ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Gavel

The Insider's Guide

Document automation for Word and PDF, plus AI contract review



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among law practice software, read from Gavel's own pages.

Made by Gavel · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Gavel's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Gavel's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

1.8

GPA, above 4 of the 25 other law practice software we grade

Gavel, formerly Documate, automates legal documents from client-facing forms and internal data, in Word and PDF. It also sells Gavel Exec, an AI contract review product that works inside Word. The site says Gavel has been acquired by Relativity.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Gavel**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **You build the templates yourself before it is useful, so it is a C.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for building legal documents from templates**

Gavel turns Word and PDF forms into automated documents, from $83 a month with one builder seat and 10 templates.

2 **Paid plans start at $83 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $83 per month, billing basis not shown.

3 **You can try it first**

7-day free trial on Lite, Standard and Pro.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Word document automation**

Templates are built from your own Word documents with custom rules.

6 **PDF form automation**

Fillable PDFs are filled from the same questions and data.

7 **Client-facing forms**

Workflows collect client information and produce documents, and can be embedded on a website from the Pro plan.

8 **A 1.8 GPA, above 4 of 25**

That is against the other law practice software we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Gavel you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Gavel at a glance

PRICING Free trial, from $83 per month, billing basis not shown	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL 7-day free trial on Lite, Standard and Pro.	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Gavel	CATEGORY Law Practice Software
OUR GRADE 1.8 GPA, weak	

The report card

Best for building legal documents from templates

Gavel turns Word and PDF forms into automated documents, from $83 a month with one builder seat and 10 templates. That is a different job from

case management, so you will need other software too, and the template caps push you up to $210 and $290 plans.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Gavel	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	$83 a month for one builder seat and 10 templates, at the top of the category against a $59 middle. Standard is $210 and Pro $290.
Free plan and trial	C	7-day trial on Lite, Standard and Pro with no card. No free plan.
Features	D	Word and PDF document automation, client forms and a template library. It is one narrow job and does not run cases, billing or trust accounts.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You build the templates yourself before it is useful, so it is a C.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with Clio Manage, Zapier, DocuSign and Stripe listed.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Gavel is for

- ✓ Fits if you draft the same documents over and over and want them automated
- ✓ Works for firms that already run cases in Clio and need document building

Who it is not for

- ✕ Too light for running a practice: no cases, billing or trust accounting
- ✕ Tight if you want more than 10 templates: that needs Standard at $210
- ✕ Pricey if you want payments, your own domain or DocuSign: those are Pro at $290
- ✕ Watch out: the page's billing toggle may show different prices from the ones read here

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Firms that want to turn intake answers into finished documents
- ✓ Practices that sell document-based services online
- ✓ Teams already using Clio Manage or Zapier

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The pricing page shows a Billed monthly and a Billed annually toggle, and the figures read here may not match the toggle you see; check before buying.
- ⓘ Template caps apply: 10 on Lite, 50 on Standard and 100 on Pro.
- ⓘ Gavel Exec contract review has its own pricing tab, which is not covered here.
- ⓘ The site says Gavel was acquired by Relativity.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$83
A month to start

Gavel is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $83 per month, billing basis not shown.

LITE

$83

per month, billing basis not shown beside the figure

1 builder seat, 10 document templates, Word and PDF automation and the Clio Manage integration.

STANDARD

$210

per month, billing basis not shown beside the figure

1 builder seat, 50 templates, saved and reusable data, your logo, Zapier integration and phone support.

PRO

$290

per month, billing basis not shown beside the figure

2 builder and 3 organization user seats, 100 templates, legal template library, Stripe payments, custom domain, DocuSign integration.

SCALE

$417

per month and up, billed annually

Sold through sales: per-seat pricing, custom limits, API access, single sign-on and an account manager.

Trying it first

7-day free trial on Lite, Standard and Pro.

Read from gavel.io on Nov 12, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

2 months free on annual plans

Annual plans, billed upfront, get 2 months free.

Stated on gavel.io

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Document automation for Word and PDF, plus AI contract review. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, templates, workflow automation, documents, forms.

> **Word and PDF document automation, client forms and a template library.**

From our grade for features

Word document automation

Templates are built from your own Word documents with custom rules.

PDF form automation

Fillable PDFs are filled from the same questions and data.

Client-facing forms

Workflows collect client information and produce documents, and can be embedded on a website from the Pro plan.

