

bonne foi

good faith. always.

The bridge between the people who need a lawyer
and the lawyers who could actually help them.

■ THE PROBLEM

Most people facing a civil legal problem face it alone.

92%

of low-income Americans' substantial civil legal problems get no or inadequate help

49%

of people who seek help from LSC-funded legal aid are turned away, unchanged since 2005

90%

of landlords in eviction cases have a lawyer. Only 10% of tenants do

Every rejection resets the clock. Nothing transfers to the next door. People re-explain everything, every time. We call it the re-explanation tax.

Funders agree the front door is broken. In LSC's 2024 technology grants, intake, triage, and self-help were the most-funded client-facing work, and every organization builds it in its own silo.

Sources: LSC 2022 Justice Gap Study; LSC Technology Initiative Grant awards, 2024; Center for American Progress, eviction representation data.

The legal-AI gold rush is being spent on the people who already have lawyers.

THE SPEND TODAY

\$500M

Kirkland & Ellis is committing \$500 million to build its own proprietary AI platform, \$100M in 2026 alone. Freshfields and the rest of Big Law are racing to do the same. Every dollar points inward.

THE GAP NO ONE FUNDS

\$0

of that AI investment is directed at the 75% of civil cases where one side walks in without a lawyer. Legal aid turns away half the people who ask. Bonne Foi is the first tool built for them.

Every elite firm is building AI to win bigger cases. The first to point it outward, at the people who have no one, claims a legacy none of them can copy.

The preparation lane is filling up. The bridge to the attorney is empty.

ALREADY BUILT • PREP TOOLS

Prosei AI

CourtCase

Courtroom5

EvenSteven

Organize documents, build timelines, draft filings. They stop at the packet.



UNBUILT • THE BRIDGE

Do I even need a lawyer? Which one, based on their real case history? How do I reach them so they say yes? And how do I carry it all from one rejection to the next?

The preparation lane stopped at the packet. Bonne Foi is the bridge.

Everyone builds part of the journey. No one builds the bridge.

LEGAL AI FOR FIRMS

Harvey · Legora ·
Clio · Intapp

Built for the represented side of the line.

PRO SE PREP TOOLS

Prosei · Courtroom5
· Upsolve

Organize the case, then stop at the packet.

ATTORNEY DIRECTORIES

Avvo · LegalMatch ·
UniCourt

Lead generation. No triage, no context.

LEGAL AID & PRO BONO

LegalServer ·
Paladin

Org-initiated, and only after intake.

BONNE FOI

The only consumer-initiated bridge: from “do I even need a lawyer?” to a contacted one, carrying a summary the person keeps across every door.

The person starts it. It triages honestly, routes on real case history, and is the one tool that travels with them.

Three things just became true at once.

THE TECHNOLOGY

AI can finally do the work

Plain-language triage, translation into any language, and a personalized first draft, at near-zero cost. A consumer-facing legal navigator was not buildable five years ago.

THE ARCHITECTURE

The bridge is a protocol, not a grant

What the last generation hand-built one integration at a time, and paid for with grants, a single MCP connector now lets us publish once and reach every system.

THE MOMENT

The rails are primed

Funders are backing legal interoperability, courts are digitizing records, and firms are standing up AI-enabled pro bono. The infrastructure exists. The person is still missing from it.

The capital is pouring into the represented side. The window to build for the other 92%, now that the tools finally exist, is open.

Route, don't rebuild.

We don't rebuild OCR, timelines, or motion drafting. Four teams already do that. We build the five things none of them offer.

01

Honest triage

Attorney, pro se, limited scope, or legal aid, even when that means routing away from us.

02

Party mapper

Adverse, aligned, neutral parties formatted for an ABA conflicts check in minutes.

03

Attorney finder

Matched on real public case history and language. Factual case counts, never invented win rates.

04

Outreach drafter

A personalized pitch the attorney can evaluate in five minutes. You cannot send it until you make it yours.

