



Technology at Trial

Presenting with TrialPad, and where AI actually fits

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What we'll cover

Part 1 — TrialPad

- What it is and what it costs
- Case setup: import, organize, Key Docs
- Presenting: annotation, split screen, video
- Getting it onto the courtroom screen
- How working trial lawyers actually use it
- The September 2026 update

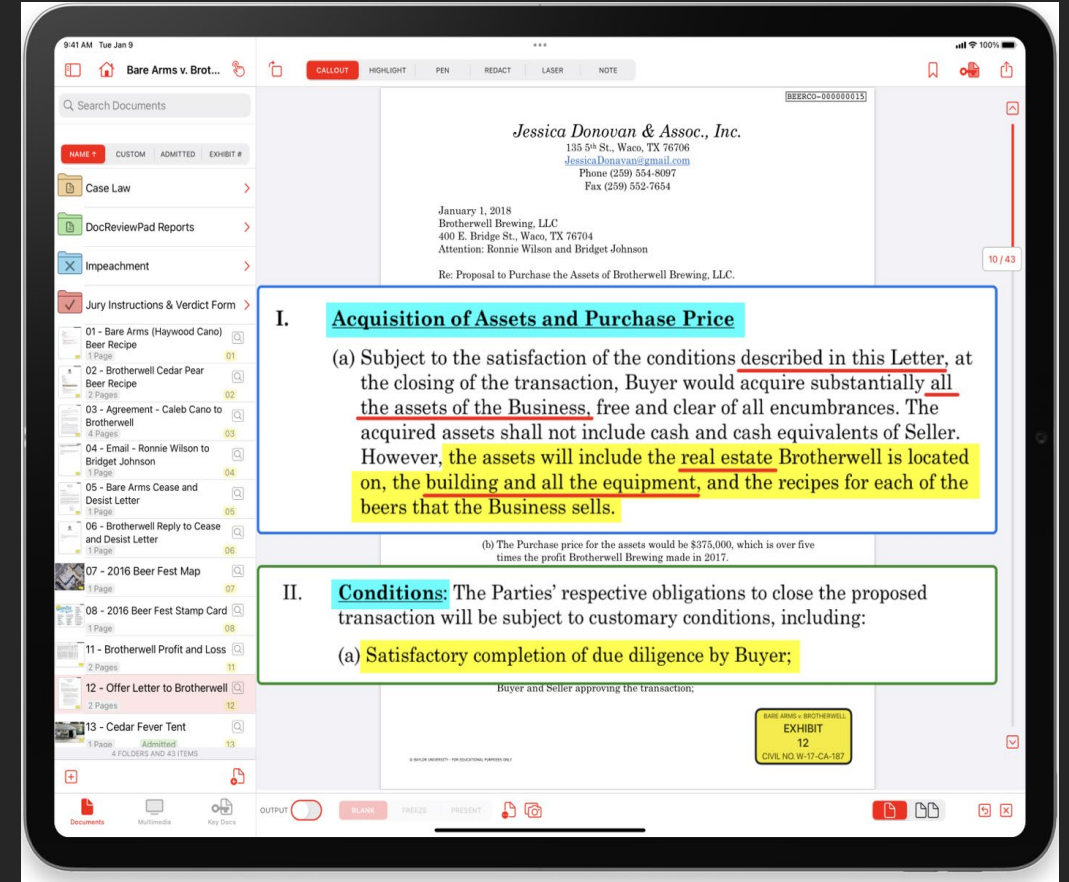
Part 2 — AI at trial

- Where AI helps before, during, and after trial
- Demonstratives and AI-generated visuals
- The rules: CRC 10.430, State Bar guidance, FRE 707
- Deepfakes and fabricated evidence
- A short set of guardrails you can live with

PART 1

TrialPad

The iPad app that replaced the hot-seat operator





What TrialPad is

- Trial presentation app for iPad and Mac, made by LIT Software (since 2010)
- Organize, annotate, and present documents, photos, video, and audio — from the counsel table, without a trial tech
- Part of the LIT SUITE: TrialPad, TranscriptPad, DocReviewPad, TimelinePad, ExhibitsPad
- Used from small claims through multi-district litigation; institutional users include the California DOJ

