



Suhas Bhairav

AI Legal AI Risk Control Matrix

**Practical guardrails, data rules, and audits for
legal AI use.**

Define permitted uses, data safeguards, and human
review for defensible AI in legal workflows.

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AI Risk Matrix for Legal

This page defines the matrix components and adoption approach for legal AI tools. It provides concrete rules for use, data, and review.

Key move Appoint a matrix owner and ensure quarterly reviews.

PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

- 01** Permitted tasks: contract review, clause analysis, due diligence summaries with human attorney review.
- 02** Non-permitted: handling client-confidential or privileged data in untrusted tools.
- 03** Data rules: redact sensitive data and use synthetic or redacted data for model inputs.
- 04** Human review: outputs used for client work require licensed attorney review before issuance.
- 05** Privilege: keep work-product within approved firm systems; no cross-environment leakage.
- 06** Audit trails: capture prompts, outputs, decisions; store securely for compliance.
- 07** Ownership: assign an AI application owner and a legal data steward.

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Data, Tools, and Environments

Define data boundaries, tool types, and secure environments critical for defensible AI use. This page also ties data handling to governance.

Key move Document data classifications and tool approvals.

PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

- 01** Data categories: redacted contracts, public precedents, metadata; avoid privileged client content unless secured and logged.
- 02** Data minimization: only data necessary for task; strip PII.
- 03** Tools: enterprise LLMs in approved environments; on-prem models or vetted cloud sandboxes.
- 04** Data handling: encrypt data in transit at rest; access controls; periodic reviews.
- 05** Privilege considerations: never upload privileged materials to untrusted tools; keep work-products in firm systems.
- 06** Output governance: route outputs through legal review; maintain versioned drafts.

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Governance, Audit, and Adoption

Define ownership, approvals, and metrics to ensure accountability and measurable progress. This page links adoption to risk governance.

Key move Start with non-client data; confirm privilege rules before extending.

PRACTICAL CHECKLIST

- 01** Roles: AI owner, data steward, reviewing attorney, and compliance lead clearly defined.
- 02** Approvals: formal risk sign-off required for new tools using privileged data.
- 03** Audit trails: log prompts, outputs, model versions; store securely for governance reviews.
- 04** Defensibility: preserve work-product and decision notes to defend client communications.
- 05** Metrics: track accuracy, clause consistency, time saved, review load, and incidents.
- 06** Incident response: defined steps for data leakage or privilege breach, with escalation paths.
- 07** Adoption plan: weekly pilots with outcomes; scale by documented risk tolerance.

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ABOUT THE CREATOR

Suhas Bhairav

I build AI systems that combine distributed architecture, retrieval, knowledge graphs, security, and practical workflow design. My focus is AI that can be used repeatedly by real teams: understandable, reliable, and grounded in the work people already do.

EXPERTISE

- Principal systems architecture and applied AI engineering
- Production-grade AI systems, agentic workflows, RAG, and knowledge graphs
- Full-stack workflow applications across AWS, Google Cloud, Azure, on-premise, and hybrid environments
- Practical AI implementation patterns for automotive, manufacturing, finance, logistics, cybersecurity, sales, and customer operations
- Security, governance, observability, approvals, and failure-mode thinking for operational AI systems

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