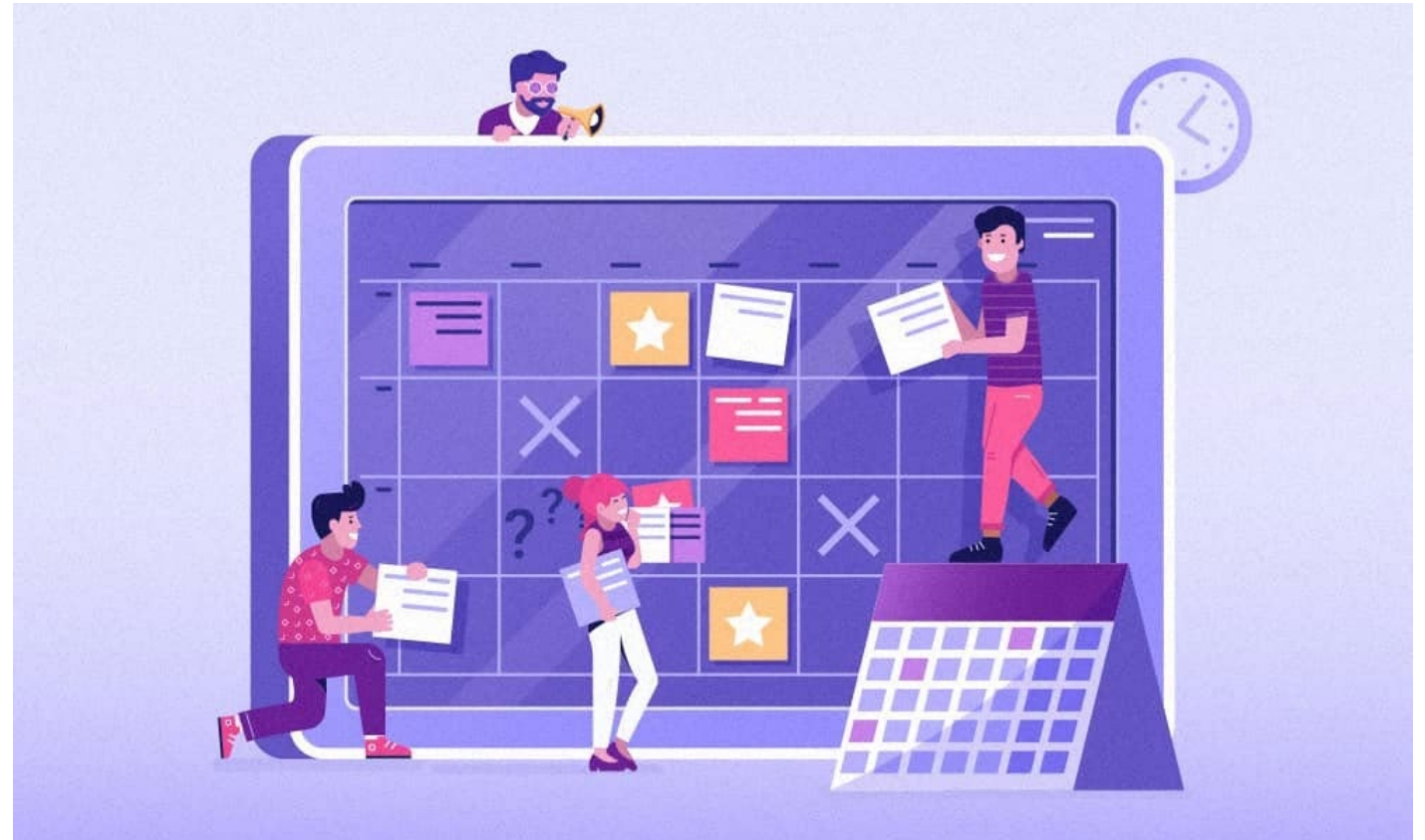
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Confirm Your Info

