

The Practice Software Shortlist

Twelve tools that matter for a US law firm, ranked, with where each one pays off first. Directional pricing included; check vendor pages before you buy.

The twelve, ranked

#	TOOL	PAYS OFF FIRST WHEN	PRICING SHAPE
1	Clio Practice Management	One matter record for the whole firm. Start here if everything lives in email.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
2	MyCase Practice Management	Client portal cuts phone tag. Strong for firms with chatty clients.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
3	PracticePanther Practice Management	Task discipline for small firms without a big implementation.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
4	Smokeball Practice Management	Repeated forms and letters draft themselves. Volume practices save the most.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
5	Lawmatics Intake and CRM	Stops advertised leads from evaporating. First thing to buy if you spend on ads.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
6	Lead Docket Intake and CRM	PI intake and referral tracking with speed-to-lead discipline.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
7	Filevine Case Management	Complex litigation workflows at volume. Not for a casual solo rollout.	Custom/subscription pricing. Check current plans.

8	CASEpeer Case Management	PI case stages, settlements, and accountability reports.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
9	LawPay Billing and Payments	Payments that respect trust accounting. Pairs with any PM above.	Payment processing pricing. Check current terms.
10	Smith.ai Reception and Intake	After-hours and overflow reception plus chat. Fastest payback with ads.	Service/package pricing. Check current plans.
11	CallRail Call Tracking	Shows which channel produced the call. Buy before scaling any ad spend.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.
12	Gavel Document Automation	Guided questionnaires that assemble your repeated documents.	Subscription pricing. Check current plans.

By practice area

PRACTICE	SHORTLIST
Personal injury	Lead Docket or Lawmatics, Filevine or CASEpeer, Smith.ai, CallRail, LawPay
Family and divorce	Clio or MyCase, Smokeball, Gavel, LawPay
Criminal defense	MyCase or PracticePanther, Smith.ai, Calendly-class scheduling, LawPay
Estate planning	Smokeball, Gavel, WealthCounsel-class drafting, LawPay
Immigration	Docketwise, Clio, Gavel, LawPay
Bankruptcy	Clio or MyCase, Gavel, LawPay
Employment	Clio or PracticePanther, Gavel, CallRail
Business and corporate	Clio, Gavel, PracticePanther, LawPay
Solo or small firm starting out	MyCase or PracticePanther, LawPay, Smith.ai, Calendly-class scheduling

How to use this list

1. **Fix the bottleneck first.** Pick the one leak costing the most per week: lost leads, repeated documents, or unbilled hours. One at a time.
2. **Buy for that bottleneck only.** Every tool above solves one problem well. Suites tempt you to solve five problems at once, badly.

3. **Dual-track every rollout.** Two weeks running new and old side by side before you cut over.

4. **Re-check pricing.** Plans change often; the pricing column here is the shape, not the quote.

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