\$50

per month, billed annually through the App Store

- One subscription covers all five apps
- 7-day free trial
- Requires iPadOS 26 / macOS 26
- Firm/team pricing is custom, with training and license management



The workflow in three steps

1. Import

- Create a Case File (iPad or Mac)
- Pull in PDFs, photos, video, audio from Files, iCloud, Dropbox, a USB drive
- Documents and media now come in together, in one pass, into the folder you choose
- Imports run in the background — keep working

2. Organize

- Three tabs: Documents, Multimedia, Key Docs
- Folders by witness or by trial phase
- Search reads every page — including scans that were never OCR'd
- Presenter Notes on any page; mark Admitted; assign exhibit stickers

3. Present

- Wired (HDMI) or wireless (Apple TV), or over Zoom
- Callout, highlight, pen, redact, laser, zoom
- Split screen: two docs, two videos, or one of each
- Everything you show is logged automatically

Organizing a case file

1

Documents tab

Every PDF and photo. Sort by name, date, or exhibit number; folders for witnesses, phases, or issue codes.

2

Multimedia tab

Video and audio. Clip, snapshot, and bookmark inside the app — no separate editor.

3

Key Docs tab

Your presentation set: pre-annotated pages and clips, filed by witness, in the order you'll use them.

4

Search

Full-text across the case. Documents are indexed on import, even un-OCR'd scans, and results come back in seconds.



Thumbnail scrubbing through a 300-page record. **Swipe left:** Rename, Add to Key Docs, Delete. **Swipe right:** Mark Admitted, Exhibit Sticker, Export.

Key Docs: build the presentation before trial

- Annotate a page once — callouts, highlights, redactions — and save it as a Key Doc
- Organize Key Docs in folders per witness: everything for Dr. Smith's cross in one place, in order
- Add Presenter Notes to a Key Doc: what to ask, what to hit, where the contradiction is
- Key Docs from video: save a specific time range as its own Key Doc
- Hide button: show the clean page first, then reveal the markup
- Tap the Key Docs icon on any document to see where it already lives; 'Open Original' takes you back



The jury never watches you hunt: tap the witness folder and the exhibit is already marked up, already zoomed, already where you need it.



Presenting: the annotation tools

Callout

Draw a box; the enlarged excerpt pops out over the page. Can span both sides of a split view.

Pen / Markup

Freehand with Apple Pencil — circle, underline, arrow.

Laser & Laser Trail

Point at a detail. Trail leaves a fading path so the jury's eye follows — now works on video too.

Note

Type a text note directly onto the page.

Highlight

Yellow-marker a line or a paragraph on the fly.

Redact

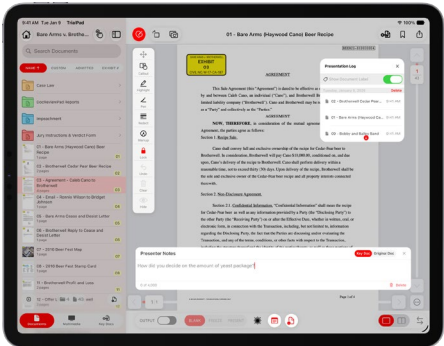
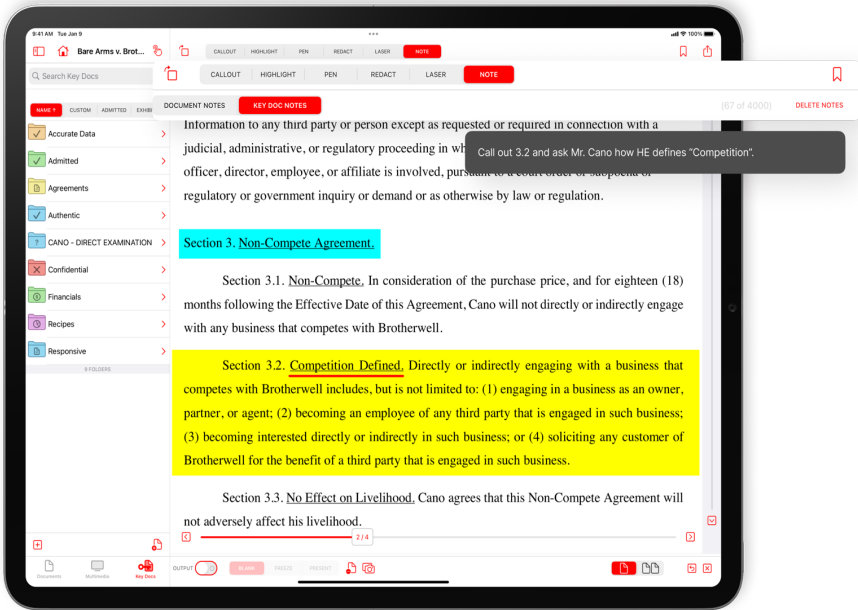
Black out on the output only; the underlying document is untouched.

