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ROUNDUP

Top Efficiency Tools for Lawyers in 2026: 8 Picks Compared

Eight tools lawyers use around the world, from Harvey and CoCounsel to Clio and MyCase, compared on features, pricing and fit.

Introduction

Legal efficiency software in 2026 falls into two groups. The first group is AI that does legal work itself, such as research, drafting and contract review. The second group runs the firm: matters, time, billing and client intake. Most firms need one tool from each group, and the vendors in the second group now bundle AI too.

This roundup covers eight tools with users in more than one country. scored.tools rates tools on five criteria: quality of output, ease of use, pricing value, API and integration quality, and how well the tool solves the problem it claims to solve. None of these eight has a published scored.tools rating yet. So no entry below carries a score, and the list is grouped by category instead of ranked. Every price and figure comes from the vendor's own pages, and we attribute each claim to the vendor that makes it.

AI for legal work

Harvey

Score: Not yet rated

Harvey calls itself AI software for legal and professional services and sells one platform for research, drafting and document analysis. Its homepage lists Agents, Vault for storing and analysing document sets, Knowledge for legal, regulatory and tax research, and Review Tables, plus apps such as Contract Intelligence and Facts & Chronologies. Harvey says it serves 3,500+ legal organizations and 200,000+ professionals in 85+ countries, including 80+ AmLaw 100 firms. Those figures support the claim of global reach better than any other tool here can. There is no public pricing, and you have to go through a demo and sales to get access. That fits large firms with procurement teams. A three-lawyer practice has no way to tell whether Harvey is in its price range.

Best for: Large and mid-size firms and in-house teams that want one AI platform across practice groups.

Pricing: Not published. You get a quote through sales.

CoCounsel (Thomson Reuters)

Score: Not yet rated

Cocounsel is Thomson Reuters' AI layer over Westlaw and Practical Law content. Its plan comparison page for in-house teams lists three starting prices. CoCounsel Legal, which combines research, drafting and document analysis, starts at $1,694.90 per month. Westlaw Advantage, which adds agentic Deep Research that plans and runs multi-angle research, starts at $735.25 per month. The Practical Law Dynamic Tool Set starts at $1,286.05 per month. Thomson Reuters claims 60% time savings on legal research, which is a vendor figure and has not been independently verified. CoCounsel's main advantage is its content. If your firm already relies on Westlaw, the AI answers come from the source you would check anyway. The prices are high, and the comparison page is aimed at in-house buyers, so firms should expect a separate quote.

Best for: Firms and legal departments already paying for Westlaw or Practical Law.

Pricing: CoCounsel Legal from $1,694.90 per month and Westlaw Advantage from $735.25 per month, per Thomson Reuters' in-house plans page. Free trials are offered on the Westlaw and Practical Law plans, and CoCounsel Legal is sold through a demo.

Lexis+ with Protégé

Score: Not yet rated

Lexis Plus Protege is the new name for Lexis+ AI. LexisNexis renamed it in 2026, and its regional pages give different dates for the change. Answers in the Protégé Legal AI mode are grounded in LexisNexis content and checked with Shepard's citation signals. A separate General AI mode lets users pick outside models for broader tasks. For multi-step work, LexisNexis says Protégé proposes a plan that the lawyer can edit and approve before it runs. The product also includes secure Vaults for firm documents, drafting inside Word and Outlook, and reusable skills, some of which LexisNexis built with Anthropic. Features and naming vary by country, so check your regional page before you assume a feature is available.

Best for: Lexis subscribers who want cited research and drafting in one tool.

Pricing: Not published. Sold by subscription through LexisNexis sales, with terms that vary by region.

Spellbook

Score: Not yet rated

Spellbook runs as a Microsoft Word add-in for contract work. Per its site, the features are Review (redlining and risk flags), Draft, Compare (checking a contract against market standards), Ask, and Playbooks, which save your firm's positions so reviews apply them consistently. A newer Associate agent handles matters that span several documents, and an autonomous contract management

product is in early access. On data handling, Spellbook says it does not train on customer data, offers Zero Data Retention agreements and holds SOC 2 Type II. Because it works inside Word, lawyers can use it without switching to another program, which makes it the easiest tool here to adopt for transactional work.

Best for: Transactional lawyers and in-house counsel who draft and redline in Word every day.

Pricing: Custom, based on seat count. There is a free trial of 7 days, and longer trials are available for larger organisations.

