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Memo to the bench: civil jury selection is different

California judges presiding over civil trials often restrict jury selection in contravention of the law pertaining to this critical aspect of trial. This may be due, in part, to the large number of civil judges who practiced criminal law exclusively before taking the bench.



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No such limitations were placed upon civil jury selection. Instead, state law allows civil litigants to fully explore juror attitudes, beliefs and proclivities.

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The Recorder

Judicata's New Tool Wants to Help Your Brief Succeed in Court

The new tool, Clerk, looks over briefs to determine whether their arguments, drafting and context are likely to find favor with judges.

Machine learning and artificial intelligence have drawn enormous excitement and development in the legal sector throughout the year, and applications have tended to revolve around [e-discovery](#), [contract analysis](#) and data analytics.

[In a blog post](#) published last week, legal research firm [Judicata](#) announced it would bring its machine-learning analysis to bear around legal brief assessment. Its new tool, Clerk, analyzes briefs against data drawn from the company's legal research database to assess the strength of its arguments, drafting and context.

“Because we have a map of the law and because we are able to understand these documents, we are able to figure out what are the characteristics of winning and losing legal briefs and help lawyers make their briefs better,” Judicata co-founder Itai Gutari told LTN.

Here’s a look at the new tool:

Who it serves: Right now, the product is tailored toward California-based practitioners, but later versions aim to expand Clerk’s reach to attorneys working under other states’ laws and on federal matters. In the future, Gutari said that the company aims for the tool to be as broadly applicable as possible for attorneys looking to get a brief approved. “We’ve tried to make tools that are broadly usable both to small and solo attorneys, all the way to large law firms,” he said.