

AI Use Case Matrix & UPL — Respondent Guide

Please read this before completing the matrix

What is UPL?

Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL) refers to the provision of legal services by someone who is not licensed to provide it. In many states, only licensed attorneys are permitted to provide legal services. UPL rules exist in every U.S. state, though they vary considerably in scope and enforcement.

UPL rules exist to protect consumers from unqualified legal guidance. But they can also limit access to help for people who cannot afford an attorney.

The AI Question

AI tools can now draft documents, explain legal concepts, identify legal issues, and predict case outcomes—tasks traditionally requiring a licensed attorney.

This raises a fundamental question: does AI “practice law” when it does these things?

Information vs. Advice

Legal information: explains the law generally—e.g., “landlords in Colorado must give 10 days notice.”

Legal advice: applies the law to a specific person’s situation—e.g., “you should contest this eviction.”

Most UPL rules permit legal information but restrict legal advice. Many matrix scenarios live in the grey zone between the two.

Why Your Input Matters

This matrix maps where legal professionals currently draw the line—and where they think the line should be.

Results will inform discussions about modernizing UPL rules so they protect consumers without blocking access to affordable legal help.

How to Complete the Matrix

Each scenario describes an AI tool performing a specific task. For every scenario, mark two things:

1 Current Rules

Is this scenario likely permissible under your state’s UPL rules as they exist TODAY?

2 Future Rules

Should this scenario be permissible under UPL rules as they SHOULD work in the future?

The 8 Parts at a Glance

Part 1:
Research

Part 2:
Form Selection & Completion

Part 3:
Legal Document Guidance

Part 4:
Document Drafting

Part 5:
Contract Review

Part 6:
Case Assessment

Part 7:
AI Bots/Agents

Part 8:
Dispute Resolution

Tips for Consistent Responses

- Focus on the AI tool’s action, not on who built it, unless the scenario specifies.
- Consider the least-protected consumer—people with no legal background, with limited English proficiency, with disabilities, etc.
- Scenarios escalate in complexity within each part. Earlier ones are lower stakes.
- There are no wrong answers. These concrete scenarios are meant to illuminate differences of opinion.
- **For the purposes of this exercise, users should assume the AI tool has a reasonable level of accuracy.**

Responses are used for research and policy discussion only.

Adapted from *Prosecutorial Guidance and Non-Prosecution Policies: A Pragmatic Path Forward for AI in Legal Services* | iaals.du.edu/ai_toolkit