

AI FOR IMMIGRATION PRACTICE

Answering the *AI Concerns* Lawyers Raise

Every worry you have about AI in your practice is reasonable. Most of them have an answer grounded in duties you already follow.

— By **Renee Waite**, Founder, Simplarity



Contents

The concerns are reasonable And most have answers	03
Each worry, and its answer Six you have probably had	04
The real risk is the opposite What inaction costs	05
Turn each concern into a control A checklist	06
Where to start The first move	07

The concerns are reasonable

Lawyers who hesitate on AI are not being timid. They are applying the same caution that keeps clients out of trouble. The instinct is correct. The conclusion, that the safest move is to avoid AI entirely, is the part worth examining.

Almost every concern lawyers raise has a systemic answer, grounded in the duties you already carry: competence, confidentiality, candor, and supervision. The answer is rarely "do not use it." It is "use it inside a control that addresses the worry."

This guide takes the six concerns most often voiced in immigration practice and pairs each with the control that answers it. ABA Formal Opinion 512 says the same thing in fewer words: AI is permitted, with care.

Reference: ABA Formal Opinion 512, 2024; ABA Model Rules 1.1, 1.6, 3.3, 5.1, 5.3.

Each concern, and its answer

"It will hallucinate" ACCURACY	True, and structural. The answer is a verification workflow: nothing is cited or filed until a human confirms it in a primary source.
"Client data is not safe" CONFIDENTIALITY	True of public tools. The answer is a no-training tool with a signed DPA, and a BAA where medical records are involved.
"It replaces my judgment" THE LAWYER'S ROLE	It does not. AI drafts and organizes. You decide eligibility, strategy, and what gets filed. The judgment line does not move.
"The bar will come after me" ETHICS	ABA Opinion 512 permits AI use with reasonable care. The exposure comes from careless use, not from use.
"Clients will think I cut corners" PERCEPTION	Disclose where appropriate. Used well, AI raises the quality and speed of your work, which clients feel.
"It will get me sanctioned" THE COURTROOM	Sanctions follow unverified filings, not AI itself. The control is the same verification step that answers the first concern.

The real risk is the opposite

There are two ways to get this wrong, not one. The first is careless use: client data in a public tool, a fabricated citation filed unread. That risk is real, and the controls in this guide answer it.

The second is quieter. It is the firm that refuses to adopt anything while its backlog grows, its turnaround slips, and the clients who need fast, careful work go to the practice down the street that figured out how to do more without cutting corners.

Immigration work is not getting lighter. The volume is enormous and the deadlines do not bend. A firm that handles that volume with discipline and good tools serves more people, more carefully. That is not a threat to the profession. It is the point of it.

The question is not whether to use AI. It is whether to use it **carelessly, not at all, or well**. Only the third option is actually safe.

Turn each concern into a control

Each worry, converted into something you can actually put in place.

- A verification workflow that no filing skips.
- A no-training tool with a signed DPA, and a BAA where medical records are involved.
- A clear line: AI drafts, the lawyer decides.
- ABA 512 and your state's guidance read and kept in the file.
- A disclosure habit, to clients and to courts where required.
- A named owner and a human sign-off before anything goes out.

WHERE TO START

Caution is right. *Avoidance is not.*

Your instincts about the risks are sound. The move is not to avoid AI. It is to put each worry inside a control, so you get the speed without the exposure.

Simplarity turns your concerns into a working setup: the right tools, the right contracts, and the verification step that makes the caution real.

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