

Justice in the AI Age: Practical Tools for Supporting Self-Represented Litigants

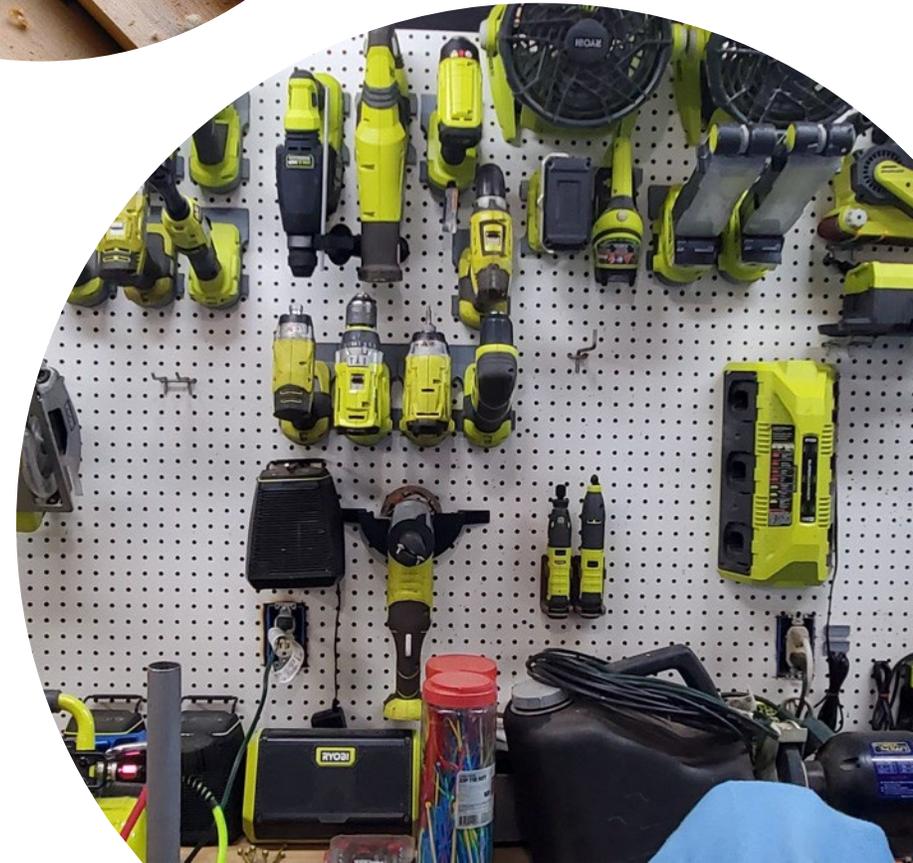
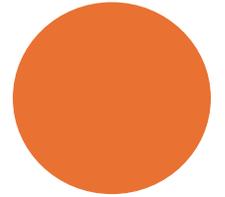
Dennis Kennedy