Zoom

Pinch in on a signature, a date, a line item.

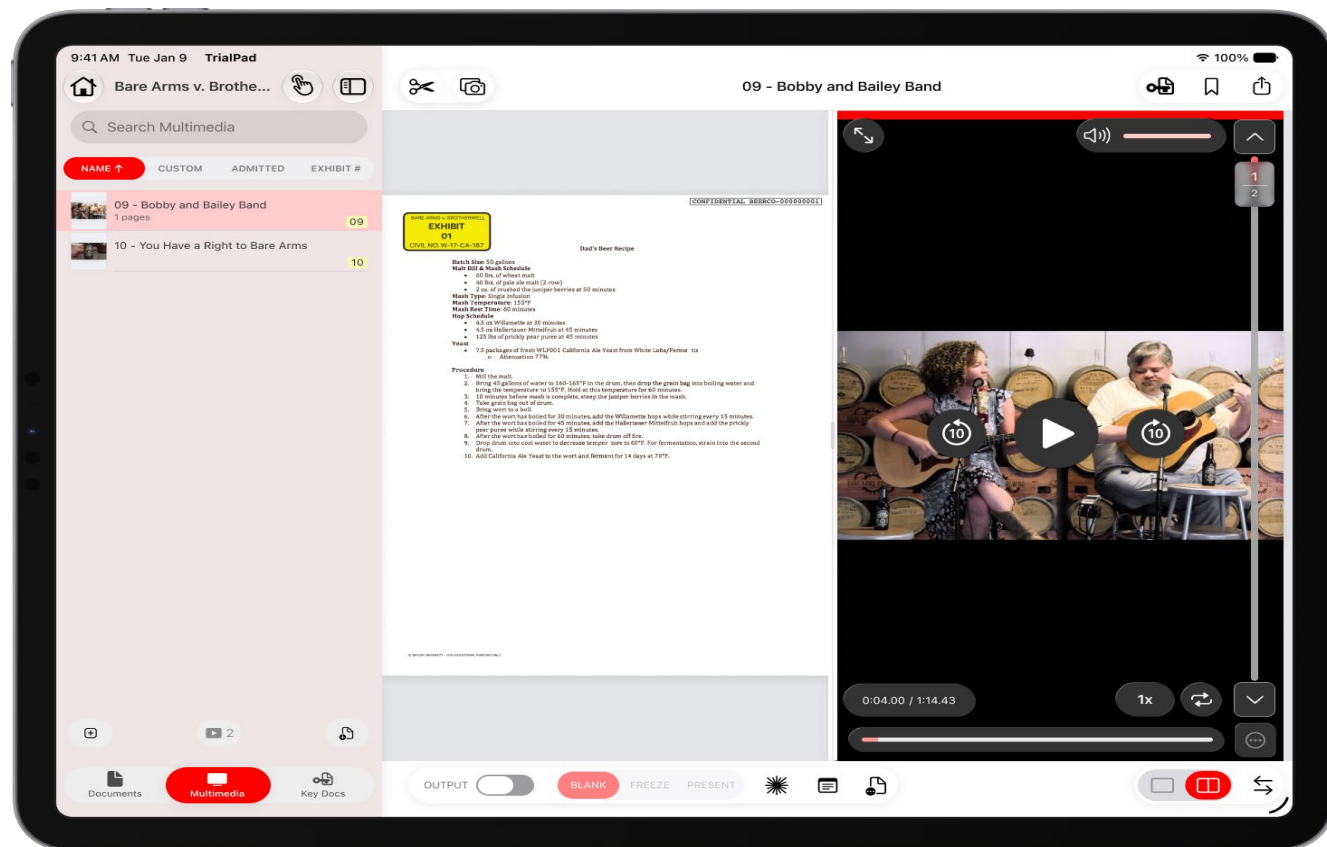
Hide / Undo / Clear

Toggle annotations off (device only or device + output), step back, or wipe.



Callout and highlight on the output; floating Presenter Notes and Presentation Log stay on your iPad only.

Side by side: the impeachment layout



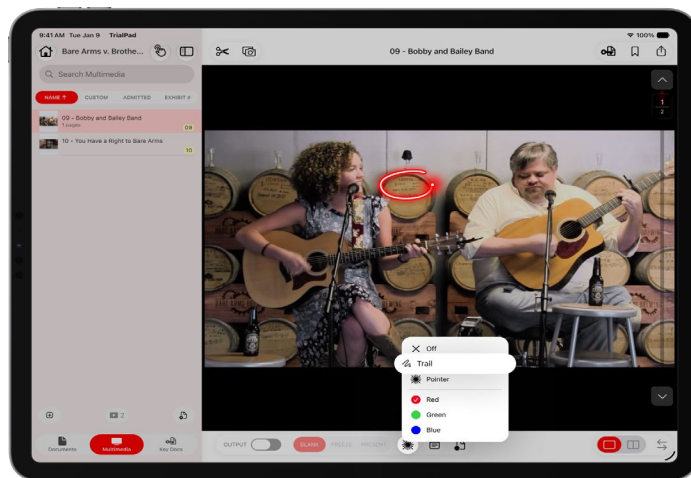
- Two documents, two videos, or a document and a video
- Horizontal or vertical split — tap and hold to switch
- Drag the divider; it isn't locked at 50/50
- Switch Position flips the panes in one tap