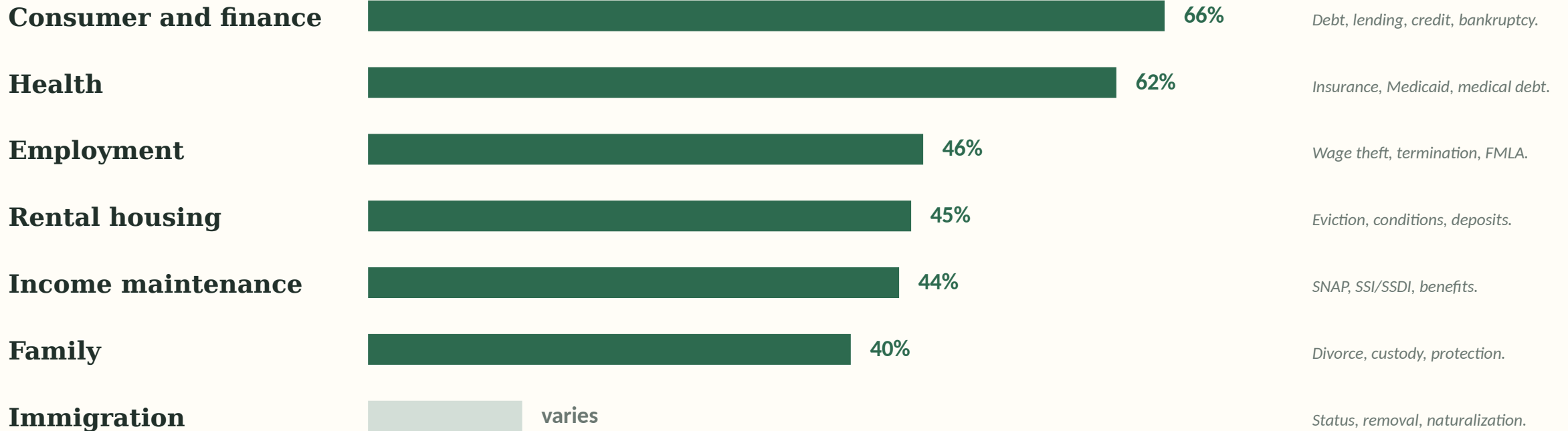
05

Outreach tracker

Every contact, every status, every referral captured. A portable summary across rejections.

Five steps. One honest answer instead of "we can't help you, try someone else."

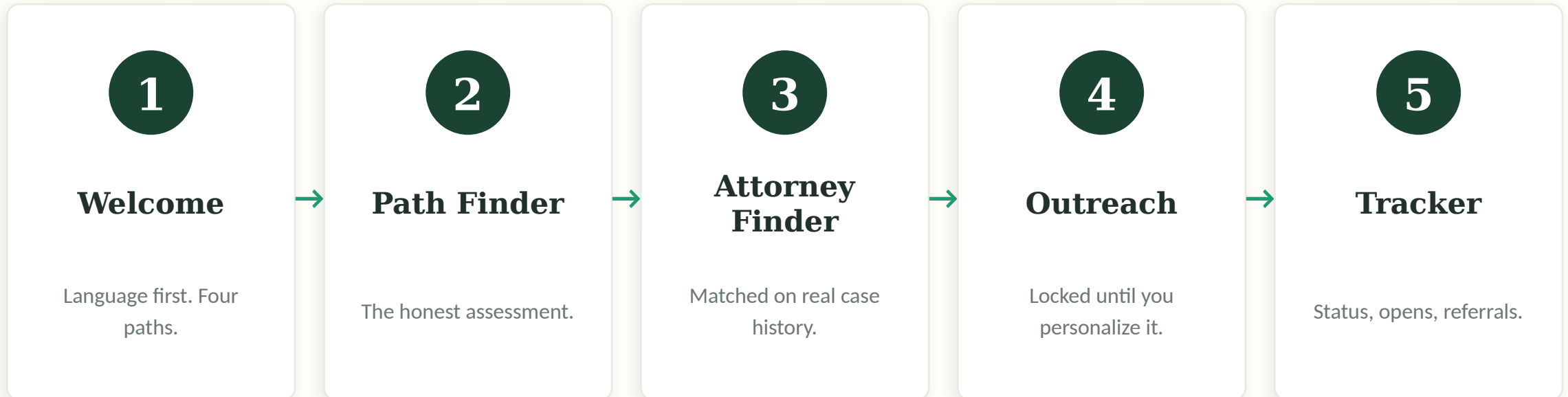
Civil legal need is bigger than any one story.



Domestic violence and sexual assault cross every category. 1 in 4 LSC-eligible households includes a survivor. Bonne Foi flags DV history at intake and prioritizes trauma-informed routing.

Sources: LSC 2017 Justice Gap Study (prevalence among low-income households); LSC 2022 Justice Gap Study (DV/SA).

From a kitchen-table crisis to a contacted attorney.



A working interactive prototype of these screens exists today. [Click through it: bonnefoi.org/demo](https://bonnefoi.org/demo)

Two ideas a for-profit would never ship.

FORCED PERSONALIZATION

The send button stays locked.

Until the person meaningfully edits the draft, they cannot send it. It kills template-blasting, it means they read what they sent, and it is what makes an attorney trust the message.

PORTABLE SUMMARY

Built once. Carried everywhere.

Situation, parties, jurisdiction, triage result, structured and exportable. When one attorney says no, the next conversation does not start from zero. We store summaries, never your files.

A bar-ethics opinion gates the outreach feature in week one. If unfavorable, the drafter becomes a guided template the person writes themselves. The client always initiates, and always personalizes.

Where we sit in the field.

ORGANIZATION-INITIATED · INFRASTRUCTURE

Case management for the legal professional. Where the work gets recorded after the client is in the system.

LegalServer · Clio · Paladin

CONSUMER-INITIATED · INFRASTRUCTURE

OPEN

bonne foi

The upstream layer the field has been working around. The person opens the door. The matter feeds every system.

ORGANIZATION-INITIATED · SERVICE

Field-led civil legal aid. Excellent at what they do, scales with headcount inside a defined geography.

Legal Aid Society · Bet Tzedek · state LSC grantees

CONSUMER-INITIATED · SERVICE

Prep tools and self-help apps. Help a person format what they already have a strategy for.

Courtroom5 · Prosei AI · Upsolve · EvenSteven

The empty quadrant was not buildable before AI made the routing and translation tractable. The category opened in the last eighteen months. We are filling it.

■ WHY ONLY A NONPROFIT CAN BUILD THIS

A paying company cannot tell a paying user, “you don't need us.”

Routing someone to Prosei or Courtroom5 when pro se is right for them is commercially suicidal for a subscription business. For us it is the mission. The product's job is the person's outcome, not our revenue.