Director, Michigan State University Center for
Law, Technology & Innovation

National Association of Women Judges

2025 Mid-Year Meeting

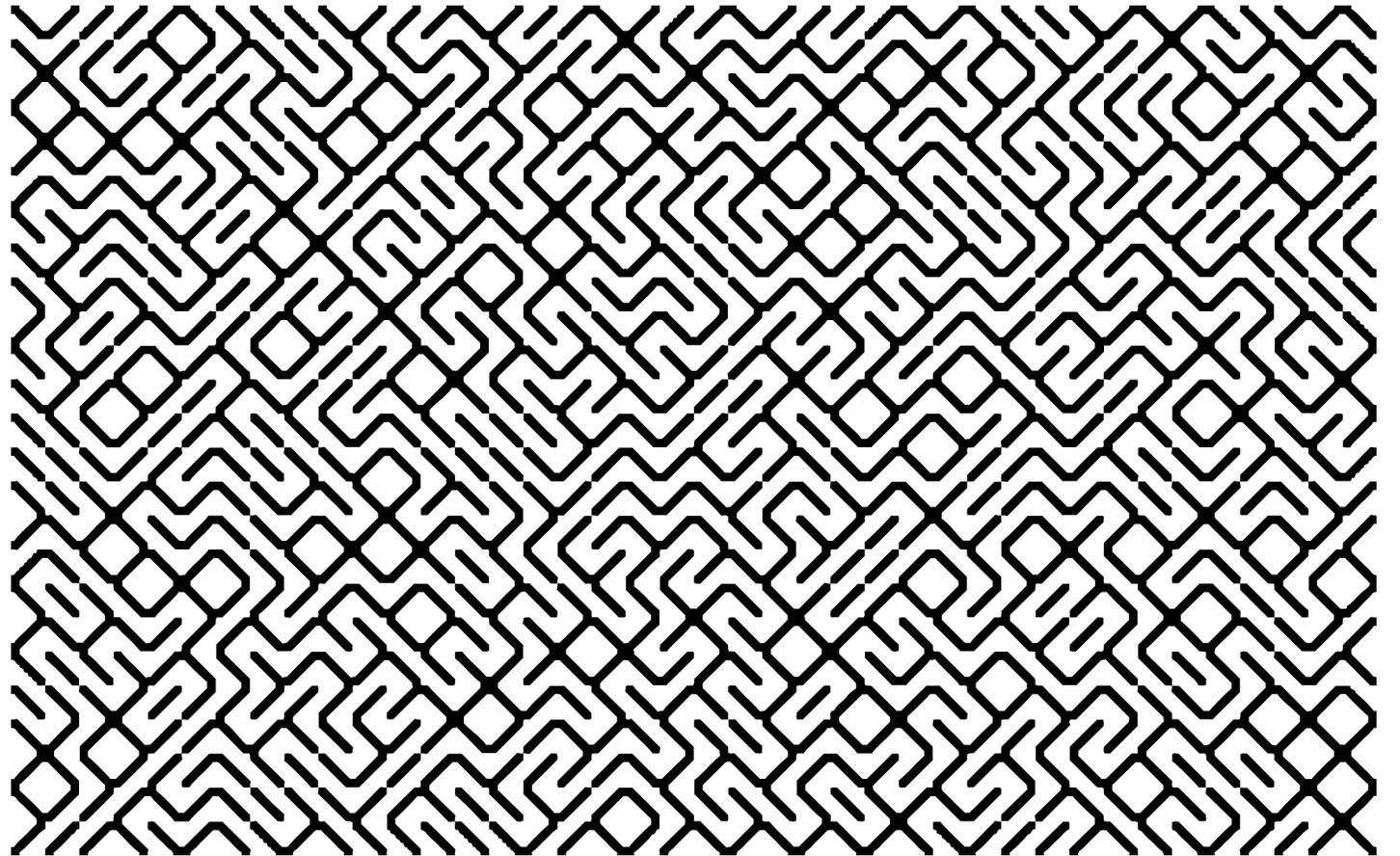
March 21, 2025





The Self-represented Litigant Challenge in 2025 and Beyond

Navigating a
Complex
System



Today's
Focus: High-
Impact, Low-
Cost AI
Solutions



Meet Emily

Facing an
Impossible
Choice





The Situation Worsens





Understanding Her Rights





Filing Paperwork with Court



Preparing for Court



Attending the Hearing



Enforcing the Ruling





SRLs are
already
seeking help

Google representing myself in court

All Images Videos News Short videos Forums Shopping More

All adult citizens have the constitutional right to represent themselves in court. If you represent yourself, you are called a "pro se", "pro per", or "self-represented" litigant and you are acting as your own attorney.

One Court of Justice (.gov)
<https://www.courts.michigan.gov/the-public/self-repr...>
Self-Represented Litigants - Michigan Courts

About featured snippets Feedback

People also ask :

- How hard is it to represent yourself in court?
- What are the disadvantages of representing yourself in court?
- What to say when representing yourself in court?
- Why is it foolish to represent yourself in court?

Feedback



MICHIGAN LEGAL HELP
Let Us Connect You to Resources

GUIDE TO LEGAL HELP
Let Us Connect You to Resources

RESOURCE LIBRARY
Explore Legal Topics

ORGANIZATIONS AND COURTS
Hours and Contact Information

ESPAÑOL

Welcome to Michigan Legal Help: Tools for Everyday Justice

Michigan Legal Help has tools and information to help you understand and manage your legal problems.

Need Help?

How Can We Help You?

The father of my child has been arrested. He has custody rights this weekend. What can I do?

If the father of your child has been arrested and is scheduled to have custody or visitation this weekend, you have a few options:

1. **Confirm the Arrest and Custody Status**

- Check with local law enforcement or the jail to confirm the arrest and whether he is still in custody.
- If he has been released, determine if there are any legal restrictions that might impact his custody rights.

2. **Review Your Custody Order**

- Look at your custody agreement or court order to see if there are any provisions regarding what happens in situations like this.
- Some agreements include emergency clauses or alternate arrangements.