- Callouts can cross the split or stay on one side
- Drag the video inside its pane to keep a face or a hand in frame while it plays

The document on one side, the recording on the other — the layout for the moment a case turns on a comparison.

Video and audio without a trial tech

Gestures while it plays

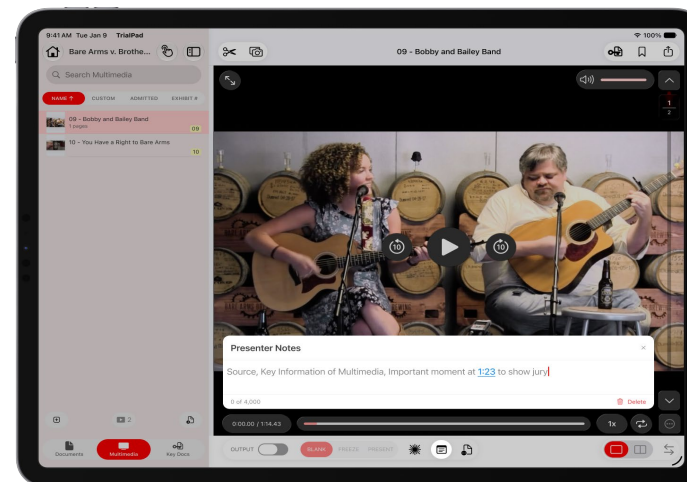
- Hold on the video to pause; hold an edge for 2× speed
- Double-tap to skip or rewind 10 seconds
- Pinch to zoom into a detail mid-playback
- Drag the scrubber and see a live frame preview



Laser Trail on video: point at the person or object while the clip keeps rolling.