That is also the trust wedge. When a clinic, a legal aid office, or an access-to-justice program Anthropic backs decides which tool to put in front of a survivor, they need a named nonprofit with a public mission. Not an anonymous LLC.

The honesty is not a feature we added. It is the only thing the structure allows.

She is not a lawyer. She is an inventor who stumbled into this. She needed help, could not find it, and became her own legal infrastructure.

When she hit a complex, multi-party legal problem, she called firm after firm and got no calls back. So she taught herself, read the statutes, drafted her own documents, and built the tool she wished she had.

A polymath born in New Orleans and raised across the Deep South, she began in politics and community organizing, with a purpose for the next generation and underserved communities. Founder and CEO of Preemadonna, creator of Nailbot. Lead inventor on 9+ utility patents across hardware, computer vision, and software. Cofounded Soorma Ventures. Entrepreneur-in-Residence at JumpStart. MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. BA from Northwestern. Former board member at MakerGirl.

FOUR THINGS

- She is a builder. Nailbot, 9+ patents across hardware, computer vision, and software.
- She has advocated for survivors. Prior training as a domestic violence counselor.
- She has been the user. Paid the re-explanation tax herself.
- She feels it now. An eviction notice, plus civil and corporate matters, all converging in eight months.

Bonne foi: good faith, the principle she was not always extended.

We seed attorneys through institutions before we trust the open market.

A founding advisory council of three to five names provides supply, credibility, and regulatory cover. The ask is a few hours a quarter.

LAUNCH • MONTH 1 TO 3

Pro bono by mandate

Council firms' pro bono coordinators pilot the platform. Law school clinics test with students. Participation by mandate, not cold outreach.

GROWTH • MONTH 4 TO 8

Triaged legal aid

Legal aid orgs receive pre-screened, organized clients. They accept because intake is already done. Early data on intake-time reduction.

SCALE • MONTH 9+

Open attorney market

The attorney finder opens on public case data, with proof that organized packages cut intake time. Early attorneys validate the model.

Council targets: a litigation pro bono partner (Quinn Emanuel, Susman Godfrey, Kirkland), a legal aid leader, a clinical director, an access-to-justice figure, and a legal ethics expert.

Six people. Six doors that don't open otherwise.

LITIGATION PRO BONO LEADER

Brings their firm's pro bono engine in. Then their peers.

Senior partner or pro bono counsel at an AmLaw firm with an active program.

LEGAL AID DIRECTOR

Becomes the first deployment partner. Brings TIG grant access.

ED at a regional legal aid organization. LSC grantee history a plus.

CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Puts the product in a law-school clinic. Students stress-test it weekly.

Director of a housing, immigration, or family-law clinic at a top school.

ACCESS-TO-JUSTICE FIGURE

Funders ask them what to fund. The answer becomes us.

Former judge, A2J Lab director, IAALS or NYU Civil Justice Initiative figure.

LEGAL ETHICS EXPERT

Writes the bar-ethics opinion. Their name makes it stick.

Law professor or former state bar counsel with published work on UPL or referrals.

PLATFORM TECHNOLOGIST

Vouches for the technical build. Helps hire the team.

Built consumer products at scale. AI or integration background. Open-source preferred.

Would you like to apply?

Bring Bonne Foi into your firm's pro bono program.

Much of firms' donated pro bono time, by many program estimates half or more, is consumed by intake and document work, not advocacy. We hand your team matters that are already triaged, conflict-checked, and organized.

Hours to advocacy

Associates spend billable-credit hours in front of a judge, not on intake. Hearing and trial experience is what firms want from pro bono anyway.

Conflicts in minutes

Every matter arrives with a structured party map formatted for an ABA conflicts check. Five minutes, not a thirty-minute call.

A human story to tell

A tax-deductible sponsorship of the nonprofit that makes your pro bono engine efficient. Recruiting and reputation, not a purchase.

The wall is structural: the attorney finder routes on public case fit, never on sponsorship. A bar-ethics opinion validates that separation before launch.

Route, do not rebuild: how a person and their case travel.



LAYER 01 · NOW

Universal export

A clean PDF plus a structured summary. Zero integration, it works with every system because a human drops it in.

LAYER 02 · NEXT

MCP connector

Build once, and any AI-enabled firm or aid org pulls a triaged matter on request. One connector, not bespoke plumbing.

