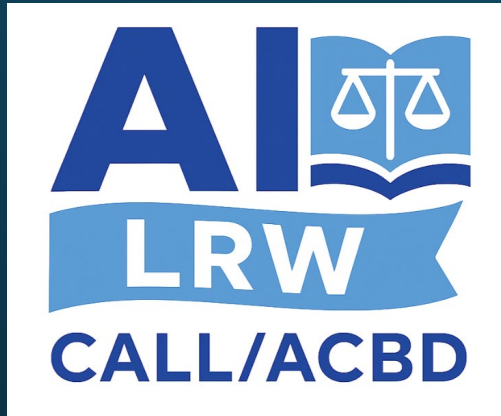# CALL /ACBD

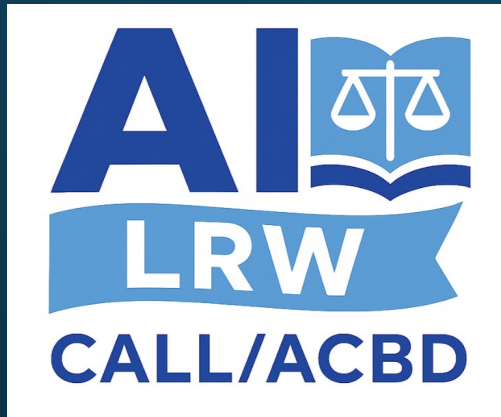# AI Working Group Assessment Guide

Presented by Annette Demers

to

Learn with LiRN Conference 2025

# Learning Outcomes

In this session you'll learn:

1. What is the AI Assessment Guide?
2. Origins and purpose.
3. Tools available.
4. Topics covered and their rationale.
5. How you can use the Guide.
6. How you can help us spread the word.

# 1. What is the AI Assessment Guide?

**Target Audience**:

➢ legal professionals (law librarians, judges, lawyers, administrators, etc.)

**For use by:**

➢ Prospective purchasers
➢ Users
➢ Teachers

**Target applications:**

➢ LRW products
➢ Law firm technologies (limited)

# 2. Origins and purpose.

**Working Group:**

- ➤ Commenced late fall 2023

- ➤ sub-committee of the CALL Vendor Liaison Committee

- ➤ Board authorized

**Consultation Process**

- ➤ January 2024 – survey

- ➤ July 2025 – external review process

# 2. Origins and purpose.

**Working Group Members**

➢ Annette Demers, University of Windsor (proponent and co-Chair)

➢ Sandy Hervieux, McGill University (co-Chair)

➢ James Bachmann, University of British Columbia

➢ Katarina Daniels, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg S.E.N.C.R.L., s.r.l.

➢ Erica Friesen, Queen's University

➢ Sarah Gibbs, Parlee McLaws LLP

➢ Bryony Livingston, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

➢ Anita Susac-Bilyk, Goodmans LLP
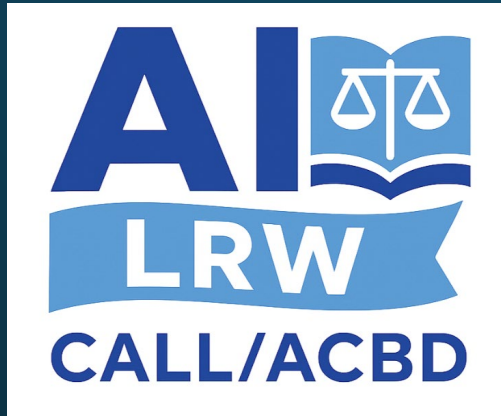
# 2. Origins and purpose.