Prep before trial

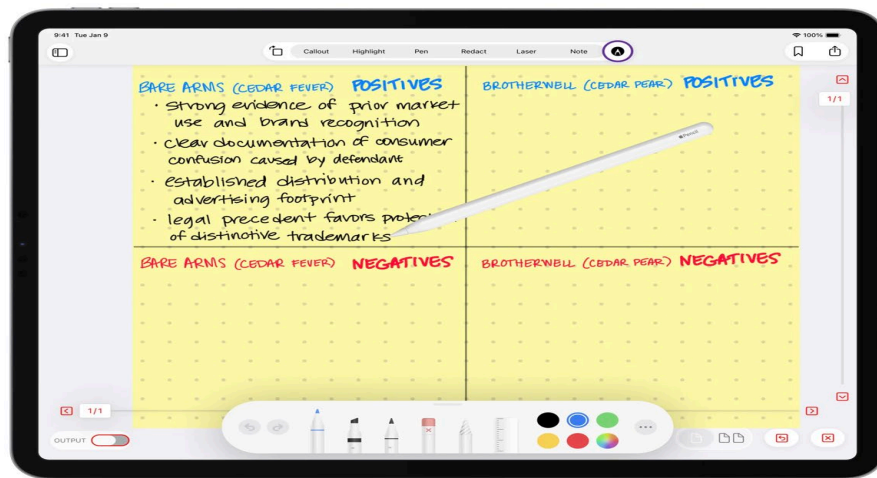
- Bookmark a timestamp and jump to it with one tap
- Clip by typing exact in/out times (12:04 to 14:37)
- Loop a clip, set a custom playback speed
- Snapshot a frame and present it as an image



Presenter Notes on media: type 1:23 and it becomes a tappable jump to that moment.

Whiteboard and Apple Pencil markup

- Blank whiteboard from the + menu in Documents or Key Docs — portrait or landscape
- Draw on it live with Apple Pencil, or write on top of an exhibit
- Create, edit, and present a demonstrative without leaving the app or opening Keynote
- Save the finished whiteboard as a Key Doc for closing



The billing trick

On cross of the defense expert, build his billing history on the whiteboard in front of the jury — case by case, dollar by dollar — and let the total speak for itself. The jury watches the number grow. Nobody has to argue bias; they've already done the math.

— Richard Dellinger, Morgan & Morgan

Exhibit stickers, admitted status, and the log

1

Exhibit stickers

Full-screen editor with live preview. Custom colors, size, blank title, second footer line, and numbering in numbers, letters, or Roman numerals — match the court's convention.

2

Mark Admitted

One swipe or long-press. Confirmation required so it doesn't happen by accident. Filter the list to admitted-only when you're building closing.

