Clearbrief Review
State Bar of Nevada AI Research Task Force
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Average Score: **40.5 points** = Good: The AI service/product is recommended with minor reservations, performing well in most criteria but with some areas needing improvement.

Overview

Clearbrief is a legal technology tool that uses AI to help lawyers find and view supporting factual evidence while writing briefs and other legal documents in Microsoft Word. The tool allows users to cite-check both facts and law and generate deposition summaries, timelines, exhibits, and tables of content and authorities (TOC/TOA).

Tailored for litigators and appellate lawyers, the plugin integrates AI to link legal arguments directly to evidence and authority, enhancing accuracy and reliability. Its key features include AI-powered document summaries and chronologies, automated TOC/TOA creation, hyperlinked draft functionality, and exhibit management capabilities. Clearbrief addresses several critical challenges in legal practice, including citation verification, evidence matching, and fact-checking.

User Experience & Interface

Clearbrief's user interface is aesthetically appealing and designed with simplicity, making it easy to use for a wide range of audiences. Users can initially interact through a button and dropdown menu layout for the specific tasks to be performed. The layout effectively displays citation suggestions, linked source materials, and insights, making the experience user-friendly even for non-tech-savvy professionals.

Clearbrief integrates with Microsoft Word via a plugin that displays in the same window as the Word document. A lot of users seem to enjoy this single-window interface without the need for endless open tabs and files. For those that prefer a multiple screen layout, the Clearbrief plugin can be pulled out to its own window and dragged to other screens separate from the underlying document. For Clearbrief's feature that automatically identifies and displays caselaw citations, Clearbrief displays case citations from Fastcase vLex and trusted government websites by default. Users with LexisNexis subscriptions are able to utilize Clearbrief's free integration to automatically display case citations from LexisNexis, and to open those results in Lexis for further research.

Customization & Flexibility

Clearbrief offers some customization, allowing users to tailor citation formats, highlight specific sections of case records, and choose how links to sources are displayed. However, the tool's utility depends on the legal document format and jurisdiction-specific needs.

<u>Accuracy & Reliability</u>

Clearbrief is one of the more task-specific AI legal tools on the market. It excels in its core functions – accurate linking of legal arguments to supporting evidence and citations, as well as creating TOC/TOA, chronological timelines, and document summaries. It effectively highlights inconsistencies or unsupported claims, ensuring documents meet professional standards. However, its effectiveness is contingent on the quality of input documents and may require additional verification for highly nuanced legal arguments, and its performance varied across features.

As with most emerging AI legaltech products on the market, Clearbrief gets users most of the way to the finish line at a fraction of the time normally spent on brief drafting tasks. For example, the AI generated medical chronologies and deposition summaries provide a comprehensive overview and general understanding of the facts of a case, but lawyers should ensure they review the underlying source documents in depth for issues that are crucial to their desired outcomes.

<u>Ethical Considerations & Compliance</u>

Clearbrief aligns well with legal ethics and compliance considerations, promoting accuracy and reducing the likelihood of misrepresentation. It complies with professional standards for verifying citations and evidence, though users must still ensure compliance with jurisdiction-specific rules of citation and confidentiality. It should be noted that Clearbrief is not a language learning model that uses biased or unverified external data, or user inputs, to build its AI model. However, as with any AI product on the market and not specific to Clearbrief, sensitive client data must still be handled with care to avoid potential ethical breaches.

<u>Time & Efficiency Gains</u>

Clearbrief significantly reduces the time spent on drafting, citation verification, and fact-checking, especially in litigation and appellate practices. It is particularly valuable for lengthy briefs and complex cases with voluminous records. The time saved can be redirected toward higher-value tasks like strategy and client counseling.

<u>Cost-Effectiveness</u>

While Clearbrief's pricing at $200/user/month is competitive compared to traditional legal research tools, smaller firms or solo practitioners may find it to be a significant expense. However, the savings in time and reduction in errors may make it a worthwhile investment for firms handling substantial litigation or appeals. Clearbrief is constantly rolling out new features, including its full AI toolkit and secure document storage, thereby increasing the return on investment over time.

Learning Curve & Training

There is a slight learning curve that may be prohibitive to some users adopting the technology, not only for the initial installation and setup process, but also for the use of the technology itself. However, the Clearbrief tool has implemented an onboarding process and provides guidance and help resources, reducing the learning curve. For teams, brief training sessions can suffice to maximize productivity, as users are offered live, one-on-one training sessions with Clearbrief attorneys. While Clearbrief is adding additional written user guides, it currently offers useful comprehensive videos for each feature in the platform that are accessible while using the tools.

Collaboration & Team Use

Clearbrief has the potential to shine in collaborative environments, enabling multiple team members to review drafts with linked citations and evidence. However, its full potential is realized when all team members are proficient in its use, which may require some coordination and training.

Client Impact

Clearbrief indirectly improves client satisfaction by producing higher-quality, well-supported legal documents that are easily accessible by both courts and clients through hyperlinked courtesy copies. The reduction in errors and the ability to link arguments to evidence enhance client confidence in their attorney's professionalism and diligence. For both attorneys and clients alike, the time savings can help reduce costs, resulting in lower attorney's fees and increased access to justice.

Innovation & Future-Proofing

Clearbrief represents a forward-thinking approach to legal practice, leveraging AI to address traditional pain points in complex briefing, drafting, summarizing, and fact-checking. The platform has demonstrated a commitment to focusing on regular updates and a growing emphasis on legal tech adoption to ensure it remains relevant. Its integration with common tools like Microsoft Word makes it versatile for evolving workflows.

Conclusion

Clearbrief is a good tool for legal professionals, particularly those in litigation and appellate practice. Its emphasis on accuracy, time efficiency, and collaboration aligns with the needs of modern legal practice. While it comes with some limitations in customization and cost accessibility for smaller firms and solo practitioners, its benefits outweigh these drawbacks for users who spend a significant amount of their work creating legal writing referencing numerous documents and that requires citations.

Overall, Clearbrief has clearly demonstrated good performance when compared with other AI tools and platforms reviewed by the State Bar of Nevada AI Research Task Force, and can be recommended with only minor reservations. Once users have come up to speed through the onboarding process, as well as the personal, on-demand support training offered by its technical team, Clearbrief's robust suite of capabilities promise immense time savings to assist lawyers in brief drafting and related activities. Even during the course of this review, Clearbrief has continuously innovated with the pace of AI to roll out new feature launches and improve existing core competencies.