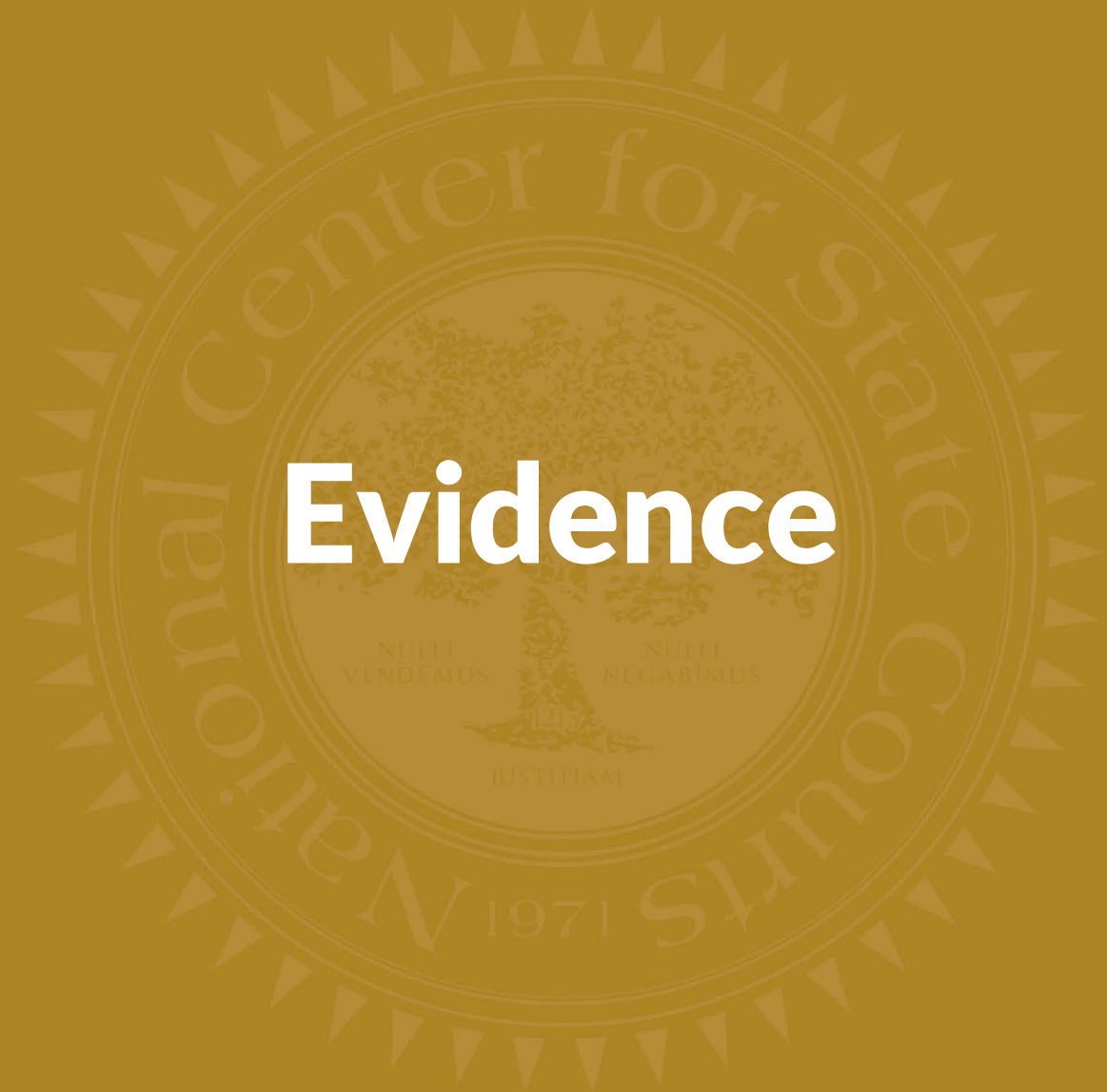


# New Jersey AI Projects

- Analyzing data uploads
- Scheduling a complex docket
- Language Translation
- Internal Process



# Evidence



# Rules & Practices for Litigants

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- Disclosure
- Human-in-the-Loop
- Understand how the technology works