3. **Consider Emergency Custody or Temporary Modification**

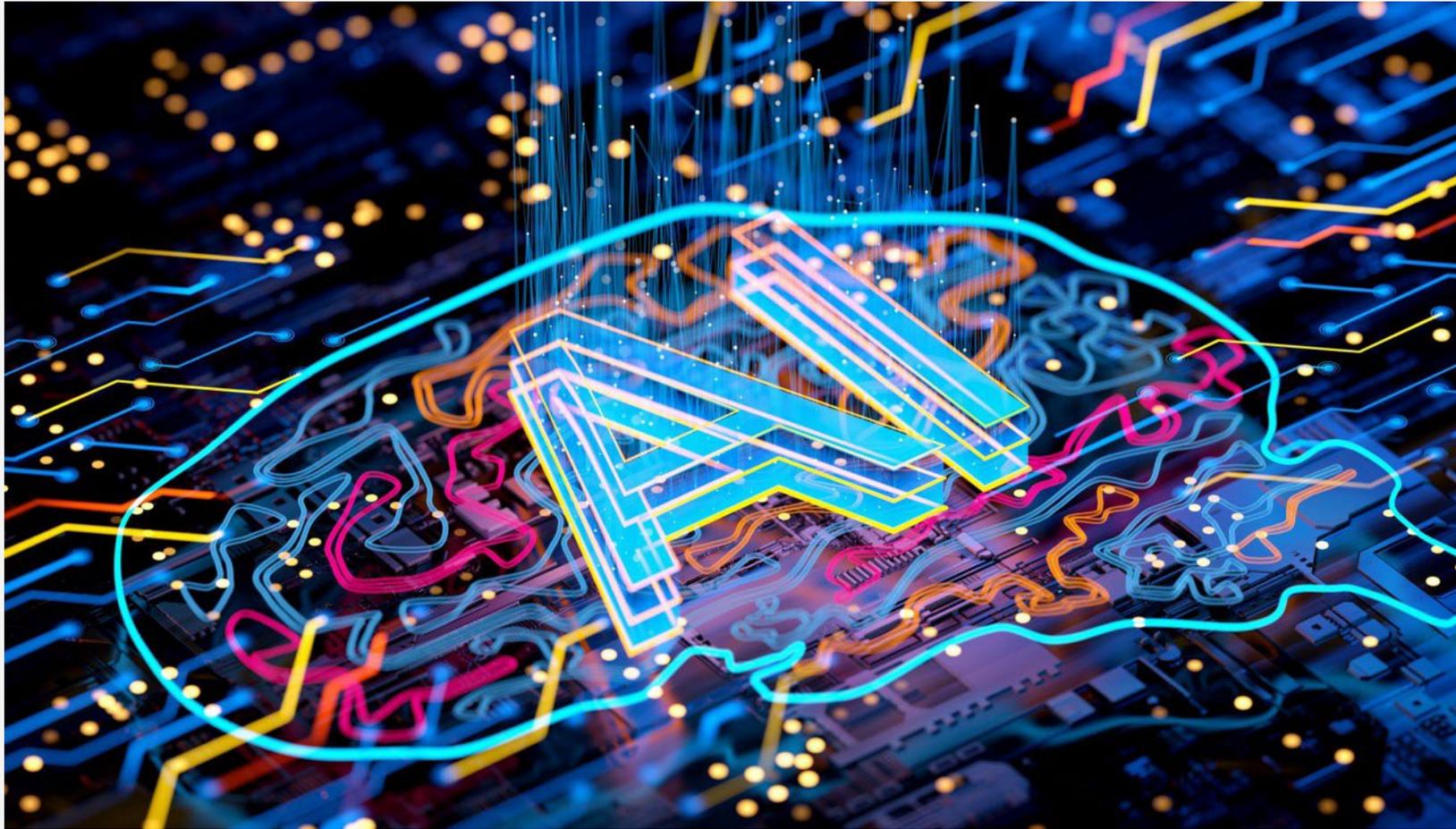
- If the father remains in custody and cannot exercise his rights, you may need to file for emergency custody or a temporary modification with the court.
- Courts generally prioritize the best interests of the child and may grant you temporary custody.

4. **Contact Your Attorney or Legal Aid**

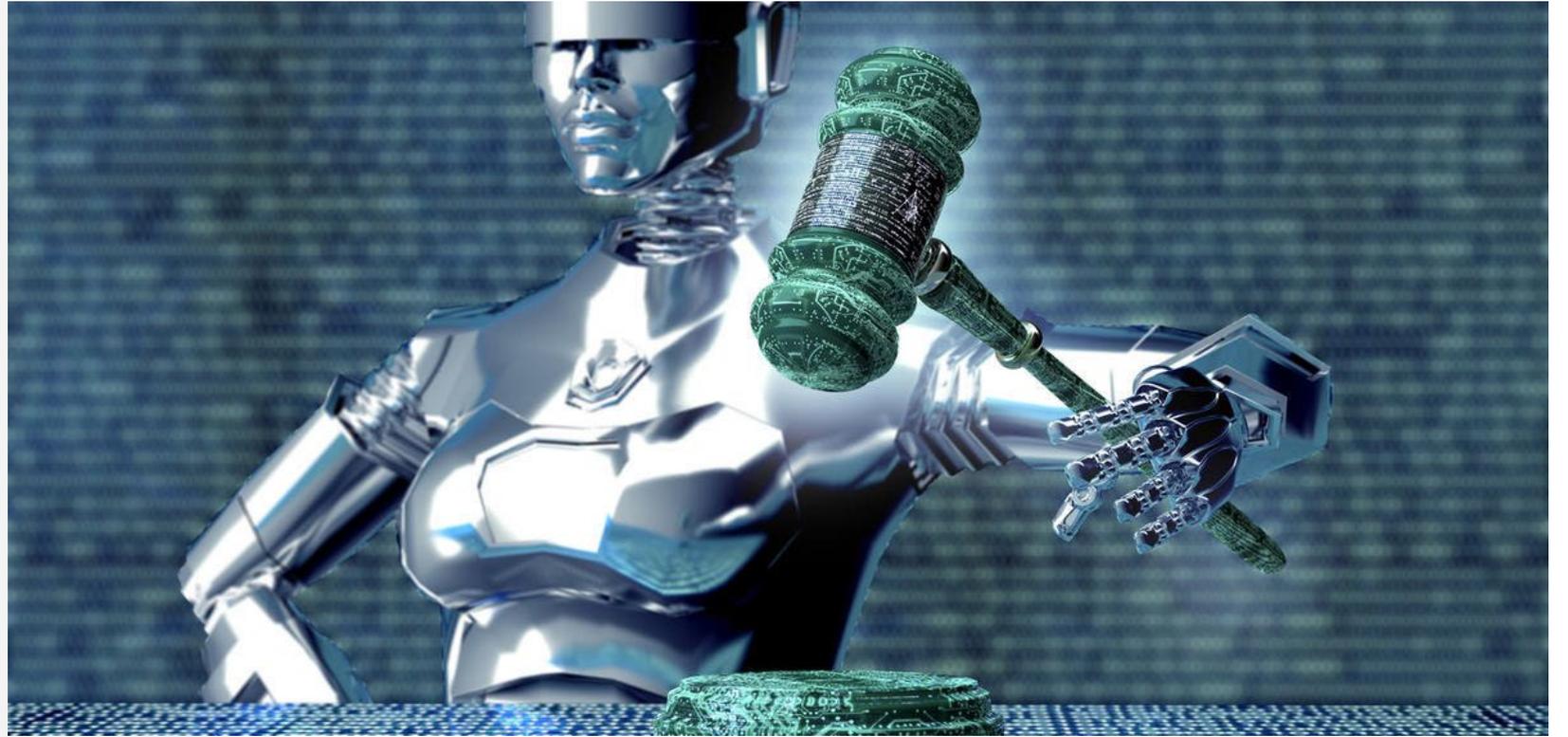
The SRL Challenge Impacts *Everyone* in the Court System



