

## PREFACE TO THE 2025 EDITION OF VOLUME 26

This 2025 edition of Volume 26 of Washington Practice, *Washington Elder Law and Health Law (Part 1)* includes additional materials that support efforts by Elder 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 Elder 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 (§ 1:51).

Another generative AI Super-Chatbot called Chatsonic has been applied to Elder Law at § 1:27 and to Health Law (in Vol. 26A, Ch. 10 Part P (§§ 10:180-10:183) and Ch. 23). A new approach to practice management for Elder Law settings—with forms—is based on a broad analysis of the ways in which ChatGPT may affect such practices, based on seven typical practice activities (defined with generative AI assistance at § 1:35):

*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 (§§ 1:34-1:50). As a result, Elder 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 Elder Law settings to better appreciate the possible approaches that may be taken to improving office productivity and controlling costs without excessive reliance on the

over-promotions of technology that are often encountered.

Comparable practice management materials for Health Law may be found in the 2025 edition of Volume 26A of Washington Practice, *Washington Elder Law and Health Law (Part 2)*.

Comparable practice management materials for Probate Law may be found in the 2025 Pocket Part for Volume 26B of *Washington Practice, Probate Law and Practice*.

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 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 (§ 1:40).

Further applications illustrate the potential uses of generative AI to enhance Elder Law planning (Chapter 2) and assisting clients with Medicare applications (Chapter 7).

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