

Catch the Vibe: What Law Librarians Need to Know About Vibe Coding

Rebecca Fordon: Speaker

Erin Vassalotti: Speaker

Lee Sampson: Speaker

Debbie Ginsberg: Moderator

Bingo

[https://sampson.info/
bingo/index](https://sampson.info/bingo/index)



Presenters



Rebecca Fordon

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State Law Library



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Harvard Law School Library

Today's Panel

Demos

Panel Questions

Tips!

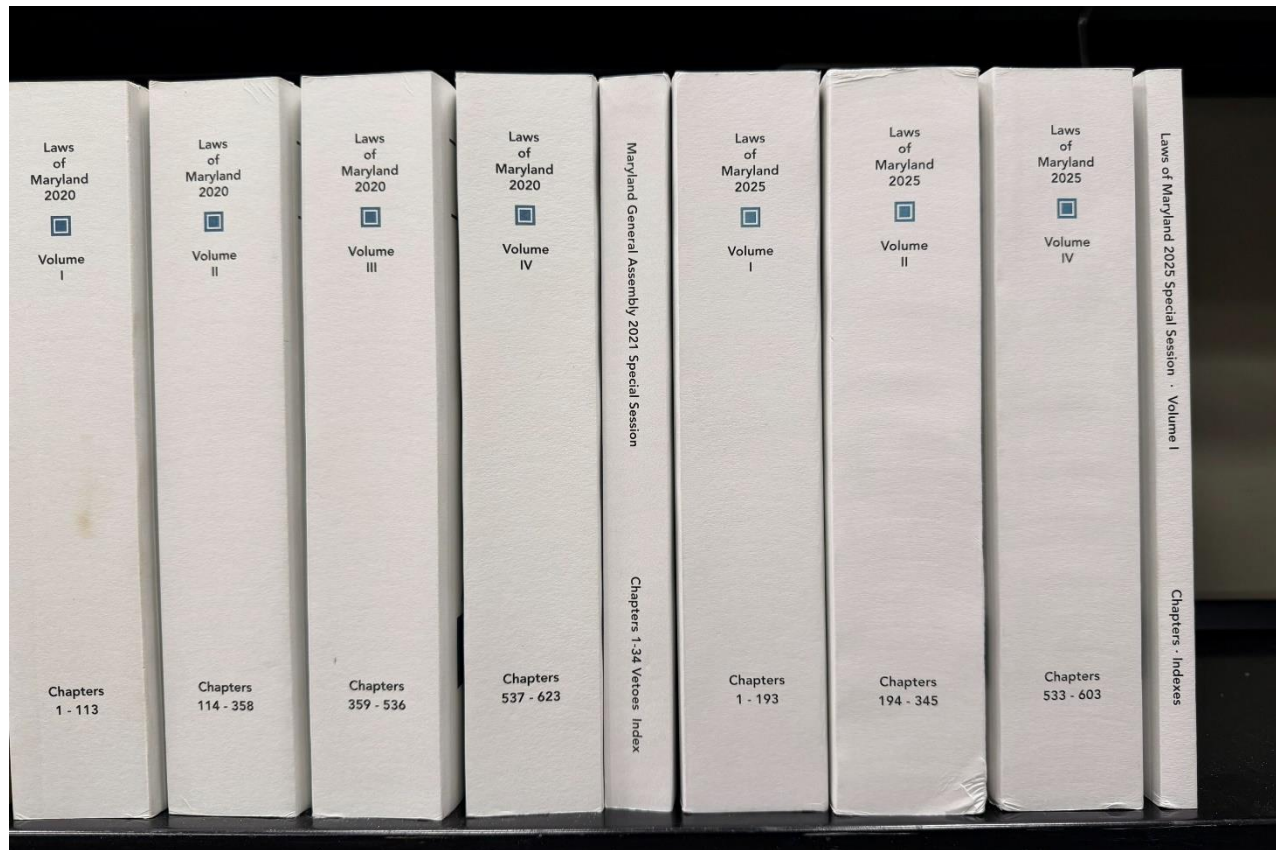
Lee Sampson

Filling a collection hole

TMSLL collection development policy:

The Library ensures that patrons have access to materials critical to the understanding and practice of law, with particular consideration of Maryland. The collection includes primary source materials from Maryland and its counties and municipalities...