3

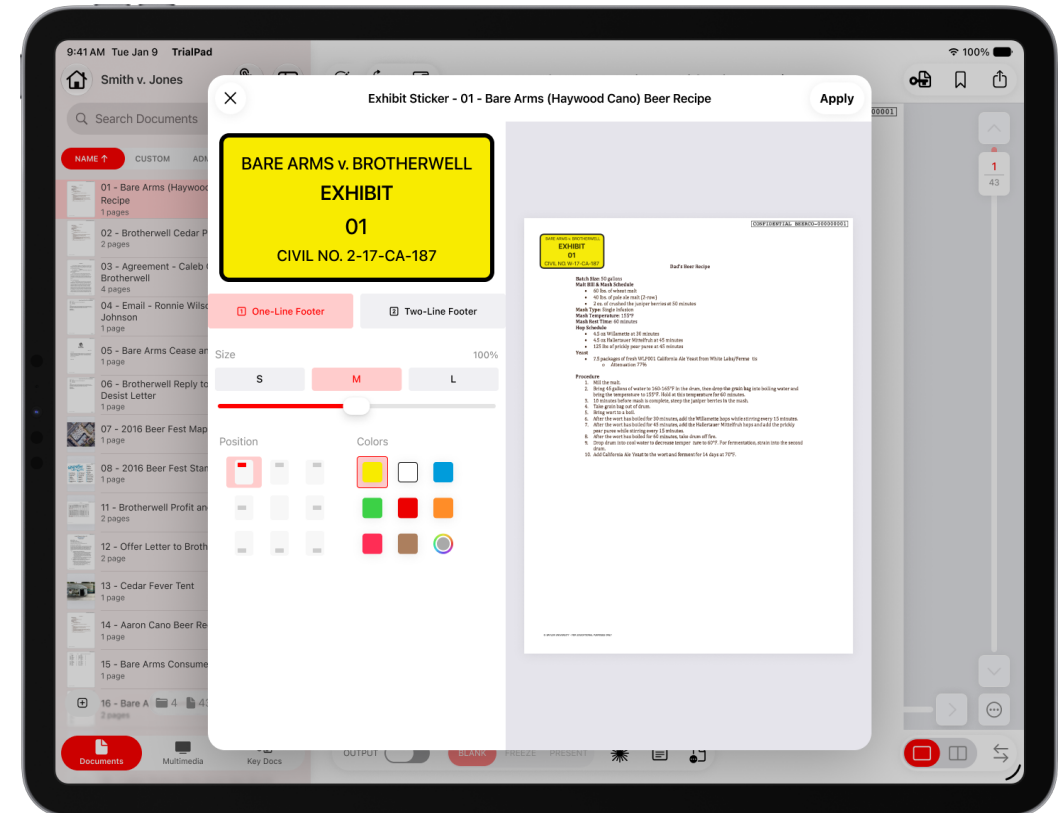
Presentation Log

TrialPad records what you displayed and when. Print or export it — useful for the record, and for the paralegal tracking what came in.

4

Export

Export documents, clips, or an entire Key Docs folder — by exhibit number — to share with co-counsel, the court, or the jury room.



The redesigned sticker editor: live preview, custom colors, one- or two-line footer, numbers, letters, or Roman numerals.



Getting it onto the courtroom screen

Wired

- USB-C to HDMI adapter into the court's system or your own projector/TV
- Most reliable; no network needed
- Bring the adapter, a long HDMI cable, and a spare

Wireless (Apple TV)

- AirPlay from the iPad to an Apple TV on the display
- Walk the well with the iPad in hand
- Set it up per LIT's 'Apple TV Settings for Trial' video: disable sleep, screen saver, and notifications

Zoom / remote

- Share TrialPad's output window in Zoom for remote depositions, mediations, and hearings
- Same annotation tools work over the share

Your iPad shows the controls, the preview, and your notes. The output screen shows only the evidence — until you tap Present, the jury sees nothing.



How working trial lawyers use it

Bookmark the record by date of service

647-page treatment record. Bookmark each visit by date, so on cross you jump to the exact date the defense expert cited — no tech, no flipping.

Load both sides' exhibits

When the defense shows one page out of context, you can put the rest of the chart up before the witness leaves the stand.

Open the case file on day one

Drop key documents in as they arrive. By the time mediation comes, the presentation already exists.

Use it for every presentation, not just trial

Convert a PowerPoint to PDF, load it, and mark it up live at mediation or a client meeting. "It should be called PresentationPad."

"Isn't this too slick for a jury?"

Jurors expect it. They live on their phones and tablets; a lawyer flipping through paper looks unprepared, not folksy.

Done right, it reads as an extension of your hand, not a production. You're pointing at the page, not running a show.

The technology disappears when the lawyer controls it personally — which is the whole argument for the iPad over a hot-seat operator.

— Richard Dellinger, *Morgan & Morgan*



The September 2026 update, and where to learn more

New this month

- Rebuilt video player with gestures, bookmarks, and typed clip times
- Laser and Laser Trail on video
- Split View: horizontal/vertical, resizable, video in either pane
- Redesigned exhibit sticker editor
- One-step import of documents and media; background imports
- Search across un-OCR'd documents
- Floating Presenter Notes, palette, and log; thumbnail scrubbing
- Swipe and long-press shortcuts in the document list

Resources

- YouTube: LIT SOFTWARE channel — the 16-video TrialPad playlist is the tutorial course
- "TrialPad's Biggest Update Yet — Live Walkthrough & Q&A" (52 min, Sept 18, 2026)
- support.litsoftware.com — Help Center
- LIT SUITE Academy and paid training
- Featured Pros webinars — real trial lawyers, real workflows

