

PREFACE TO THE 2024 POCKET PART

This 2024 Pocket Part for Volume 26B of Washington Practice, Probate Law and Practice, includes additional materials that support efforts by Probate Law attorneys to maximize office productivity and minimize practice costs through the potential use of—and careful control of—ChatGPT technology.

A conceptual analysis of ChatGPT enables Probate Law attorneys to better understand the properties of this technology without requiring detailed background in computer hardware or software, including the introduction of a few basic terms; the nature of information flow in such Large Language Models (LLMs); the resultant ChatGPT performance; evolution of the technology; uses of search and target vectors; and creating responses from prompts (§ 1:55).

A new approach to practice management in Probate Law settings, based on a broad analysis of the ways in which ChatGPT may affect such practices, based on seven typical practice activities (defined with ChatGPT assistance):

Meetings with clients or their legal representatives (in person or otherwise); Representation of clients (for all types of activities); Legal research (both for topics and clients); Drafting and finalizing documents (including all stages and methods); Managing client files (with all associated records); Marketing and networking; and Managing resources.

For each area, practice activities without ChatGPT capabilities are contrasted with activities that make use of ChatGPT support (§§ 1:45-1:54). As a result, Probate Law attorneys may contrast existing operations with the potential use of such Super-Chatbots, in order to better understand the advantages and limitations of such strategies for practice operations. These materials allow attorneys in all Probate Law settings to better appreciate the possible approaches that may be taken to improving productivity and controlling costs without excessive reliance on the over-promotions of technology.

Comparable practice management materials for Elder Law may be found in the 2024 edition of Volume 26 of Washington

Practice, *Washington Elder Law and Health Law (Part 1)*.

Comparable practice management materials for Health Law may be found in the 2024 edition for Volume 26A of Washington Practice, *Washington Elder Law and Health Law (Part 2)*.

An example related to vacating orders under Court Rule (CR) 60 is used to illustrate how the most effective ChatGPT-supported legal research may result from access to an extensive state database of state statutes, regulations, and court rules; cases; and diverse secondary sources. These materials need to be linked together to form an integrated information base through which topics may be traced; cases reflect statutes; statutes are integrated with cases; and secondary sources are cross-referenced to statutes and cases. The advantages of Westlaw linkages are described in terms of annotated statutes (that make use of West RCWA cites); the summarizing of case features (through West Headnotes); and the classifying of topics through West Key Numbers that combine insights across cases (§ 1:49).

Expanded materials have been added to describe how probates for the estates of decedents who received Long-Term Care (LTC) classic Medicaid assistance during their lifetimes may encounter consideration of the Medicaid lien law and estate recovery (see new §§ 18:5.1 and 26:5.1).

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