LAYER 03 · LATER

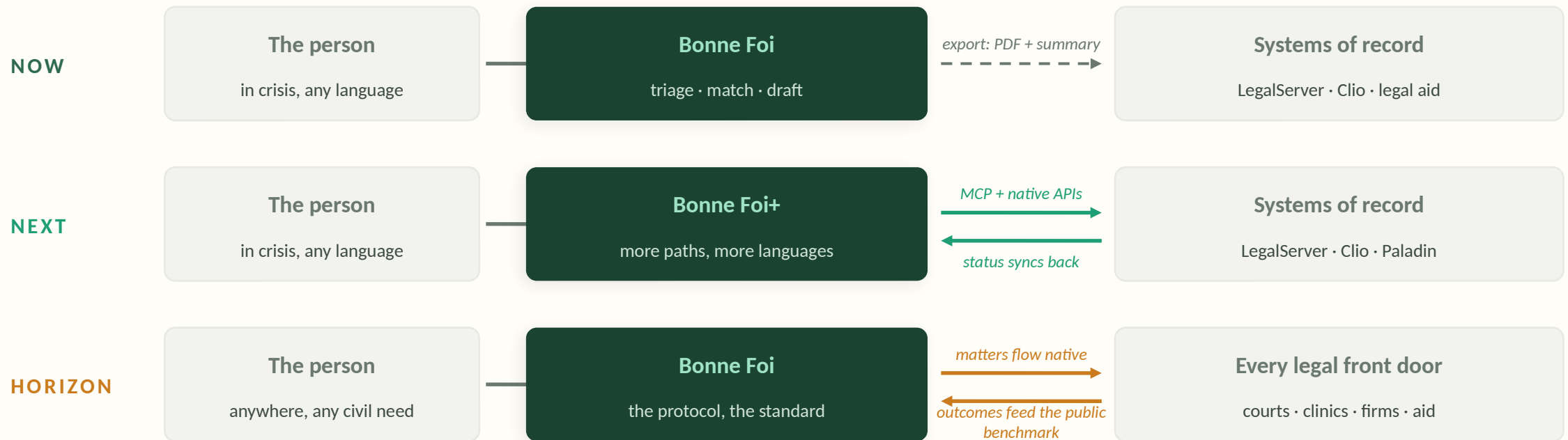
Native APIs

Clio, LegalServer, and Paladin, chosen by owner-family so one build reaches a whole roll-up of brands.

Stack: a responsive web app, nothing to install · LLM triage, translation, and drafting · public case-data ingestion · MCP server · encrypted summary store. We hold summaries, not files.

Proposed architecture. The live product is an early prototype, and we avoid generic automation layers for the core handoff because the data is sensitive.

We feed the systems of record. We never replace them.



Day one: a clean export works with every system, no integration required. **Then:** one MCP connector and a few native APIs let orgs pull triaged matters live and sync status back. **Eventually:** the Bonne Foi matter becomes the format the field reads natively, and the anonymized outcome data is the public A2J benchmark.

Built like the data could ruin a life.

WHAT WE STORE

- A structured summary. Not your files, not your messages.
- Party data, formatted for an attorney's conflict check.
- Outreach status: sent, opened, responded.
- All of it, encrypted.

WHAT WE DON'T

- ✗ Sell user data. Ever. Not anonymized, not aggregated.
- ✗ Run ads. No third-party analytics, no tracking.
- ✗ Keep your data after you close your case.
- ✗ Share your story with anyone, for any reason.

THE COMMITMENT

If we shut down, every record is deleted. Not transferred. Not sold. Deleted.

For a tool people open when their life is falling apart, that's the only answer.

Any single feature is copyable. The combination is not.

01 We sit with the person, and the data compounds.

Upstream of every system. Which outreach earns a response, which attorney accepts, who places. That data is ours, and the match sharpens with every case.

02 One connector. Many destinations.

One MCP build, consumed by any AI-enabled org. Incumbents build per-pair plumbing. Our cost to reach the next system trends to zero.

03 Trust the user gives a nonprofit, not a vendor.

Foundations fund us. Courts route to us. Clinics adopt us. A commercial vendor can earn none of that. Trust is not a feature you ship.

04 The incumbents can't follow us upstream.

Clio sells to lawyers. Intapp sells to lawyers. Going to the person fights their own customers. That isn't a technical problem. It's structural.

05 What a fast follower would have to skip.

Forced personalization. Counts, not invented win rates. Information, not advice. Skip those three to copy us, and the regulator does the work for us.

The wedge is the product. The moat is what builds up behind it. Today that's a structural argument, not a track record. The track record is what Phase 2 buys.

A generational leap

Kemp's, LegalServer, and Paladin proved that organized routing works. Bonne Foi stands on their shoulders, moves the bridge upstream to the person, and replaces bespoke plumbing with a connector that scales.



The prior generation

LegalServer → Paladin, 2022

WHO STARTS IT

The legal-aid org pushes a case it already accepted.

HOW IT CONNECTS

A point-to-point API, built per pair and set up per organization, funded by a one-off grant.

WHAT IT LEAVES BEHIND

The case lives inside one org's system.

Bonne Foi, the next generation

2026 · AI-native, consumer-first

WHO STARTS IT

The person starts, upstream, before they reach or get turned away by an org.

HOW IT CONNECTS

One MCP connector, build once and consume anywhere, plus an export that needs no integration at all.

WHAT IT LEAVES BEHIND

A portable summary the person carries across every rejection.

Point-to-point integrations multiply with every new system to connect. One MCP connector does not. That is the leap, and why it scales and keeps improving.

Build the bridge. Then earn the right to the vault.

PHASE 1 • WEEKS 1 TO 12

Build the bridge

- Bar-ethics opinion, week 1
- Incorporate; file Form 1023
- Smart intake + triage
- Party mapper + conflicts output
- Attorney finder + language
- Outreach drafter + tracker
- Beta: one firm + one clinic

\$250K to \$400K • team of 4 to 5

PHASE 2 • MONTHS 4 TO 12

Distribution + leverage

- 501(c)(3) determination expected
- 5 to 10 clinics
- 2 to 3 legal aid orgs
- 3 to 5 firm pro bono programs
- 5,000 to 10,000 users routed
- Claude for Legal connector

PHASE 3 • MONTH 12+

The vault

- Acquire a prep tool, or
- Deep-integrate a partner API, or
- Build internal from real behavior
- Decided from leverage and data

Claude for Legal launched May 2026 with 20+ connectors. None do triage routing or client-initiated outreach. Bonne Foi is the missing connector.