**Goals of the Guide**

➢ To shape informed consumers

➢ Who will set standards for vendors; and

➢ To help users implement

➢ ethical and professional responsibilities re AI

# 3. Tools available.

**Assessment Guide Tools**

➢ **Website:** AI in Legal Research and Writing Applications: Assessment Guide
➢ Downloadable report
➢ Scoring boxes and summary table
➢ Downloadable user checklist
➢ Key terms -defined

## Scores Summary Table

| Criteria | Score | Weight |
|---|---|---|
| Marketing and Product Documentation | | |
| Data Transparency | | |
| Data Used in Training (Training Data) | | |
| Algorithm Transparency | | |
| User Inputs / Prompt and Prompt Engineering | | |
| Outputs | | |
| Other Risk Management | | |
| Privacy | | |
| Copyright | | |
| Bias | | |
| AI Generated Legal Commentary | | |

# 4. Topics Covered.

**Topics Covered**

1. Marketing and Product Documentation
2. Data Transparency
3. Data used in training
4. Algorithm transparency
5. User inputs/ prompt and prompt engineering
6. Outputs
7. Other risk management
8. Privacy
9. Copyright
10. Bias
11. AI Generated legal commentary

# 4. Topics Covered.

A. Marketing and Product Documentation

➤ Accuracy in marketing
➤ Comprehensive documentation
   ➤ (for prospective and subscribed users)

➤ Availability of user help (including live help from a human)

| A. Marketing and Product Documentation | Vendor #1 Notes | Vendor #1 Score | Vendor #2 Notes | Vendor #2 Score | Vendor #3 Notes | Vendor #3 Score |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Statements made in marketing should be true, accurate and transparent. Marketing should reflect realistic benefits and risks presented by the product. | | | | | | |
| When drawing on survey results to market the product, vendors should make available the questions asked, and methodology used. | | | | | | |
| **Prospective Users** | | | | | | |
| Vendors should make available to all prospective users, documentation that sets out, in a transparent manner, all aspects of the AI system, as detailed in this Guide. | | | | | | |
| **Subscribed Users** | | | | | | |
| Vendors should make available to all subscribed users, documentation that sets out, in a transparent manner, all aspects of the AI system, as detailed in this Guide. | | | | | | |
| Additionally, subscribed users should have access to tips for how to use the product. | | | | | | |
| All documentation and tips should be accessible from within the product (e.g. a "Help" page). | | | | | | |
| The documentation should outline the types of support available to a user, including, for example, access to live support from a human representative. | | | | | | |

# 4. Topics Covered.

B. Data Transparency

➢ AI trained on the open internet?

➢ Data sets used

➢ Scope of the datasets, including:
  ➢ Jurisdiction
  ➢ Level of court
  ➢ Type of material
  ➢ Date of earliest content
  ➢ Currency date
  ➢ Currency statement
  ➢ Gaps in content coverage

➢ Data not included (e.g. subscribed v unsubscribed content)

Scope of Datasets –
the easiest teaching tool
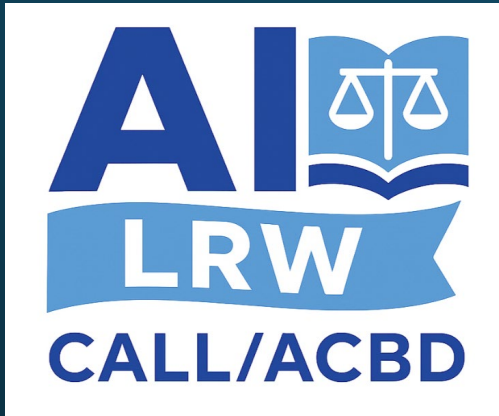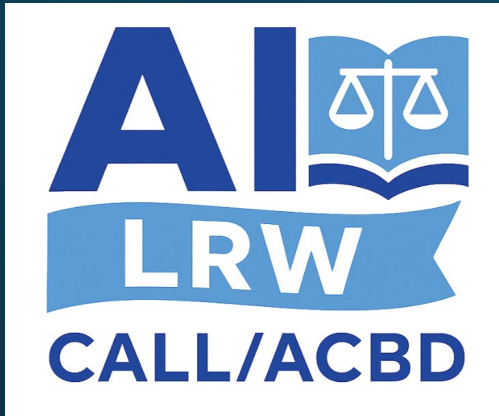
# 4. Topics Covered.