<u>Location</u>	<u>Call Number</u>	<u>Status</u>
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2025 Vol. IV, Chapters 533-603	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2025 Vol. II, Chapters 194-345	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2025 Vol. I, Chapters 1-193	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2025 Special Session vol. I, Chapters 1-19	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2020 Vol. IV, Chapters 537-623	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2020 Vol. III, Chapters 359-536	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2020 Vol. II, Chapters 114-358	Check Shelves
Conference Rm	Conference Rm 2020 Vol. I, Chapters 1-113	Check Shelves

Maryland

Maryland State Legislature

Search this title



Create eTOC Alert 

RSS 

Session Laws Quick Locator

Yr.

Chapter/Act

Search

Yr.

Page

Search

[Click here to access the official state site](#)

 [2020 vol. I \(General Assembly, pp. 1-904\)](#)

 [2020 vol. II \(General Assembly, pp. 905-1800\)](#)

Filling a collection hole

- [MD Code, State Government, § 2-1254](#)
 - the Department shall deliver copies of the laws, ... to the printer who is designated to print the session laws.
- [MD Code, State Government, § 2-1255](#)
 - The Department shall sell, exchange, or otherwise distribute bound volumes of the laws

You are about to download a "comma-separated values" (CSV) file and/or a JSON file.

The file includes information such as number, sponsor, title, legislative status, synopsis, committee assignments, legislative history, hearing dates, etc for each piece of legislation introduced during the selected legislative session.

A word about the file format: CSV and JSON files are common file formats, widely supported by consumer and business applications and is used to move data between programs. The file you download can be imported into Excel, a text editor, browser, or any other application that supports the CSV and JSON formats. To save, right-click button and save as desired file format.

2026 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

*Updated hourly

2025 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

2024 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

2023 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

2022 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

2021 Special Session

CSV

JSON

2021 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

2020 Regular Session

CSV

JSON

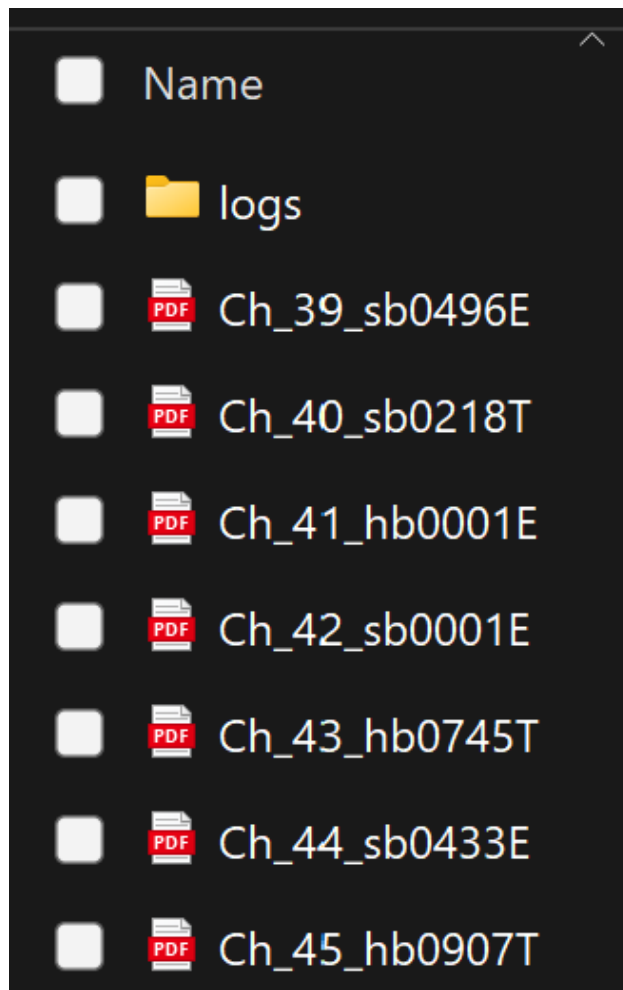
The scraper is looking for specific files on the Maryland general Assembly's website (<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov>). I want to find and download all of the Chapter Laws from the 2021 Regular Session. The scraper should download the PDF files into a file directory. The primary constraint is to not overload the server. I want to rate limit requests to one every 10 seconds

6 previous messages >

Built the first version of the scraper in [🔗 scraper.py](#) and documented how to run it in [📖 README.md](#).

