



New Mexico Courts

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courts: Interim Guidelines for Legal Professionals

Artificial Intelligence is evolving - but your ethical duties remain the same. Until formal AI policies are adopted, all legal professionals must:

Follow the New Mexico Rules of Professional Conduct

AI tools, including generative tools like ChatGPT, do not replace your professional judgment or ethical obligations. Key reminders, but not an exhaustive list:

- **Rule 1-011 (Signing of Pleadings):** The signature of an attorney constitutes a certificate that the attorney has read the pleading, motion, or other paper; that to the best of the attorney's knowledge, information, and belief, there is good ground to support it.
- **Rule 16-302 (Candor to the Tribunal):** Verify AI-generated content. Never rely on it for case citations or legal arguments without checking original sources.
- **Rule 16-101 (Competence):** Understand the technology you use and its risks.
- **Rule 16-104 (Client Communication):** Disclose your use of AI tools if they impact legal advice or case handling.
- **Rule 16-106 (Confidentiality):** Do not enter client data or privileged information into AI platforms without informed consent, or taking reasonable steps to insure the continued confidentiality of that information.

Comply with the New Mexico State Bar's Ethics Advisory Committee's Opinions ([Formal Opinion: 2024-004, Using Generative Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law](#)), which emphasize that:

- Attorneys are fully responsible for the use of AI tools in their practice.
- Misuse of AI that results in misconduct or harm may lead to disciplinary action.

Practical Interim Tips:

- ✓ Double-check all AI-generated text, citations, or summaries.
- ✓ Use AI for drafting ideas, not final legal analysis.
- ✓ Document how you're using AI in your workflow.
- ✓ When in doubt, consult your supervisor or ethics counsel.

 **Remember: Confidentiality, Accuracy, and Integrity are Non-Negotiable.**