Legal template library

Pre-built legal templates and court forms come with the Pro plan.

Online payments

The Pro plan can collect payments through Stripe, for selling online legal services.

Gavel Exec

A separate contract review product that drafts, reviews and redlines inside Word, priced on its own tab.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Clio Manage
Zapier
DocuSign
Stripe

Gavel is made by Gavel.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

4/25

Other law practice software it is graded above

Gavel's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 4 of the 25 other law practice software we grade, and level with 8.

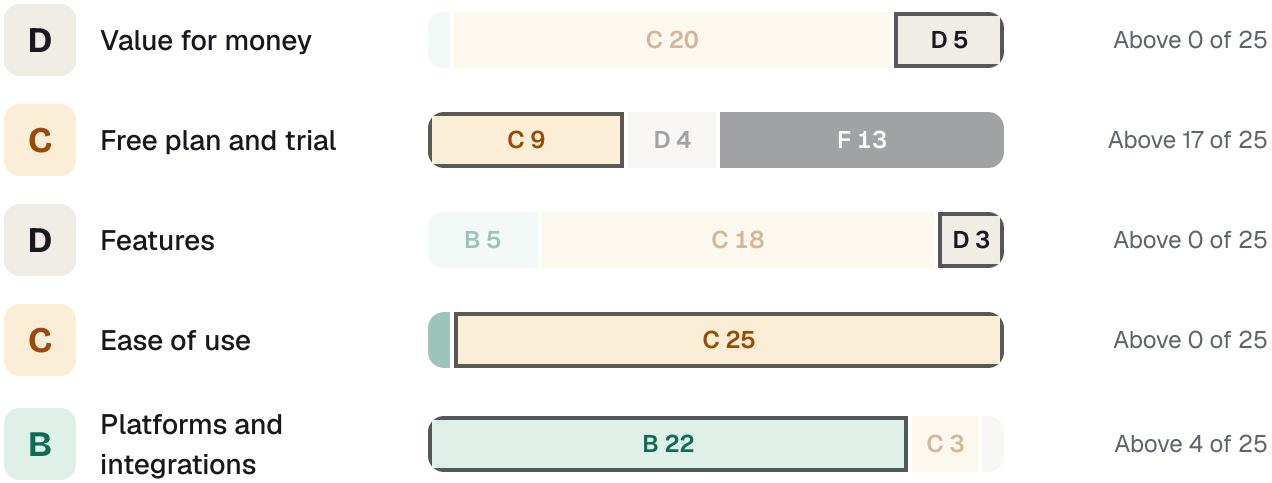
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 4 of 25) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $83 a month, against a middle price of $59 for the category: 9 of the 10 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 9 tools score higher and cost less.

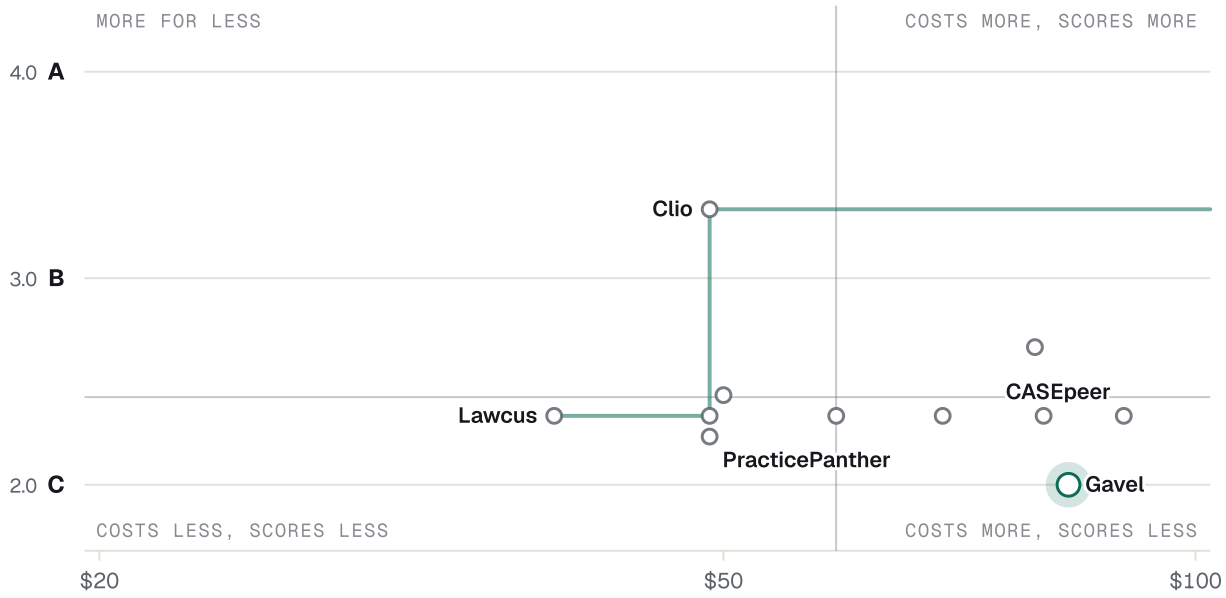
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 26 law practice software we grade, cut by the letter each got. Gavel's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 11 law practice software. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Gavel is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Gavel you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 13 of the 25 other law practice software grade higher. It costs $996 a year.