PART 2

AI at trial

What it's good for, what the rules say, and what will get you sanctioned



Where AI fits around a trial

Before

- Deposition digests with page:line cites
- Medical chronologies from the records
- Find every prior inconsistent statement on a topic
- Stress test a theme
- First drafts of MILs, trial briefs, jury instruction packets
- Rough demonstratives to hand to a graphics vendor

During

- Overnight: rough-transcript summaries and cross outlines for tomorrow
- Real-time issue spotting on the daily transcript
- Quick research memos on an evidentiary fight
- Redraft closing after the evidence closes
- Not in front of the jury - the courtroom tool is TrialPad

After

- Post-trial motion drafts from the trial transcript
- Cost memos and lien negotiation letters
- Debrief: what landed, what didn't, for the next case



AI-generated demonstratives

- Demonstrative vs. substantive: an illustration of a witness's testimony is not evidence of what happened
- Lay the foundation the old way — the sponsoring witness says it fairly and accurately depicts what they described
- Never present a generated image or animation as a photograph or a recording
- Accident reconstructions and medical animations: run them through your expert, who must be able to defend the inputs
- Keep the prompt, the source files, and the versions — expect to be asked how it was made
- Once it's built, it presents like anything else: PDF or video into TrialPad

Two categories courts now use

Acknowledged AI evidence: everyone knows it's synthetic — a reconstruction, an animation. Judged for foundation and reliability.

Unacknowledged AI evidence: synthetic content passed off as real — a deepfake. That's fabrication, and it ends cases.



The rules, as of today

Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.430

Effective Sept. 1, 2025. Courts that allow generative AI had to adopt a use policy by Dec. 15, 2025: no confidential data in public tools, human verification, disclosure of AI-generated public content, no discriminatory use. It binds the courts, not you — but it tells you how your judge thinks about it.

State Bar Practical Guidance (Nov. 2023)

Competence, confidentiality, supervision, candor. Don't put client information into a tool that trains on it. Verify every output. Consider whether to tell the client.

Noland v. Land of the Free (Cal. Ct. App. 2025)

\$10,000 sanction for a brief full of fabricated citations; the court ordered the client and the State Bar notified. Fake cites are now a published-opinion problem in California.

Proposed FRE 707 (federal)

Would put machine-generated evidence offered without an expert through Rule 702. Comments closed Feb. 2026; in May 2026 the Advisory Committee did not recommend moving it forward for now. Watch this space.

Also: Louisiana Act 250 (2025) requires attorneys to use reasonable diligence to determine whether evidence they submit was AI-generated — a preview of where other states may go.



Deepfakes: it already happened in Alameda County

Mendones v. Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.

Alameda County Superior Court, Sept. 9, 2025

Pro se plaintiffs submitted a witness video, Ring-camera photos, and text-message screenshots. Judge Kolakowski noticed the witness's voice was flat, her face repeated the same expressions, and the metadata didn't match the claimed iPhone. She found the exhibits were AI-generated or altered.

Result: terminating sanctions. Case dismissed with prejudice. Monetary sanctions and exclusion were expressly rejected as too lenient.

- Authenticate your own digital evidence before you offer it: native files, metadata, chain of custody from the client's phone
- Ask where every video and photo came from, and who has touched it since
- Challenge theirs: demand natives and metadata in discovery, not screenshots
- Detection tools are unreliable both ways; the judge in Mendones used her eyes and the metadata
- Expect a burden-shifting fight when either side cries 'deepfake'



Guardrails you can actually keep

Confidentiality

No client names, records, or privileged material into a consumer tool that trains on inputs. Use an enterprise or firm-controlled tool, or anonymize.

Verify everything

Every citation pulled and read. Every record cite checked against the page. AI output is a draft, never a source.

Human in the loop

The lawyer signs it, the lawyer owns it. Same rule as a first-year's memo.

Disclose when required

Check the judge's standing order and local rules; some now require an AI-use certification on filings.

Never manufacture evidence

No AI-enhanced photos, cleaned-up audio, or reconstructed video offered as the real thing. Demonstratives only, labeled as such.

Document the process

Keep prompts, sources, and versions for anything that ends up in front of a jury or a court.

Questions

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TrialPad free trial: app.litsoftware.com | Tutorials: youtube.com/@LITSoftware