Might AI be a solution or even just one approach to consider?



AI: A Tool to Enhance Justice, Not Replace Judges



**High-
impact, low
cost**



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AI for Judges and Staff



Streamlining Your Courts for SRLS



**Research
assistance**



Law overviews vs. legal research

WestLaw Practical Law
with AI
vs.
WestLaw AI or WestLaw
CoCounsel

The screenshot displays the Thomson Reuters Practical Law AI interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'THOMSON REUTERS PRACTICAL LAW', 'US Home', 'Global Home', and 'NEW'. The main header features 'Ask Practical Law AI', 'How Ask Practical Law AI works', 'Tips for best results', and a '+ Ask a new question' button.

The first question is: "Generate a 150-word summary of the fair use doctrine in US copyright law". The second question is: "what are the ten most common examples of fair use".

The AI response for the second question is: "The ten most common examples of fair use include: 1) teaching, private study, or classroom use [1], 2) criticism or commentary [1], 3) news reporting [1], 4) library photocopying for noncommercial, public or researcher access [2], 5) noncommercial, educational uses [2], 6) home recording for noncommercial use [2], 7) use by search engines in response to user searches [2], 8) parody [2, 3], 9) reverse engineering [2], and 10) nominative fair use, such as use of a plaintiff's trademark for purposes of criticism or comparative advertising [4]."

The second question is: "how are U. S. courts likely to rule on a claim that using copyrighted materials of third parties to train large language models for use in generative AI tools is "fair use"? List and rank the arguments for and against the claim of fair use."

The AI response for the second question is: "U.S. courts will likely consider several key arguments in determining whether the use of copyrighted materials to train AI constitutes "fair use"."

Arguments For Fair Use:

- 1) Transformative Use: Courts may consider if the use of copyrighted works for training AI models is transformative, which is central to the fair use doctrine. If AI alters the original work by adding new expression or meaning, it may be deemed transformative [1].
- 2) Purpose and Character of the Use: If AI uses the copyrighted works for a significantly different purpose than the original work, it might be considered fair use [2].
- 3) Analogous Precedents: Courts may draw on cases where unauthorized digitization of books for electronic search was deemed a fair use, such as Google's book digitization case [3].

Arguments Against Fair Use:

- 1) Impact on Potential Market: If the use of copyrighted material in AI training potentially harms the market for the original work, it might be considered an infringing use [4, 5].
- 2) Amount of Work Used: If substantial portions or the entirety of copyrighted works are used in the training of AI, it may weigh against a fair use claim [4, 5].
- 3) Commercial Use: AI models are often used for commercial purposes. Courts may consider a commercial use as weighing against a finding of fair use [1].

The ranking of these arguments would likely depend on the specific circumstances of each case, as fair use determinations require a detailed, fact-specific analysis [4, 5]. Please note that this is a complex legal issue and the outcomes may vary significantly based on the specifics of the case and jurisdiction [2].



Speed and consistency

Emily's Example



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Case Summaries

Facts about Socrates

- Ancient Greek philosopher
- Known mainly through Plato
- Influenced Christian thought and the development of Western civilization

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Checklists



Talking points and scripts

I. Introduction

- Thesis statement: Everyone wants the newest and the best digital technology, but the choices are many, and the specifications are often confusing.

II. E-book readers are changing the way people read.

A. E-book readers make books easy to access and to carry.

1. Books can be downloaded electronically.
2. Devices can store hundreds of books in memory.

B. The market expands as a variety of companies enter it.

1. Booksellers sell their own e-book readers.
2. Electronics and computer companies also sell e-book readers.

C. Current e-book readers have significant limitations.

1. The devices are owned by different brands and may not be compatible.
2. Few programs have been made to fit the other way Americans read: by borrowing books from libraries.