The app is a single-threaded Python CLI that:

- pulls the official 2021 Maryland legislation feed,
- filters for bills whose status indicates a chapter law,
- resolves each chapter PDF from the bill's detail page,
- downloads the PDFs into `downloads/chapter-laws/2021-regular-session`,
- enforces a fixed `10` second delay between requests by default.



```
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Starting scraper
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Output directory: C:\Users\clssa\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Manifest path: C:\Users\clssa\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\download_manifest.csv
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Log path: C:\Users\clssa\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\logs\run-20260326-114736.log
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Status path: C:\Users\clssa\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\run_status.json
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Delay seconds: 10.0
2026-03-26 11:47:36,419 INFO Fetching legislation feed from remote URL:
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021rs/misc/billsmasterlist/legislation.json
2026-03-26 11:47:37,145 INFO Found 771 chapter-law candidates
2026-03-26 11:47:37,145 INFO Resolving PDF for bill=sb0496 chapter=39 version=E
2026-03-26 11:47:37,145 INFO Trying direct PDF URL for sb0496: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_39
_sb0496E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:47:46,806 INFO Direct PDF URL worked for sb0496
2026-03-26 11:47:46,828 INFO Downloaded https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_39_sb0496E.pdf to C:\Users\clssa
\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\Ch_39_sb0496E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:47:46,828 INFO Resolving PDF for bill=sb0218 chapter=40 version=T
2026-03-26 11:47:46,828 INFO Trying direct PDF URL for sb0218: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_40
_sb0218T.pdf
2026-03-26 11:47:56,831 INFO Direct PDF URL worked for sb0218
2026-03-26 11:47:56,831 INFO Downloaded https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_40_sb0218T.pdf to C:\Users\clssa
\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\Ch_40_sb0218T.pdf
2026-03-26 11:47:56,831 INFO Resolving PDF for bill=hb0001 chapter=41 version=E
2026-03-26 11:47:56,831 INFO Trying direct PDF URL for hb0001: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_41
_hb0001E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:48:07,011 INFO Direct PDF URL worked for hb0001
2026-03-26 11:48:07,011 INFO Downloaded https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_41_hb0001E.pdf to C:\Users\clssa
\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\Ch_41_hb0001E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:48:07,011 INFO Resolving PDF for bill=sb0001 chapter=42 version=E
2026-03-26 11:48:07,011 INFO Trying direct PDF URL for sb0001: https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_42
_sb0001E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:48:17,088 INFO Direct PDF URL worked for sb0001
2026-03-26 11:48:17,088 INFO Downloaded https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2021RS/chapters_noln/Ch_42_sb0001E.pdf to C:\Users\clssa
\Downloads\chapter-laws\2021-regular-session\Ch_42_sb0001E.pdf
2026-03-26 11:48:17,088 INFO Resolving PDF for bill=hb0745 chapter=43 version=T
```

How a bill becomes a chapter law

- Bill passed by both chambers and signed (or not) by governor
- Veto override
- Reorganization of executive branch
- Ratification of a constitutional amendment

Erin Vassalotti

Demo: CoPilot App Builder

Building “HKCentral Match & Enrich”

- Problem: Vendor usage files are inconsistent, messy, and nearly impossible to match reliably against firm data without a purpose-built tool. Directory and AD data is incomplete. M365 People data is incomplete/insufficient. HR data lives in PowerBI / connected Excel tables only.
- AI Agent was working until enterprise changes disrupted.

Using CoPilot App Builder Agent

1. Prompt to CoPilot to build plan
2. Bring plan into App Builder Agent
3. Iterate with agent
4. Share with developers to bring into production

^

Reasoning completed in 6 steps >

I found enterprise results related to this workflow — search metadata returned: "2 results for File domains, several people, several emails, 15 meetings, and 453 results for File/External domains." I used the strongest hits around [HKCentralAgent](#), [For KM_HKCentralDataConnected](#), [HKCentralDataConnected](#), and the Definitely usage-data thread to shape the plan.  +3

I created the Markdown plan file here: [Download HKCentral Matcher App Plan](#)

A few key points I built into it:

- The app is framed as a replacement for HKCentralAgent, whose current function is to fuzzy match names/user IDs against HKCentral and add supplemental user data like Section and Practice Group.  +1 
- The planned source/knowledge-base file is modeled around For

Message Copilot



I want to build a replacement for hkcentral agent. I've attached a markdown file with requirements. The idea is to create an app where someone can upload a list of users / usage, match against hkcentral, confirm/deny any less confident matches, and then enrich their initial file with additional datapoints about the users from hkcentral based on user selection, e.g., adding sections, email, practice group, title, termination date, etc

1

 App Builder (Frontier)

Build is clean. The app is ready — you can load the sample data on the upload screen to see the full workflow immediately, or drop in your own CSVs. Let me know if you want to tweak anything.