Status: 501(c)(3) planned. The IRS determination typically runs about 3 to 6 months after filing; a fiscal sponsor lets tax-deductible support flow in the interim. Not legal advice.

Funded by the ecosystem that already funds access to justice.

Foundation grants are the first money. LSC innovation and technology funds, IOLTA, ABA, and private foundations. \$25K to \$500K each.

Major donors are the underused channel. Retired litigation partners who watched pro se litigants struggle for decades, reached through the council.

Firm sponsorships become tax-deductible on 501(c)(3) approval. Fitting an existing giving pattern, with a structural wall against referral arrangements. A fiscal sponsor bridges deductible giving while the filing is pending.

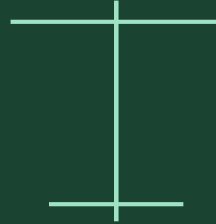
THE ACCELERATED PLAN

One to five people who believe in this could fund Phases 1 and 2.

A single grant, a retired partner's legacy gift, or a firm's anchor sponsorship covers the twelve-week build and the year of distribution that follows. The diversified model is the resilient plan. The check is the fast one.

PHASE 2 • IN DESIGN

Outcome-based giving. An opt-in “pay it forward” option for people who reach a successful outcome with our help: a suggested-amount gift back to the nonprofit, voluntary and post-resolution, structured as a charitable donation and never a share of a legal fee. Bar-ethics opinion gates the design.



**Someone failed by the legal system
finally has a tool built for them.**

bonne foi. good faith. always.

Preer Walia · pree@bonnefoi.org

Interactive preview: bonnefoi.org/demo

APPENDIX

Contents

Reference materials for diligence and follow-up conversation.

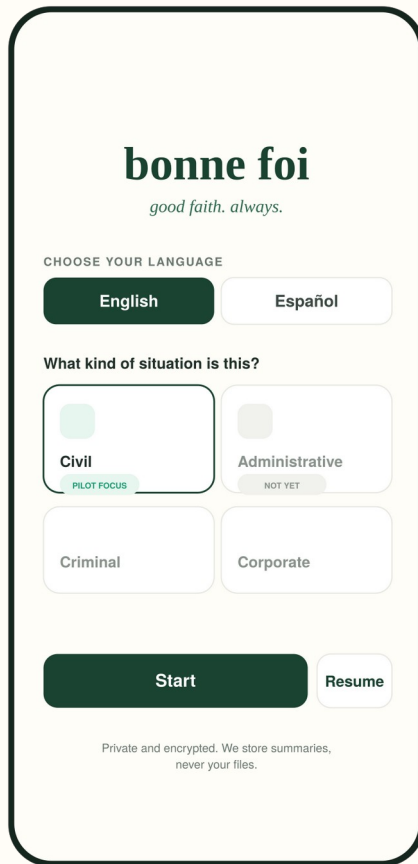
THE MAIN DECK

01	Cover	14	Supply
02	The problem	15	Advisory council
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04	The gap	17	Architecture
05	Competitive landscape	18	How we integrate
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THIS APPENDIX

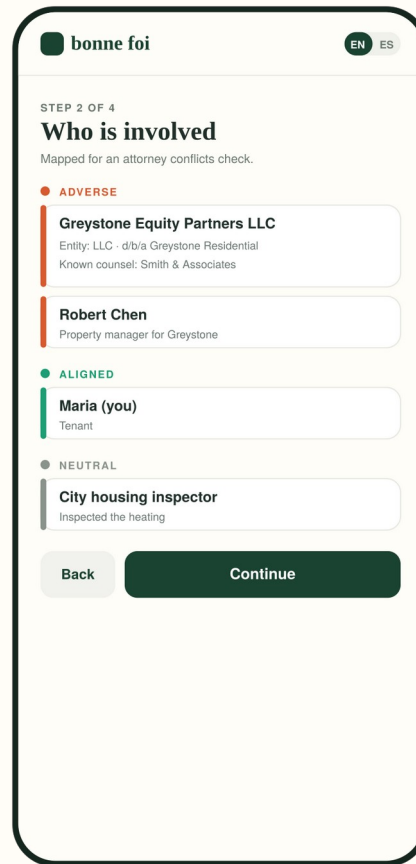
A1	This contents page
A2	The product: triage flow
A3	The product: bridge to attorney
A4	Scenario: Vanessa, consumer and debt
A5	Scenario: Diana, family and DV
A6	Scenario: Cora, eviction and convergence
A7	The product: desktop view
A8	LSC 2024 grant data, cited

The triage flow



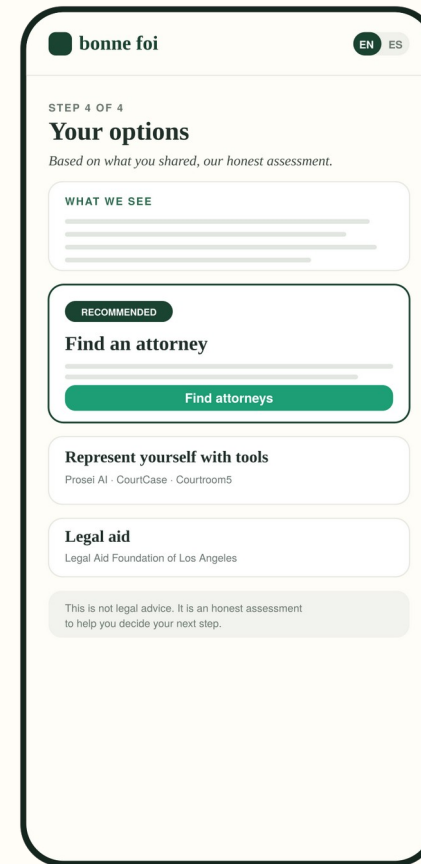
Welcome

Language first. Four paths.