III. Digital cameras have almost totally replaced film cameras.

A. The first major choice is the type of digital camera.

1. Compact digital cameras are light but have fewer megapixels.
2. Single lens reflex cameras, or SLRs, may be large and heavy but can be used for many functions.
3. Some cameras combine the best features of compacts and SLRs.

B. Choosing the camera type involves the confusing "megapixel wars."

C. The zoom lens battle also determines the camera you will buy.

IV. Nothing is more confusing to me than choosing among televisions.

A. In the resolution wars, what are the benefits of 1080p and 768p?

B. In the screen-size wars, what do plasma screens and LCD screens offer?

C. Does every home really need a media center?

V. Conclusion

- The solution for many people should be to avoid buying on impulse. Consumers should think about what they really need, not what is advertised.

**Early case
sorting,
prioritizing,
and triaging**



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**International
examples**



AI for SRLs



**Navigation –
courtroom
and pre-
courtroom**



**Plain
Language
Information**

**PLAIN
LANGUAGE
ISN'T EASY!**

Guided Interviews



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Plain language intake to court forms

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Notice to Appear

In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

Subject ID: 365873833

FINS #: 1179718709

File No: A203 654 208

DOB: 12/24/2000

Event No: FLF190600248

In the Matter of:

Respondent: FRANCISCO ERWIN GALICIA-CHAPA currently residing at:

PORT ISABEL DETENTION CENTER 27991 BUENA VISTA BLVD LOS FRESNOS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES (361) 767-3400
78566

(Number, street, city and ZIP code)

(Area code and phone number)

- 1. You are an arriving alien.
- 2. You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.
- 3. You have been admitted to the United States, but are removable for the reasons stated below.

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that you:

1. You are not a citizen or national of the United States;
2. You are a native of MEXICO and a citizen of MEXICO ;
3. You were, on or about June 15, 2019, admitted to the United States at Hidalgo, Texas Port of Entry as a nonimmigrant B1/B2 visitor, for a temporary period not to exceed 30 days to visit in the area within 25 miles of the United States border with Mexico;
4. On or about June 27, 2019, you were found at the Falfurrias, Texas Border Patrol Checkpoint, a distance of more than 25 miles from the United States border with Mexico;
5. You did not receive the permission of an immigration officer to proceed beyond that 25 mile limit;
6. At that time, you falsely represented yourself to be a citizen of the United States for the purpose of furthering your entry into the United States.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is charged that you are subject to removal from the United States pursuant to the following provision(s) of law:
See Continuation Page Made a Part Hereof

- This notice is being issued after an asylum officer has found that the respondent has demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture.
- Section 235(b)(1) order was vacated pursuant to: 8CFR 208.30(f)(2) 8CFR 235.3(b)(5)(iv)

YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before an immigration judge of the United States Department of Justice at:
27991 Buena Vista Blvd Los Fresnos TX US 78566

(Complete Address of Immigration Court, including Room Number, if any)

on a date to be set at a time to be set to show why you should not be removed from the United States based on the charge(s) set forth above.

charge(s) set forth above.

SHERMAN KEMP ACTING PATROL AGENT IN CHARGE

(Signature and Title of Issuing Officer)

Date: June 29, 2019

Falfurrias, Texas

(City and State)