HKCentral Match & Enrich

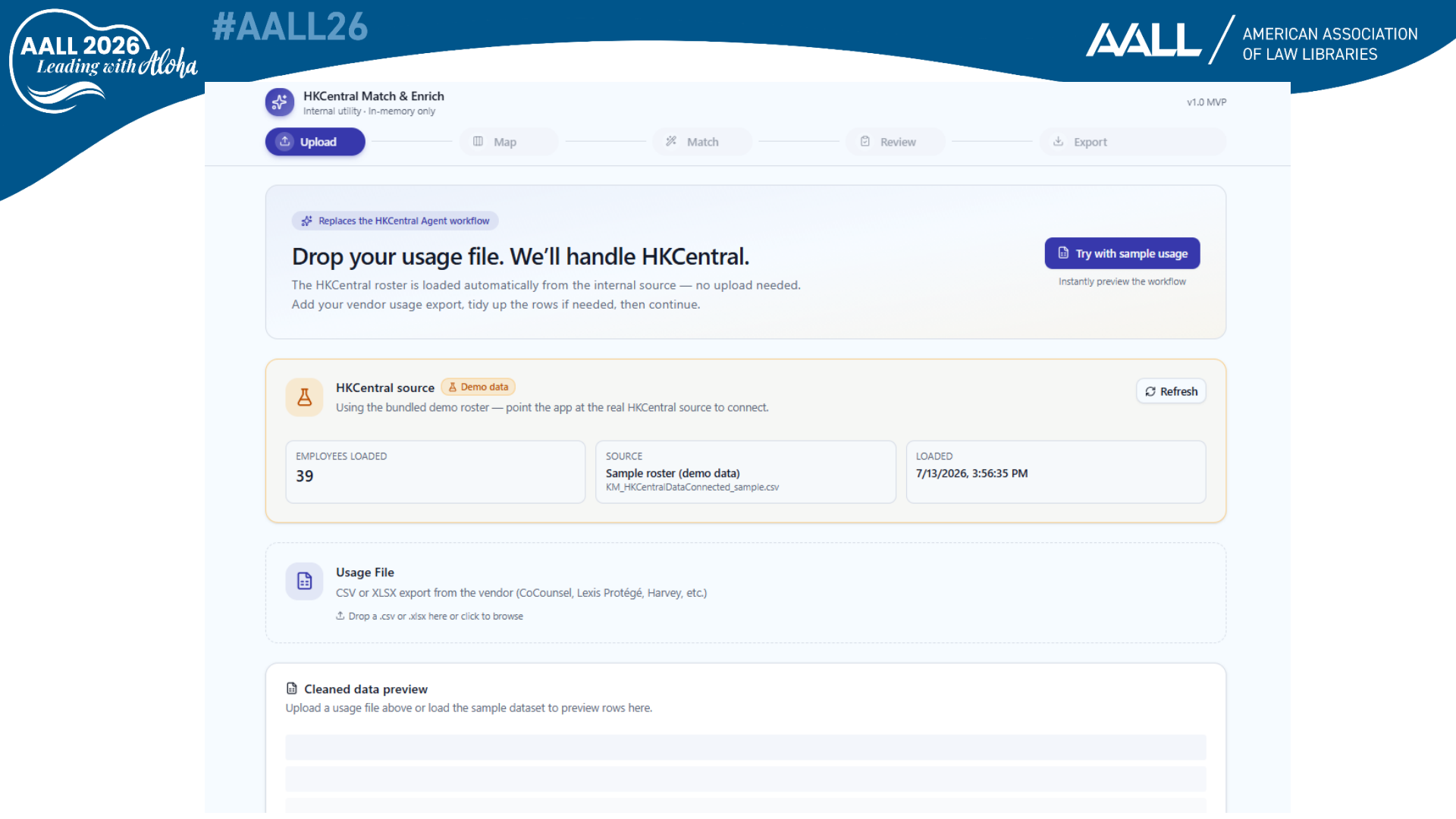


Sources

can you update the app to accept .xlsx files



App Builder (Frontier)



Replaces the HKCentral Agent workflow

Drop your usage file. We'll handle HKCentral.

The HKCentral roster is loaded automatically from the internal source — no upload needed.
Add your vendor usage export, tidy up the rows if needed, then continue.

Try with sample usage

Instantly preview the workflow



HKCentral source

Demo data

Refresh

Using the bundled demo roster — point the app at the real HKCentral source to connect.