Party Mapper

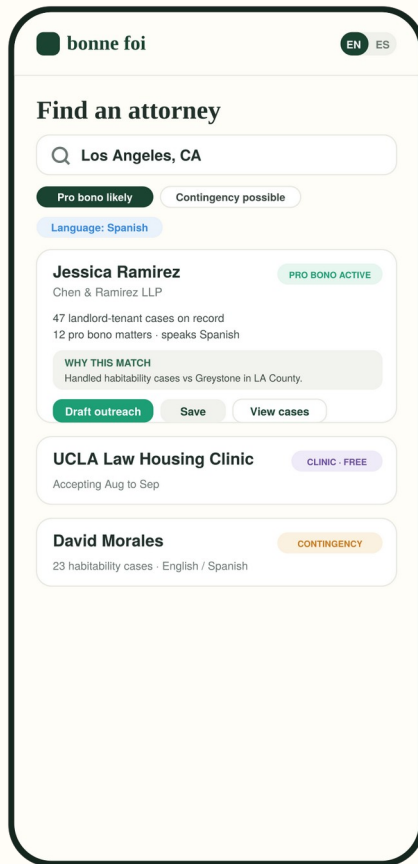
Conflicts-ready party data.



Path Finder

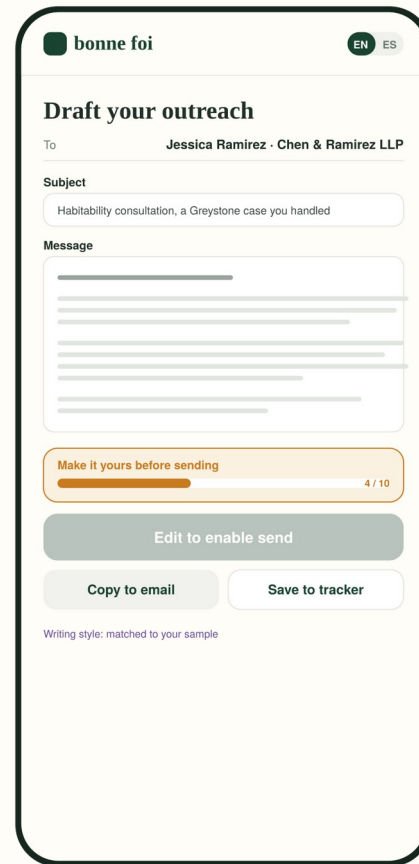
The honest assessment.

The bridge to the attorney



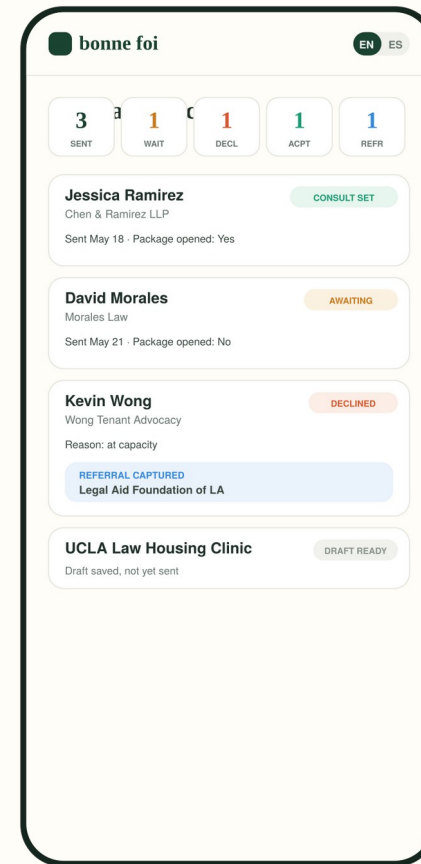
Attorney Finder

Matched on real public case history.



Outreach Drafter

Locked until you personalize it.



Tracker

Status, opens, referrals captured.

Vanessa. Consumer and debt.

THE PERSON

Vanessa, 29. Atlanta retail manager. \$46K a year. Sued by Midland Funding LLC, a debt buyer, for \$4,800 on a Capital One card she barely remembers. Court date in 16 days.