See reverse for important information

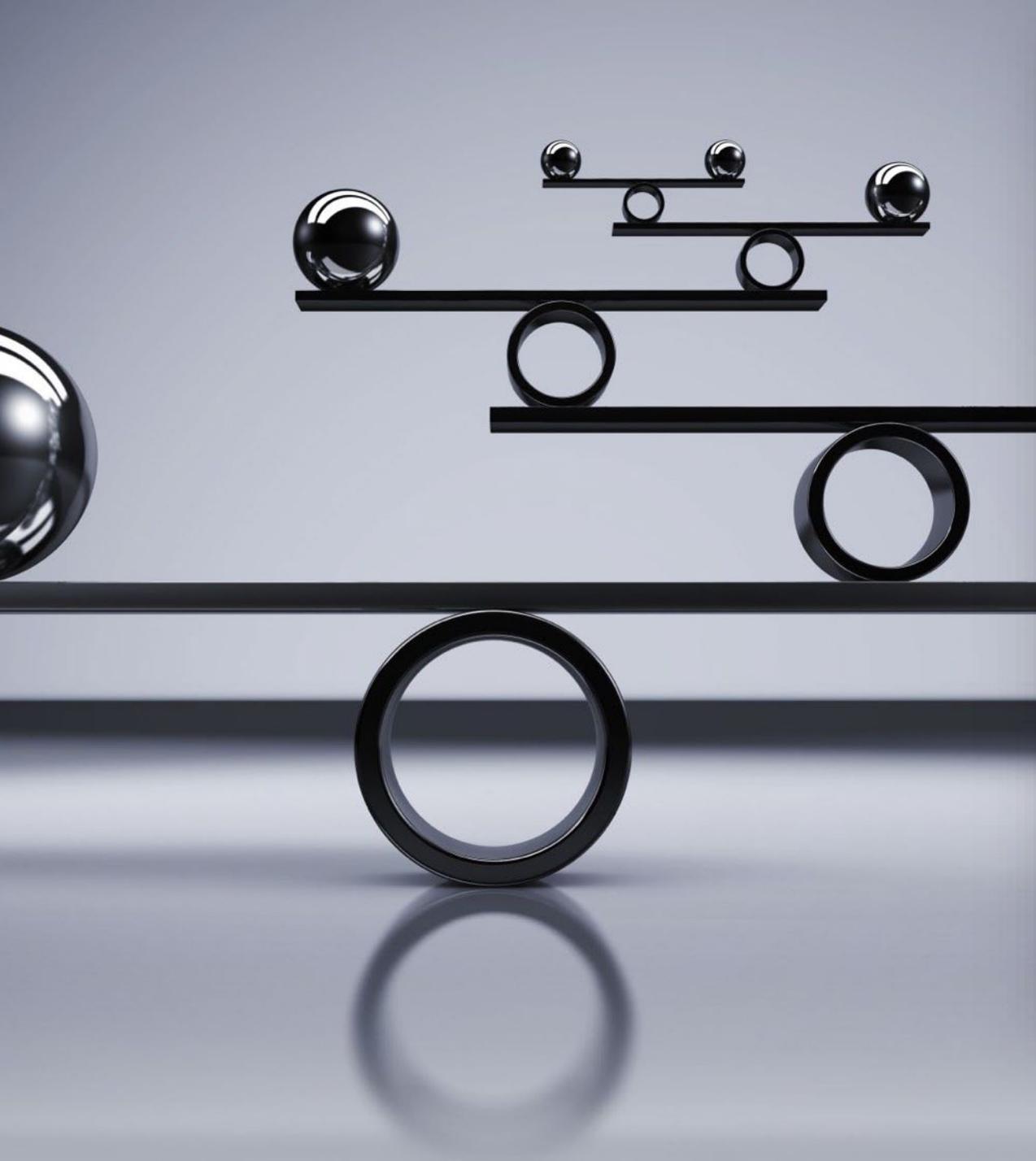
Form I-862 (Rev. 08/01/07) N

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Inspiration from ODR



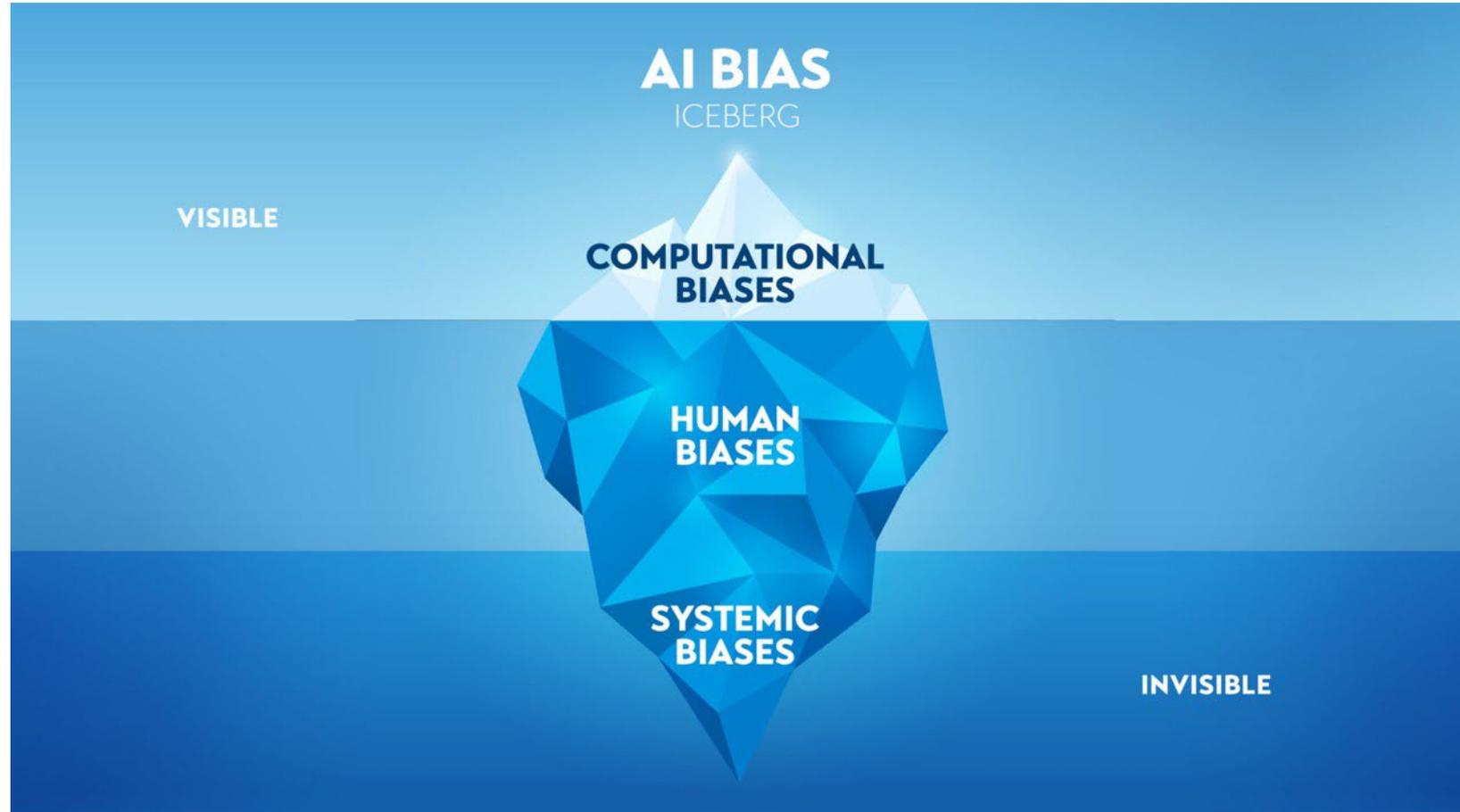
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Two Big Concerns