# EVIDENTIARY ISSUES

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## Acknowledged Use of AI

- AI used in the generation, alteration, or production of evidence, such as enhancement of a photo or audio
- Law enforcement reports
- Who are the experts (Daubert)

## Unacknowledged Use of AI

- Evidence offered by one party and another party challenges its authenticity
- Detection

Bench cards: <https://www.ncsc.org/resources-courts/ai-generated-evidence-guide-judges>, created as part of the TRI/NCSC AI Policy Consortium on Law and Courts

# AI-Enhanced Evidence

## Washington judge bans use of AI-enhanced video as trial evidence



Getty Images

A judge in Washington banned the use of videos enhanced by artificial intelligence (AI) as evidence in the trial of a man who is accused of killing three people.

The ruling, signed Friday by King County Superior Court Judge Leroy McCullough, may be the first-of-its-kind ruling in court as AI tech emerges. It was [first reported](#) by NBC News.

“This Court finds that admission of this AI-enhanced evidence would lead to a confusion of the issues and a muddling of eyewitness testimony, and could lead to a time-consuming trial within a trial about the non-peer-reviewable process used by the AI mode,” McCullough wrote.



VR EVIDENCE



# Beyond the Grave Victim Impact Statement



# Justice Partners

## AI Detective

- AI Lie Detector - analyzing statements and evidence
- Comparing multiple sources and statements for discrepancies
- AI Assisted Warrants - Balancing innovation and justice
- Risk of over-reliance on AI instead of human judgment

Credit: Judge Scott Schlegel



# Justice Partners

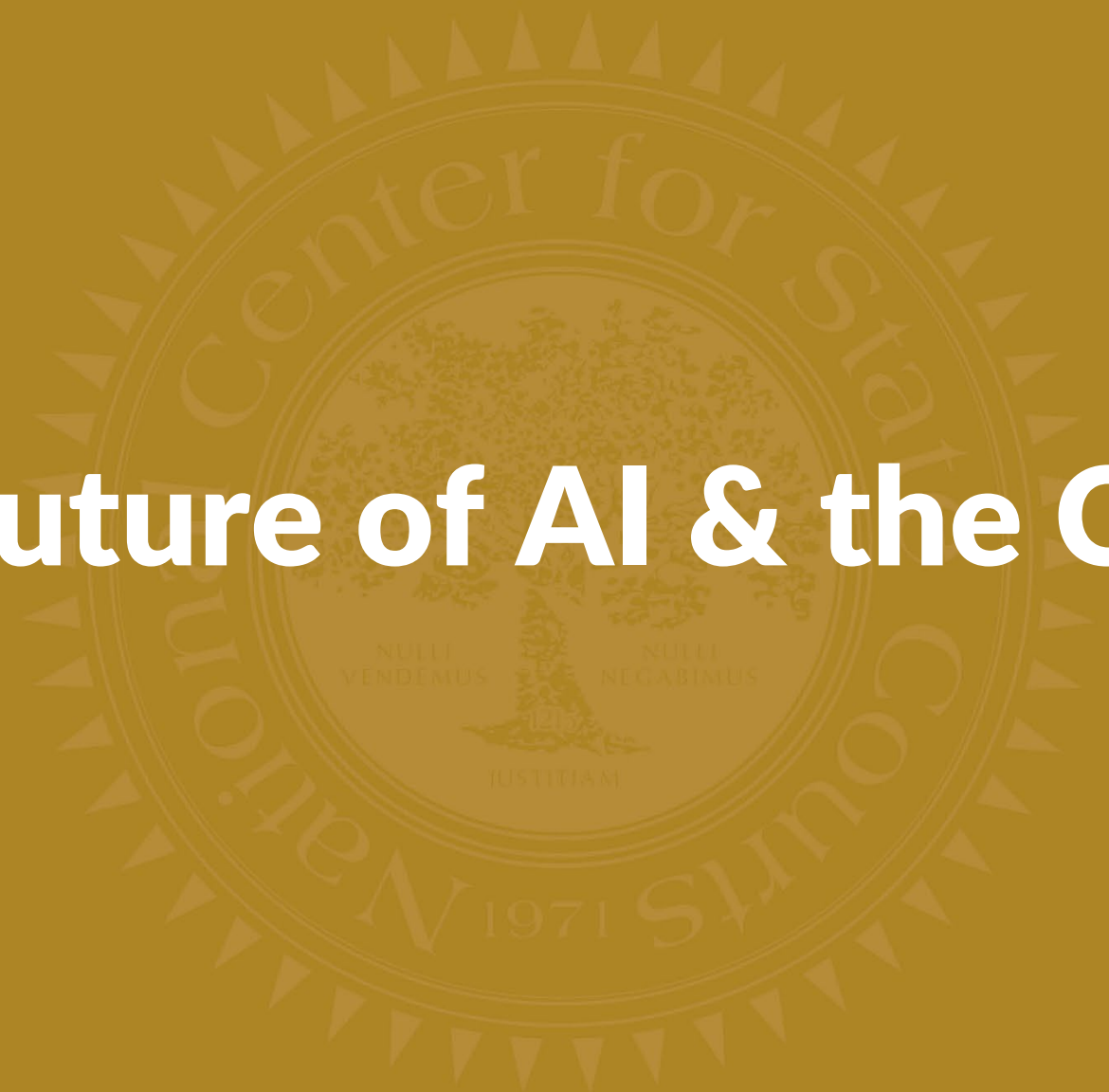
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## AI Prosecutor