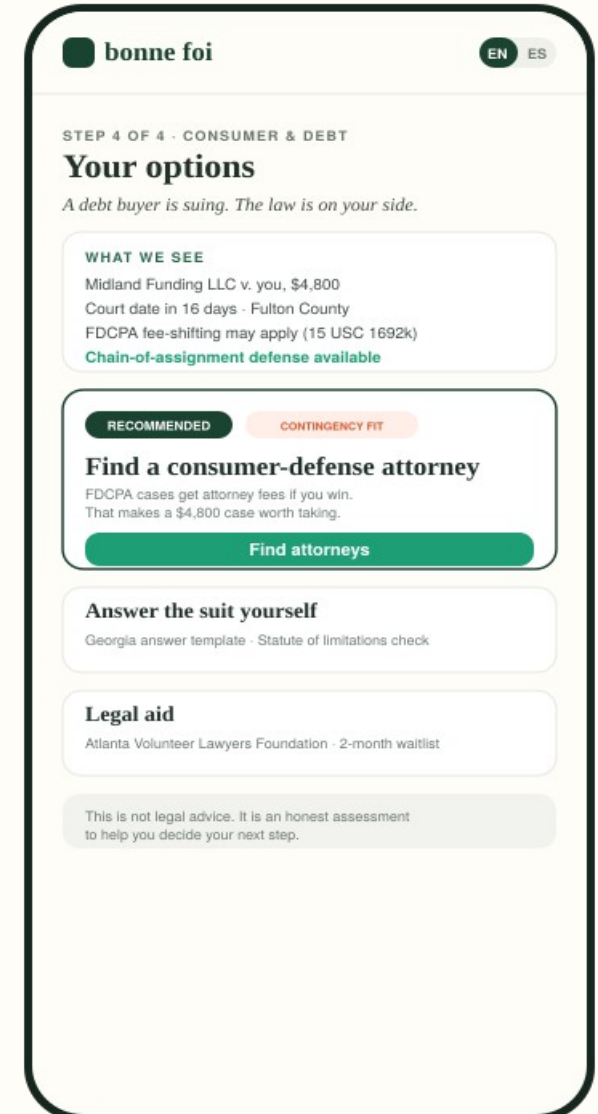
THE FAILURE

Three private attorneys passed. Their intake assistants heard the dollar amount and stopped calling back. Atlanta Legal Aid has a two-month waitlist. A debt-relief mill wants \$1,200 upfront. The case is meritorious. Nobody will take it.

WHAT BONNE FOI DOES

Surfaces the FDCPA fee-shifting argument. Finds Sarah Lin, who has 38 debt-buyer defense cases on record and takes FDCPA on contingency because the statute pays her if Vanessa wins. The matter that looked too small to a generalist is exactly the right shape for a specialist.

Key stat: Consumer and finance is the #1 civil legal need in America at 66% prevalence (LSC 2017).



Diana. Family and DV.

THE PERSON

Diana, 32. Detroit metro. Hospital cafeteria worker, \$38K, two kids. Active PPO after leaving her husband. He has now filed for primary custody. Hearing in 42 days. His attorney's retainer is \$7,500.

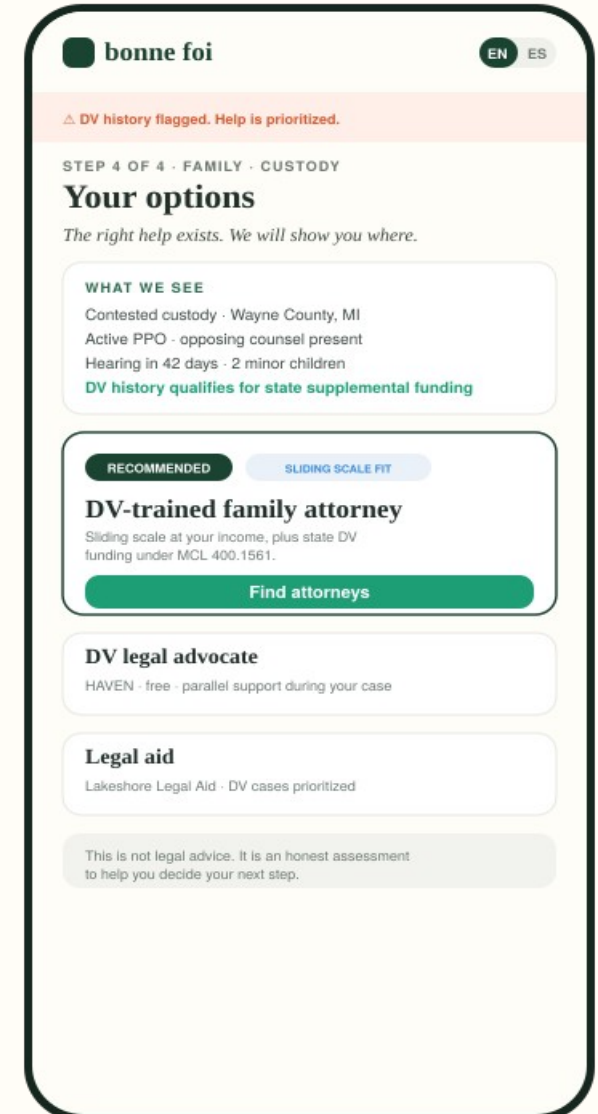
THE FAILURE

She earns \$4K too much for Michigan Legal Help full representation. A retainer is impossible. Most family attorneys are not trauma-informed. The state has funding for DV-history cases and sliding-scale family attorneys exist, but no person tells her which to use, when.

WHAT BONNE FOI DOES

Flags the DV history at intake. Finds Rachel Park, who has 22 custody-with-DV-history cases on record and is sliding-scale-eligible at Diana's income. Surfaces state supplemental funding under MCL 400.1561. Connects her to a HAVEN DV advocate for parallel support.

Key stats: 80% of family-court litigants are unrepresented (CA Judicial Council). 1 in 4 LSC households includes a DV/SA survivor (LSC 2022).



Cora. Eviction and convergence.