EMPLOYEES LOADED

39

SOURCE

Sample roster (demo data)
KM_HKCentralDataConnected_sample.csv

LOADED

7/13/2026, 3:56:35 PM



Usage File

CSV or XLSX export from the vendor (CoCounsel, Lexis Protégé, Harvey, etc.)

Drop a .csv or .xlsx here or click to browse

Cleaned data preview

Upload a usage file above or load the sample dataset to preview rows here.

HKCentral Match & Enrich
Internal utility - In-memory only

v1.0 MVP

Upload

Map

Match

Review

Export

Remove file

Clean up the file

Choose the header row and drop anything you don't want to match — title banners, subtotals, blanks, or specific users.

Auto-clean

Restore removed

Header row: Row 6

Data rows: 16

1 removed

Row	Header?	Keep	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7
4	Set as header	X Above	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Set as header	X Above	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Header	—	1st April - 30th April 2026	Total Unique Users	User Scans	Total Drafting Actions	Open Definition	Insert Definition	Definiton Report Actio
7	Set as header	☐	Users	16	65	441	108	4	286
8	Set as header	☒	jfalonsopayan	29	—	52	45	-	7
9	Set as header	☒	almarinmendez	6	—	65	17	-	48
10	Set as header	☒	riwong	5	—	44	-	-	1
11	Set as header	☒	grdrost	4	—	58	7	4	47
12	Set as header	☒	kuplanki	4	—	48	11	-	37
13	Set as header	☒	rdkainz	3	—	0	-	-	-
14	Set as header	☒	thcrabb	3	—	18	2	-	16
15	Set as header	☒	jeroisin	2	—	26	6	-	20
16	Set as header	☒	pschreib	2	—	48	6	-	42

Showing first 23 of 23 rows in the file. - 1 removed in preview.

Rows above the header row are dropped automatically.

Cleaned data preview

Showing first 16 of 16 rows - 8 columns

#	1st April - 30th April 2026	Total Unique Users	User Scans	Total Drafting Actions	Open Definition	Insert Definition	Definiton Report Actions	Reference Report Actio
1	jfalonsopayan	29	52	45	7			

Map columns & pick enrichment

Auto-detect

Tell the matcher which columns identify a user, and which HKCentral fields to append to the output.

Identifier columns

Pick which column in your usage file holds each identifier. Only one is required to run matching.

ADName / Username The login or short user id (e.g. jdoe, ervassalotti).	1st April - 30th April 2026 Sample: jfa1onsopayan
Email Full email or vendor-formatted email address.	— Not in this file —
Full Name A single column holding "First Last".	— Not in this file —
First Name Used with Last Name when no Full Name column exists.	— Not in this file —
Last Name Used with First Name when no Full Name column exists.	— Not in this file —

Fields to append

These HKCentral fields will be added to every matched row.

[Reset defaults](#) [Select all](#)

IDENTIFIERS

☒ Timekeeper ID (TKID)
☒ ADName
☒ Primary Work Email

NAME

☐ Preferred First Name
☐ Preferred Last Name
☐ Legal First Name
☐ Legal Last Name

ROLE

☒ Business Title
☐ Department
☐ Sub-Department
☒ Section

Outcome:

HKCentral Match & Enrich

- VERY fast to Proof of Concept (POC)
- Can't push this into use due to limitations on sandbox that is App Builder on CoPilot today.
- Creating AI Agent in CoPilot Studio or getting approval for building through Power Apps will be required

Rebecca Fordon

It started with a handout

Crafting an Efficient Search

Issue:

Terms		☐ AND ☐ w/p ☐ w/s ☐ w/		☐ AND ☐ w/p ☐ w/s ☐ w/		☐ AND ☐ w/p ☐ w/s ☐ w/		☐ AND ☐ w/p ☐ w/s ☐ w/		☐ AND ☐ w/p ☐ w/s ☐ w/	
	OR		OR		OR		OR		OR		
Alternatives											
	OR		OR		OR		OR		OR		
	OR		OR		OR		OR		OR		

I wanted a web-based tool

What's the vibe, Rebecca?



2025-09-18...1
Case Law



2025-09-19...2
Case Law

I teach legal research, and my students always struggle to construct proper Terms & Connectors (Boolean) search queries for Westlaw and Lexis. They get confused about how to group synonyms with OR, when to use proximity operators like /p or /s, and how to truncate words properly without making them too broad.

I've uploaded my lecture slides (Class 4-1 and Class 4-2).