- Automated case screening
- Draft charging document generation
- Comprehensive evidence review
- Missing evidence identification

Credit: Judge Scott Schlegel

# The Future of AI & the Courts



# This is exciting (& a little scary)

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- **Changes happening very quickly**  
Be careful about GenAI materials written before 2023
- **Lots of promises**  
Many claim expertise, but be careful
- **Not all AI is genAI, not all AI is new**  
Courts have been using optical character recognition (OCR) and robotic process automation (RPA) for years

# Areas of Promise

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- **Access to Justice**
- **Streamlined Operations**
- **Freeing court staff to do the more important work**
- **Increased trust and confidence in the judiciary**

# Areas of Concern

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- **Unauthorized Practice of Law**
- **Digital Divide**
- **AI Evidence**
- **Overreliance on AI**
- **Could failure to use AI constitute inefficiency?**

# Ethics still apply

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- [ABA Formal Opinion 512](#)
- **Competence, including understanding “the benefits and risks associated” with technologies used**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Communications, including the means by which the attorney is attempting to accomplish the client’s goal**

# Ethical Implications for Attorneys

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GAI use by lawyers and those working with lawyers implicates various ethical rules:

- ER 1.1 (competence)
- ER 1.2 (client consultation)
- ER 1.5 (reasonable fees for the work performed)
- ER 1.6 (confidentiality)
- ER 3.3 (candor to the tribunal)
- ER 4.1 (truthfulness on statements to others)
- ER 5.3 (supervising nonlawyers)

**Joseph R. Tiano, Legal Decoder, Inc., Legal Ethics in the Age of Bid Data & Artificial Intelligence**

# Ethical Implications for Judges

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GAI use by judicial officers and those working with judicial officers implicates various issues under the Model Code of Judicial Conduct:

- Rule 1.2 (Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary);
- Rule 2.2 (Impartiality and Fairness);
- Rule 2.3 (Bias, Prejudice, and Harassment)
- Rule 2.4 (External Influences on Judicial Conduct);
- Rule 2.5 (Competence, Diligence & Cooperation);
- Rule 2.9 (Ex Parte Communications);
- Rule 2.12 (Supervisor Duties);
- Rule 3.5 (Use of Nonpublic Information & Disclosure).

# What can you do?

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- Create AI Policy
  - see Principles and Practices for using AI Responsibly and Effectively in Courts (found at [ncsc.org/ai](https://ncsc.org/ai))
- Learn more about AI
  - Use our sandbox at [aisandbox.ncsc.org](https://aisandbox.ncsc.org)
  - Attend our webinars (register at [ncsc.org/ai](https://ncsc.org/ai))

# Discussion





[ncsc.org](http://ncsc.org)