Luminance

Score: Not yet rated

Luminance sells a contract intelligence platform for enterprise legal, procurement and finance teams. It has three modules. Discover searches a contract portfolio for risks and obligations, Negotiate applies precedent and playbooks during negotiation, and Automate runs workflows from intake to signature. Luminance says 1,000+ enterprises use it and claims a 75% reduction in repetitive contract review work. Both are vendor figures. Luminance is built for portfolio-scale contract work, such as reviewing every supplier agreement before a regulatory change. A small firm drafting a few contracts a week would pay for capacity it does not use.

Best for: Enterprise legal and procurement teams that manage large contract portfolios.

Pricing: Not published. You need a demo and a quote.

Practice management

Clio

Score: Not yet rated

Clio is cloud practice management software with separate sites for the US, UK, Canada and Australia. It covers matters, calendaring, time tracking, billing, trust accounting and client intake, and now markets AI features alongside them. Its pricing page uses four per-user tiers: EasyStart, Essentials, Advanced and Complete. Figures differ by region and billing term, and older plan names still show up on some regional pages. Check the live page for your country before you budget. Clio's main strengths are its reach and its integrations. It is often the default choice for firms with offices in more than one jurisdiction.

Best for: Small and mid-size firms, especially those working across several English-speaking jurisdictions.

Pricing: Per user per month across four tiers. Prices vary by region and by annual or monthly billing.

MyCase

Score: Not yet rated

Mycase has the clearest pricing of the eight tools here. Per its pricing page, Basic costs $50 per user per month billed annually or $60 billed monthly. Pro costs $100 or $120, and Advanced costs $130 or $150. AI features come in under the 8am IQ name, and they depend on the tier. Pro and Advanced include the Writing and Document Assistants. Only Advanced includes the Case Assistant and the Discovery Assistant, which gives each user 5,000 pages per month, shared across the firm. An MCP connector, which lets outside AI tools read MyCase data, is included on all three plans. Basic users get no AI features, so the real comparison is between Pro and Advanced. All prices are in US dollars.

Best for: US small firms that want published prices and AI features in the same system as billing.

Pricing: $50 to $130 per user per month billed annually, or $60 to $150 billed monthly. The free trial lasts 10 days and needs no card.

Smokeball

Score: Not yet rated

Smokeball has four plans: Bill, Boost, Grow and Prosper+. Bill covers invoicing, time tracking and trust accounting. Boost adds matter management, a client portal, eSignature and eFiling. Grow adds practice-area templates and document automation. Prosper+ includes AutoTime, which captures time automatically, along with intake and custom workflows. Smokeball's AI assistant, Archie, is an add-on, and the pricing page does not describe what it costs or what it does. The main reason to pick Smokeball is automatic time capture, which helps firms that bill by the hour and lose time entries. Every plan is quote-only, so you cannot compare it with MyCase or Clio without contacting sales.

Best for: Hourly-billing small firms that want automatic time capture.

Pricing: Quote-based. Price depends on users, plan, contract term and add-ons.

Comparison table

Tool	Category	Score	Public pricing	Trial
Harvey	Legal AI platform	Not yet rated	No	Demo only
Cocounsel	Legal AI + research	Not yet rated	From $735.25 per month (Westlaw Advantage)	Yes, on some plans
Lexis Plus Protege	Legal AI + research	Not yet rated	No	Varies by region
Spellbook	Contract drafting in Word	Not yet rated	No	7 days

Tool	Category	Score	Public pricing	Trial
Luminance	Enterprise contract intelligence	Not yet rated	No	Demo only
Clio	Practice management	Not yet rated	Yes, varies by region	Yes
Mycase	Practice management	Not yet rated	From $50 per user per month	10 days
Smokeball	Practice management	Not yet rated	No	Quote first

Final picks

For research, choose the AI tool from the database you already pay for. Cocounsel fits firms on Westlaw and Lexis Plus Protege fits firms on Lexis. Citations that link back to a source you trust will save more time than a smarter answer you still have to check.

For contract drafting, Spellbook is the easiest to adopt because it works inside Word. Luminance is the better fit once the job is a whole contract portfolio rather than one agreement.

For a large firm that wants one AI platform across practice groups, Harvey has the strongest adoption figures on this list. Expect a sales process before you get a price.

For running a small firm, Mycase is the easiest to budget because the prices are published. Clio fits firms working across several countries. Smokeball is worth a call if missed billable time is your biggest leak.

Generated 2026-11-23 · Read the live article at scored.tools/blog/top-efficiency-tools-for-lawyers-2026/