

## Meet The Attys 'Vibe-Coding' Their Own AI Apps

By **Steven Lerner**

*Law360 (February 19, 2026, 4:08 PM EST)* -- Some attorneys are creating their own artificial intelligence applications from scratch with new software, inspiring others in the legal profession to follow do-it-yourself technology dreams.

Called 'vibe coding,' the type of app creation that is trending involves using natural language software instead of traditional line-by-line coding. This makes it easier for nontechnical users to build their own apps based on a "vibe" or a high-level focus.

Last year, attorneys at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP used Google Gemini to create a game to quiz the staff on the firm's internal AI policies. Working with the firm's applied AI team, which includes paralegals and technologists, a partner and two associates developed the multiple-choice questions for the quiz and designed the game.

In another example, the attorneys used vibe coding to create a pricing calculator to help partners determine how many AI licenses they can buy from different vendors while remaining in budget.

Avi Gesser, a partner at Debevoise who leads the AI practice, described the firm's vibe coding as "one-off problem-solving" for issues that can be addressed through quick AI experiments rather than off-the-shelf tools or common spreadsheets.

"It makes sense that we're trying to solve AI issues, and we're always thinking about what AI solutions we can get," Gesser, who was one of the attorneys who vibe-coded the firm's tools, told Law360 Pulse.

While attorneys at firms such as Debevoise quietly develop one-off apps, an attorney with another BigLaw firm has gained fame on social media in recent weeks for showcasing his own vibe-coded creations.

Jamie Tso, a senior associate at Clifford Chance LLP, used vibe coding to develop applications for comparing documents, analyzing contracts and extracting signature pages. He has promoted his new applications on social media for others to use.

A technical barrier has historically made it difficult for attorneys to translate knowledge directly into software. But vibe coding is resonating with lawyers because it lowers that barrier, according to Tso, who spoke on the condition that his views do not represent his firm's opinion.

"It empowers professionals of all industries to take an active role in the development process, allowing them to rapidly prototype and iterate on bespoke tools that address specific nuances in their workflow, rather than relying solely on broader, generalized solutions," Tso said. "It's about lawyers using AI to reimagine legal services, opening new markets, meeting emerging demands and redefining what legal practice can look like in the new world."

Tso added that his social media posts showcasing his vibe-coded tools have inspired other lawyers to become active builders rather than just passive legal tech users.

The legal vibe coding community has been growing in recent months.

In January, a trio of legal tech creators launched vibecode.law, an open-source platform that showcases apps that legal professionals have built with AI and offers information for getting started with vibe coding.

As of February, there were a dozen projects featured on vibecode.law.

The platform was created as a side project by Chris Bridges, a partner at the AI-native law firm Tacit.legal; Alex Baker, founder of Legal Tech Collective and Matt Pollins, co-founder of legal tech company Lupl.

Baker said the biggest surprise has been the positive reaction that the platform has received in just a few weeks since launching.

"We expected some interest, but people have moved to thinking about practical applications much faster than we anticipated," Baker said. "I think that's partly because we've been very clear about what vibe coding is actually good for, while also being deliberate about highlighting the risks and limitations."

One attorney who has already published a tool on vibecode.law is Stephanie Goutos, the head of employment law practice at innovation at Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian LLP. Goutos, who posted a personal brand tool to vibecode.law, is no stranger to vibe coding. She has created over 100 AI projects in the past few years, including some dashboards, sites and trackers.

Goutos joined Gunderson Dettmer nearly five years ago to lead the firm's automation efforts spanning client intakes, requests, and document creation.

"I see the vibe-coding projects as an extension of that work," Goutos said. "They let me pressure-test ideas quickly, get early feedback from the team and explore more creative ways to use technology and innovation to deliver better client service."

While vibe-coding can be beneficial, there are risks, such as the potential cybersecurity complications that come with attorneys creating their own applications without the supervision of the firm's IT department.

Gesser said attorneys should only turn to vibe coding if the creation process is simple, no other solutions exist, and the creation is used sparingly.

"For us, it's always to solve a very specific problem," Gesser said. "We're not doing it for the sake of doing it. We don't have solutions in search of problems."

The rising use of vibe coding doesn't mean it will replace traditional legal tech software. Instead, vibe coding is more about giving lawyers a way to externalize their own ideas and approaches, according to Michael McGinn, a senior manager in legal transformation and technology for KPMG Law Canada.

"These tools tend to address things standardized products don't handle well, like internal decision aids or practice-level review heuristics," McGinn said. "They're often quick tools that reflect how a particular team actually reasons about risk."

As to the future of this do-it-yourself trend, McGinn believes that it's bigger than just vibe coding. Even if vibe-coding platforms come and go, the behavior shift will persist, he said.

"Lawyers now know they can shape workflows directly rather than waiting for a vendor to build something into a new or incumbent product," McGinn said. "I don't think this means the future is fully DIY, but I do think vendors will move toward more modular platforms that allow lawyers to build lightweight extensions."

Even Gesser said that vibe coding won't be an industrywide requirement for every lawyer, but he expects that the ability for lawyers to combine their knowledge with good technology is going to become more important in the future.

"No matter how smart you are, no matter how hard you work and how great your team is, I think you're going to have a hard time competing against people who can really use the tools effectively," Gesser said.

--Editing by Amy French.