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Legal Prompt Engineering - Examples and Tips

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On this episode of law.MIT.edu's IdeaFlow, guest Damien Riehl joins host Dazza Greenwood to explore the concept of "Legal Prompt Engineering" including an example Damien recently posted showing how a legal brief can be developed in response to a complaint.

Visit the web version of this article to view interactive content.

law.MIT.edu IdeaFlow: Legal Prompt Engineering Examples and Tips

Background Materials:

- Generative AI & Law materials and video archived sessions from the 2023 MIT Computational Law Workshop: https://law.mit.edu/pub/2023-workshop
- Generative AI & Law presentation and blog post materials from CIVICS.com/AI
  - ChatGPT on Fiduciary Duties: https://www.civics.com/pub/chatgpt-session-2022-12-17
  - Claude on Fiduciary Duties: https://poe.com/s/XDKWXTP7RDFHbiLvECHP
- Prompt Engineering tips from OpenAI: https://help.openai.com/en/articles/6654000-best-practices-for-prompt-engineering-with-openai-api
- Legal Prompting: Teaching a Language Model to Think Like a Lawyer: https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.01326
- Good general technical primer “Stanford Webinar - GPT-3 & Beyond”: https://youtu.be/-lnHHWRCDGk

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- The current version of this episode: https://law.mit.edu/pub/ideaflow15
- For more episodes of IdeaFlow, see: https://law.mit.edu/media
- *To signup for IdeaFlow episodes:* https://forms.gle/aZbxfsEHkM7egeyf8

Host: Dazza Greenwood, Executive Director, law.MIT.edu

Guest: Damien Riehl, VP, Litigation Workflow and Analytics Content, Fastcase

Date: Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 at 12:00 PM Pacific / 3:00 PM Eastern

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About Damien Riehl



I'm a technology lawyer who has advised clients on tech, litigated tech issues, remediated cybersecurity issues, and developed software. My legal experience is diverse (e.g., counseling, complex business litigation, financial litigation, intellectual property, and appeals), working for a variety of clients (e.g., large businesses, small businesses, nonprofits, and individuals).

I have also designed and developed software, implementing cutting-edge technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence, machine learning, natural language processing) to improve the practice of law. I frequently speak and write on topics that discuss societal and legal changes through technology: Internet law, computer and technology law, copyright, and trademark law, cybersecurity, and data privacy.

In the past, I managed digital forensics and cybersecurity engagements to bolster clients' data security and resilience — both reactively and proactively. I also worked with clients to assist e-discovery and transactional workflows by implementing AI (e.g., NLP, clustering, and data analytics).

I currently lead the design, development, and expansion of products at Fastcase, integrating AI-backed technologies to improve legal workflows and to power legal data analytics.

My legal and technology work improves businesses and legal practice, benefiting my clients, lawyers, and the judiciary.