Ethics and costs

Implementing AI Responsibly: Addressing Bias and Privacy



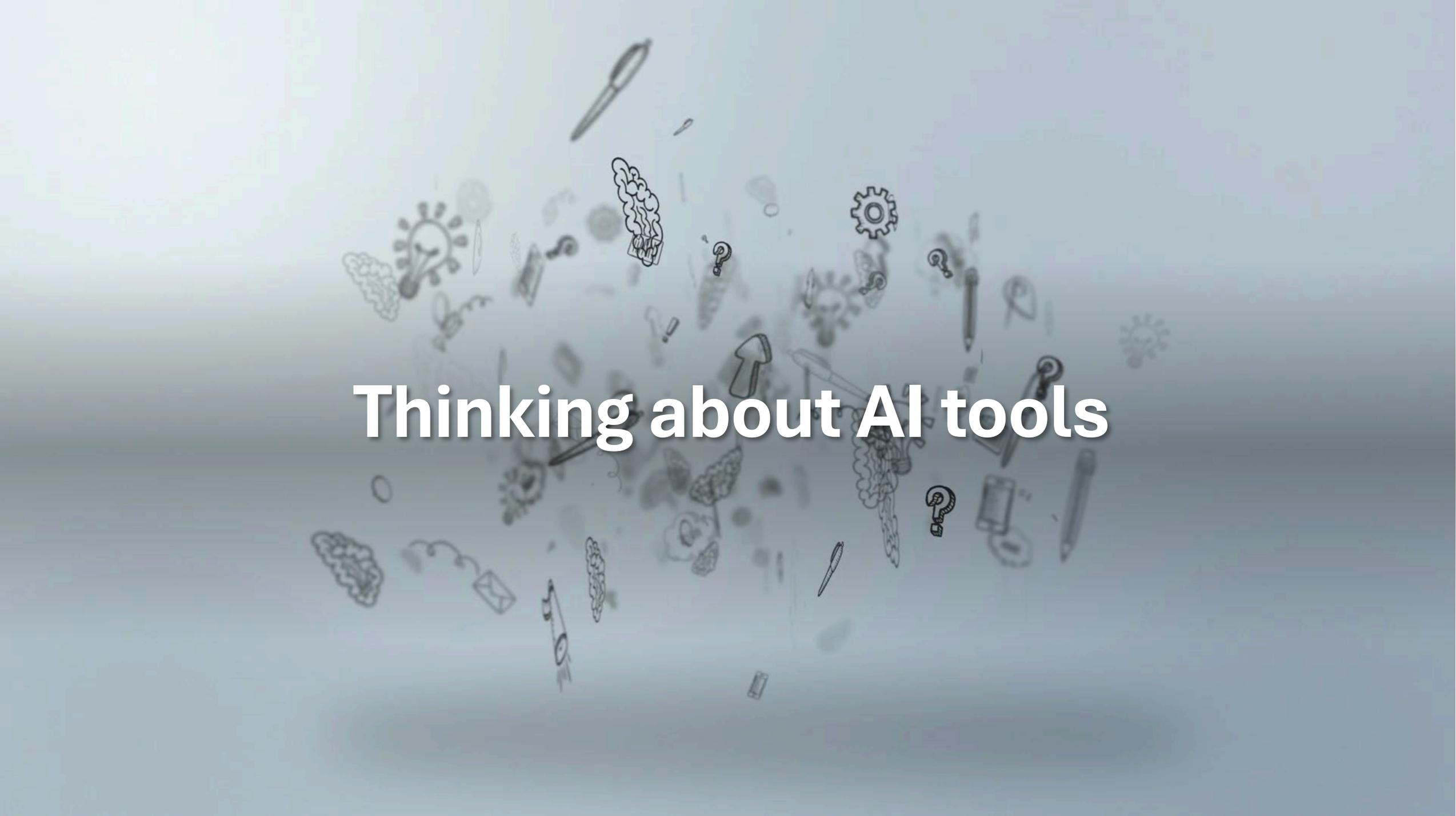
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**Human
Oversight
and the Rule
of Law**