THE PERSON

Cora, 39. Brooklyn. Founder of a small marketing consultancy. Rent-stabilized one-bedroom for nine years. The new management company served her a thirty-day notice citing “operating a business in the unit.” Her lease has no such restriction. The notice is a pretext to clear the unit and re-list at market rate.

THE FAILURE

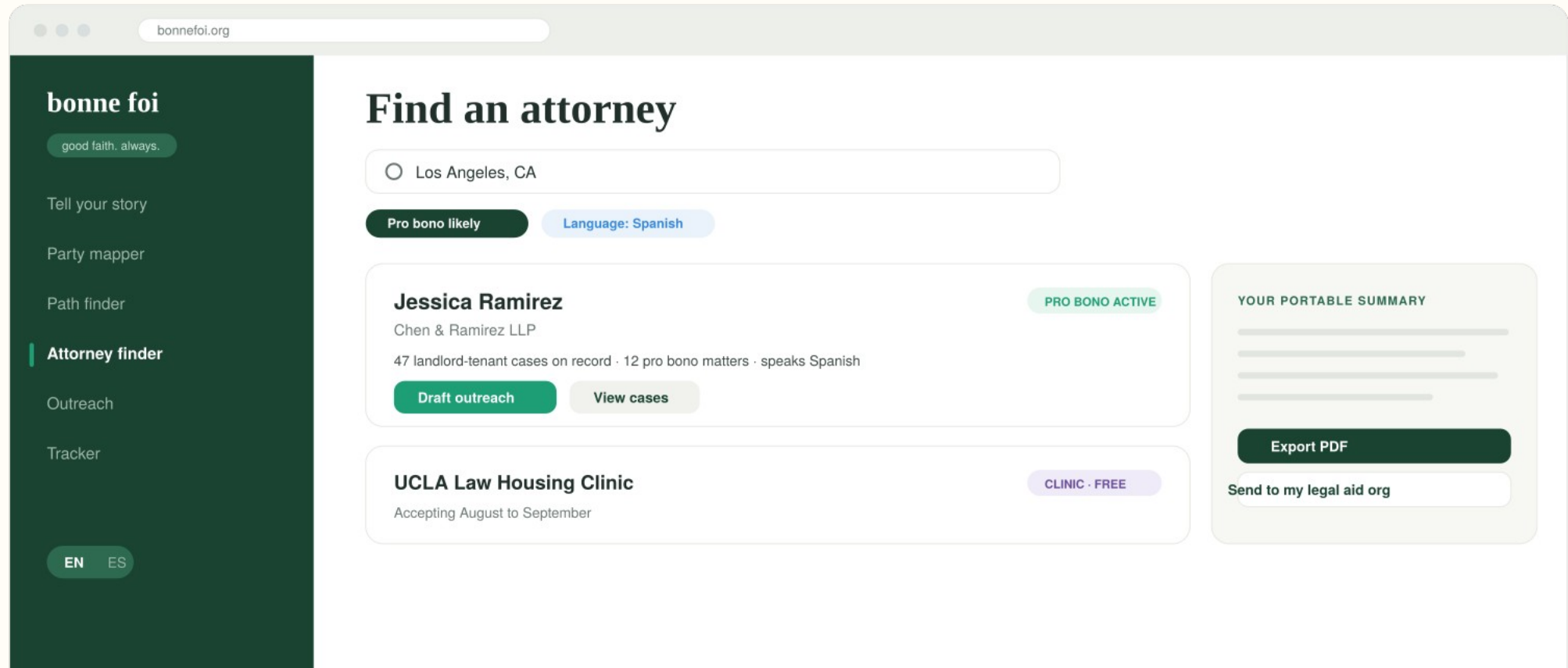
She called four landlord-tenant attorneys. Two never returned the call. One quoted \$3,500 just for the response brief. The fourth told her to “just move.” Meanwhile a former contractor is disputing the IP on her consultancy's brand work. The eviction is civil. The IP dispute is corporate. Both matters landed within three weeks. She earns too much for legal aid and not enough to absorb private retainers in two lanes.

WHAT BONNE FOI DOES

Triage confirms the case has merit. Routes the housing matter to Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A and to a small rent-stabilization boutique on flat fee. Triages the IP matter to a separate small-firm IP defender. The portable summary follows her into both lanes so she never re-explains. This is the missing-middle case the legal-aid funding model does not cover, and the case the private market will not respond to.

Key context: Housing is 24% of LSC service hours (2017). NYC has 1M+ rent-stabilized units; pretext eviction is a documented landlord strategy.

Same product, any browser.



Built mobile-first, but the same Bonne Foi runs in any browser. No app store, no install, reachable from a library computer or a caseworker's laptop.

\$5M, 32 awards, no bridge between them.

In LSC's 2024 Technology Initiative Grants: 32 awards at 29 organizations, \$5M+ deployed. Five of them, directly, built intake or triage tools. The pattern repeats back to 2017.

603 Legal Aid \$273,875	NH	Statewide self-help site with eligibility triage and intake forms.
Legal Aid of North Carolina \$518,987	NC	“New Access Model” intake modernization with AI.
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services \$212,459	LA	Web app with AI legal-issue search and a smart referral algorithm.
California Indian Legal Services \$230,000	CA	End-to-end intake workflow overhaul.
Northwest Justice Project \$61,435	WA	LegalServer clinics intake module.

Every grant rebuilds intake inside one organization. None of them builds the bridge between them.