D. Algorithm Transparency

➢ Vendor should clearly disclose that foundation models are not explainable

➢ What methods and algorithms are used (RAG, NLP)

➢ How do algorithms prioritize sources? e.g.:
  ➢ Are court decisions prioritized based on precedential value, judicial treatment, jurisdiction, recency, citation frequency, etc.?
  ➢ Primary v secondary sources?

➢ How do algorithms determine relevancy of sources? e.g:
  ➢ Can they use the facts
  ➢ How do they interpret the wording of sources
  ➢ Are sources tagged or classified to help increase relevancy

# 4. Topics Covered.
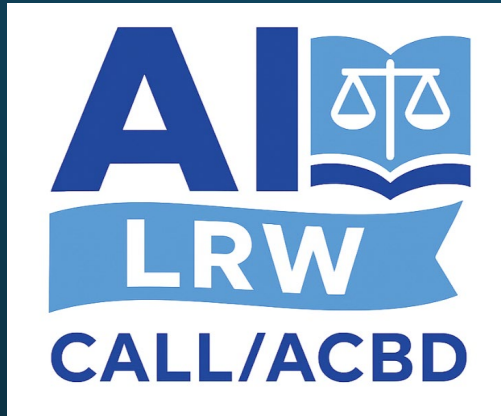
E. User Inputs / Prompt and Prompt Engineering

➢ Embedded instructions?

➢ Training materials and documentation available in a variety of formats?

➢ Is jurisdiction clearly addressed in the interaction?

➢ User prompt libraries or saved user inputs?

➢ Information about further cases or related questions to explore?

# 4. Topics Covered.

F. Outputs

➤ What if it can't answer?

➤ Is a confidence indicator provided? If so, how is this calculated?

➤ Are references consistently provided?

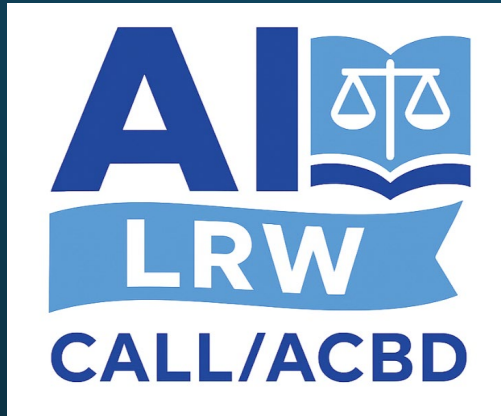➤ Are sources objectively recognizable and verifiable?

# 4. Topics Covered.

G. Other Risk Management (example)

➢ Will users be charged per search; can orgs request a paywall be displayed?

H. Privacy (examples)

➢ What types of user data are collected
➢ What is the data retention policy for user inputs and outputs?
➢ What is the data retention policy for uploaded content?
➢ Can the user request their data be removed, or is manual deletion available?
➢ In what jurisdiction do the servers reside?
➢ How will users be notified of data breaches?

# 5. How you can use it

➢ Use the Key Terms for AI-related definitions.

➢ Build your own expertise.

➢ Refer to the Guide when teaching others.

➢ Use the scoring tables or worksheet to compare products.

➢ Use the worksheet if ever deciding what to purchase.

➢ Conversations with vendors.**

# 6. Help us Spread the Word!

➤ Invite us to do CPD workshop with the local bar association.

➤ Share the Guide with influencers.

➤ Tell your colleagues.

➤ Mention it to users.

➤ Share our LinkedIn post.

➤ Talk to vendors from a place of expertise and power.

➤ CALL Webinar 12 noon Wed December 3, 2025.

If AI is going to "change the legal profession forever" then let's make sure that change is for the BETTER!

# Other Resources

Guide to Artificial Intelligence Regulation
Includes:
- ➢ List of cases where lawyers and SRL were admonished
- ➢ Bills, statutes, policies, guidelines
- ➢ Court practice directions
- ➢ Law Society tools re AI (cross country)

AI Guidance for law students.

Check AI's Work! Annette's Reverse Research Plan

AI Guidance for self-represented litigants.

LawQI (Colin Lachance AI CPD product).

Navigating Legal Research with GenAI: Open Tutorial Series (U Vic).

# CALL /ACBD

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