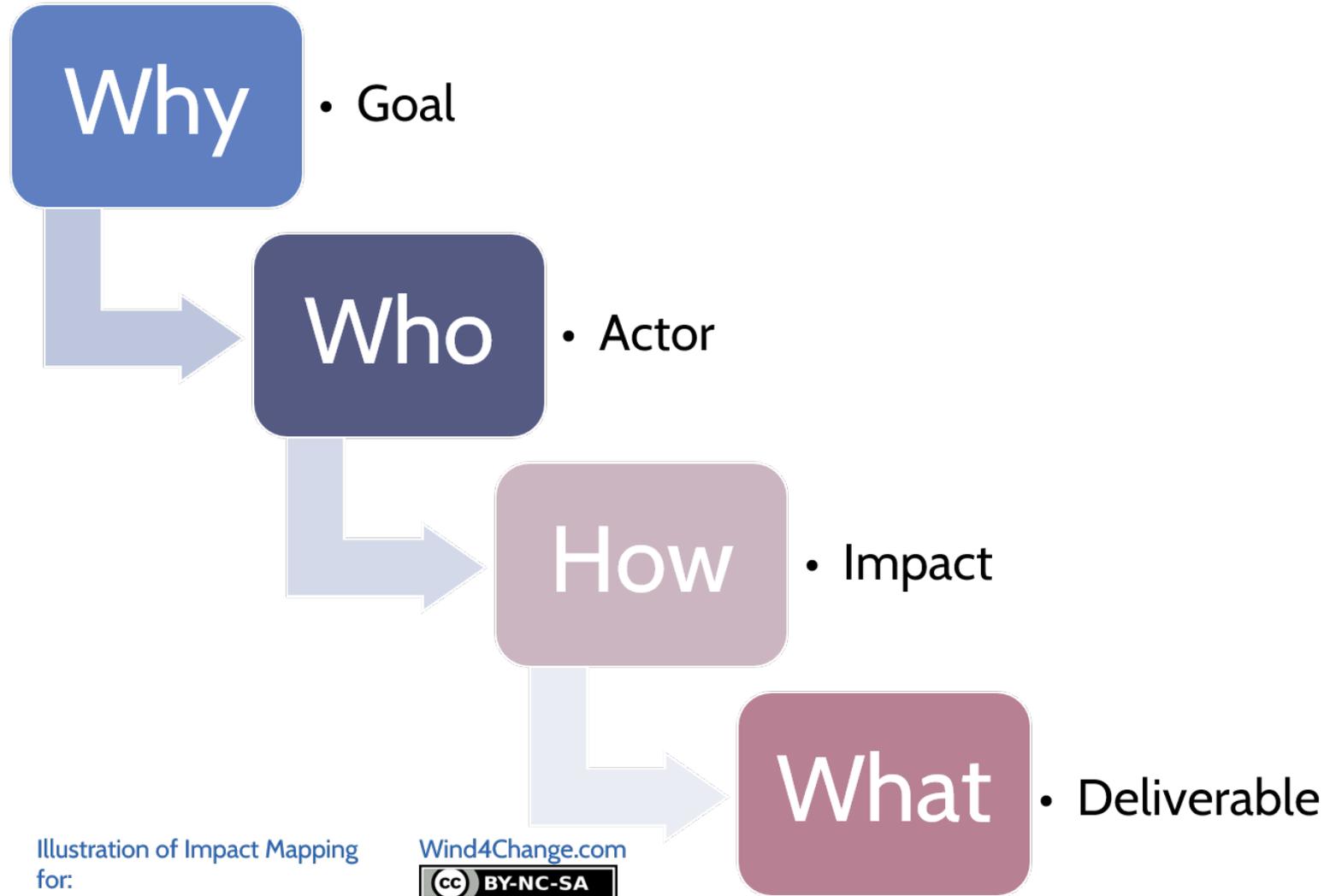
**Cost-
conscious
approaches**





Thinking about AI tools

Jobs to be done theory



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**A More Just
and Efficient
Future**



Benefits & Action Steps



A Bridge to Justice for SRLs



**Building a
System of
Meaningful
Access to
Justice**

ACCESS to
JUSTICE
by DESIGN

The background of the right side of the image is a solid orange color. It features several faint, semi-transparent icons: a pair of scales of justice, a person with a magnifying glass, a group of three people, and a circular arrow. The text 'ACCESS to JUSTICE by DESIGN' is written in a white, rounded, sans-serif font, centered on the orange background.



Your action steps

- 1. Identify one high-volume case type in your court where you think an AI pilot project could make a real difference. Write it down – right now.**
- 2. Explore one of the AI approaches or tools we've discussed. Visit a website, request a demo, read some reviews, try some AI prompts.**
- 3. Schedule a 15-minute conversation with one colleague – another judge, your court administrator, your IT director – to discuss the potential of AI in your court. Share what you've learned today.**

**Wrap up and
your
questions**



A deep learning model trained on 85,000 eyes can tell male from female eyeballs with 87% accuracy but no one knows why

[nature.com/articles/s4159...](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-01598-0)

Email: dmk@denniskenedy.com

or kenne514@msu.edu

<https://www.denniskennedy.com>

<https://www.msu.edu/law/tech/>