What you could make

- Documents, templates and forms: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

What this rests on. Gavel's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Lawmatics, Clio, MyCase and PracticePanther

The 4 tools Gavel is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

1.8 GPA

Lawmatics

Paid

Client intake, legal CRM and marketing automation for law firms.

- Only Lawmatics lists iOS and Android apps.
- Gavel also covers templates, workflow automation and documents.
- Lawmatics also covers sales pipeline, marketing automation, email campaigns, business texting and appointment booking.

Gavel and Lawmatics compared in full

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Clio

Free trial · from $49/mo

Practice management, legal accounting and legal AI for law firms.

- Only Clio lists iOS and Android apps.
- Gavel also covers templates, workflow automation, documents and forms.
- Clio also covers time tracking, invoicing, bookkeeping, case management and trust accounting.

Gavel and Clio compared in full

2.2
GPA

MyCase

Free trial · from $50/mo

Case management, billing and client portal for small law firms.

- Only MyCase lists iOS and Android apps.
- Gavel also covers templates, workflow automation and documents.
- MyCase also covers time tracking, invoicing, business texting, case management and trust accounting.

Gavel and MyCase compared in full

2.2
GPA

PracticePanther

Free trial · from $49/mo

Law practice management with built-in payments and accounting.

- Only PracticePanther lists iOS and Android apps.
- Gavel also covers templates, workflow automation and documents.
- PracticePanther also covers time tracking, invoicing, business texting, case management and trust accounting.

Gavel and PracticePanther compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

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Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Gavel free?

No, Gavel is a paid product, but you can try it first. 7-day free trial on Lite, Standard and Pro.

How much does Gavel cost?

Gavel lists 4 plans. Lite: $83 per month, billing basis not shown beside the figure.

What platforms does Gavel work on?

Gavel is available on Web.

Does Gavel offer any discounts?

Gavel publicly lists the following: 2 months free on annual plans.

Does Gavel have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Gavel is listed for Web.

Does Gavel have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Gavel is listed for Web.

Is Gavel open source?

Gavel is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Does Gavel have an API?

Yes. Gavel offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does Gavel integrate with?

Gavel's listing names Clio Manage, Zapier, DocuSign and Stripe. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Gavel?

Gavel is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Gavel?

The closest alternatives to Gavel in our directory are Lawmatics, Clio, MyCase and PracticePanther.

How does Gavel compare with other law practice software?

Gavel's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 4 of the 25 other law practice software we grade, and level with 8.

Is Gavel good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Gavel D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $83 a month, against a middle price of $59 for the category: 9 of the 10 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Gavel?

To replace Gavel you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Gavel's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Gavel's own pages on 12 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Gavel. Prices change, so check gavel.io before you buy.

gavel.io/pricing

gavel.io

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038
Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

5,038	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Gavel, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/gavel

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Gavel: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 12, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/gavel
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Know someone choosing between law practice software?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/gavel/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded law practice software after Gavel, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Law Practice Software Insider's Guide

Every one of the 26 law practice software we grade, compared

Clio Insider's Guide

Practice management, legal accounting and legal AI for law firms

2.8 GPA

CARET Legal Insider's Guide

Cloud practice management with billing and accounting for law firms

2.2 GPA

CosmoLex Insider's Guide

Law practice management with trust and business accounting built in

2.2 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Gavel's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Gavel is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Gavel. Prices and plans change: check gavel.io before you buy.