

# Preface

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Generative AI has captured society's attention. We are trying to figure out how it will change many aspects of our lives. It will certainly affect the way we do work, especially legal work. The promise of this new technology is awe inspiring. Today, however, the questions about generative AI outnumber the answers. Generative AI can already help lawyers and law students with some kinds of work, but using it effectively requires us to be aware both of its potential and its limitations. *Using Generative AI for Legal Research* explores how generative AI fits within a process for conducting legal research. It addresses the advantages and risks of using AI-generated information, outlines tasks for which generative AI is and is not useful, describes how to prompt an AI text generator to produce useful information, and offers guidelines for when and how to cite AI-generated information. My goal with this material is to place generative AI in context with traditional research tools so that researchers can incorporate it thoughtfully into their research process. My hope is that this material will help researchers effectively use the generative AI tools available today and maximize the benefits of new tools that are likely to be available in the future.

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