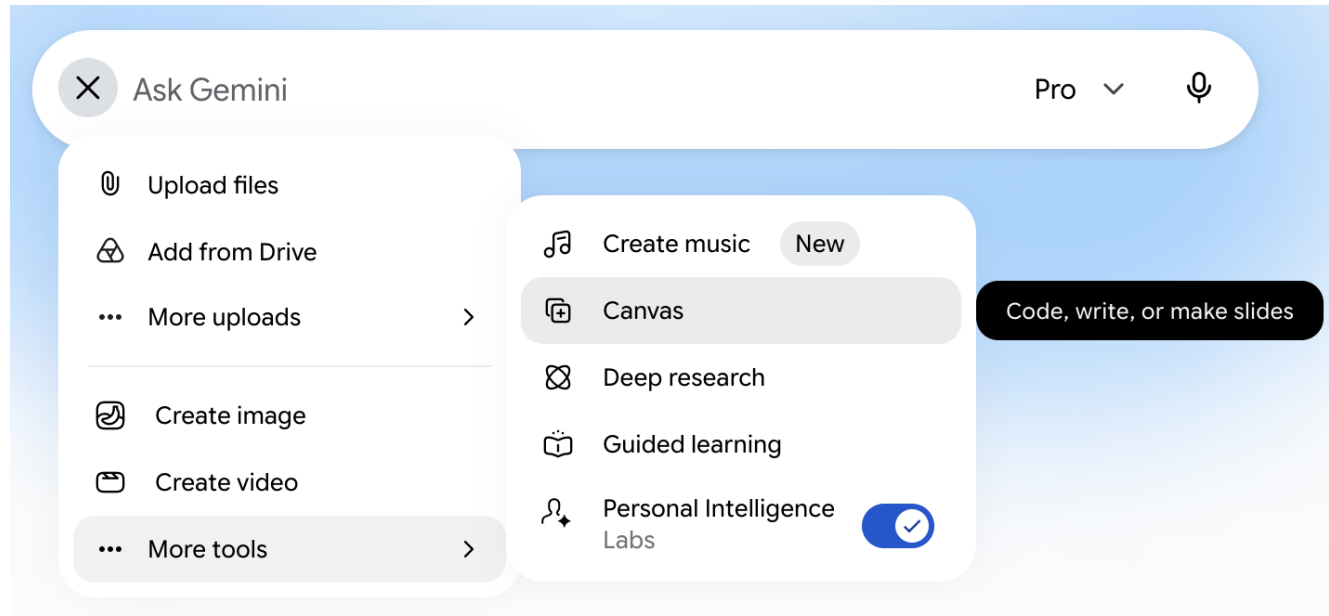
I want you to code a complete, interactive, single-file HTML web page that I can



Thinking ▾



Ask for Canvas, HTML or an artifact



Iterate, iterate, iterate

- Suggest converting phrase to Boolean (e.g., “assumption of risk” → assum! /3 risk)
- Require user to select connector (don’t default so they miss the connector choice)
- Accessibility

Finally!



booleanbuilder.replit.app

Legal Boolean Search Builder

Create precise legal search strings, step-by-step.

Created by [Rebecca Fordon](#)

1. Build Your Concepts

A concept is a main idea, party, action, or legal issue. This tool will help you group synonyms for the same concept together (e.g., `spectator OR fan`).

Concept 1

[Remove](#)

Tip: Use `!` at the end of a word root for truncation (e.g., `injur!` finds injury, injured, etc.). Need help finding a word's root? [Build a Truncated Term](#)

Enter term or phrase

× Alternate term

+ Add alternate term (OR) ?

Choose how to connect concepts:

AND

/p (paragraph)

/s (sentence)

2. Your Search String

Copy the final string and paste it into the search bar of your favorite legal research tool.

Note: This tool is optimized for the syntax of major legal databases like Westlaw and Lexis. Other platforms may use different rules, so always check their advanced search tips for best results.

Copy

Review Your String

A final check is crucial. The ultimate check is to run the search and see if you are getting expected results. If anything seems off, or if you just want to be sure, use this checklist:

☐ **Grouping:** Are my `()` correctly separating each unique concept?

Other handouts that could be html?

- Outreach events (Bingo, passport)
- Calculators
- Data explainers
- Interactive quizzes

How to distribute html?

- Download the html file, send as an attachment
- Host (e.g., Github Pages, Netlify)
- Institutional hosting options?

Resources

[https://sampson.info/
aall-26](https://sampson.info/aall-26)



Questions & Answers

Presenter Contact
Info

Complete the Program
Evaluation

Vibe Coding

Monday, July 20, 11 am

