



# MCP Connectors: Claude's Gate to the World

An MCP connector lets Claude reach into the software your firm already uses, whether that is your document management system, your e-signature platform, or your case-law database. Work that currently has fee-earners bouncing between five applications can run inside one Claude conversation. Find the precedent in NetDocuments, draft from it, send the Docusign envelope, file the executed copy back. Connectors take the tab-switching and copy-pasting out of the workflow.

## Common misunderstandings

Before going further, a few things to keep in mind:

**They do not make Claude proficient at your firm's work.** Turning a connector on gives Claude access to the tool sitting behind it. The work itself still needs context, decent prompts, and a fee-earner reviewing what comes out. Do not write off an MCP because the first attempt was underwhelming.

**They do not certify safety or compliance.** Anthropic hosts the directory where you find these connectors, but Anthropic does not vouch for each one as production-ready for legal work, or as covered by the supplier agreements your firm already has on file. Appearing in the directory is not the same as being covered by your contract. Check each one against your firm's terms before client data goes through it.

**Most are not covered by your Anthropic plan.** The majority of MCPs are operated by the vendor whose tool they connect to. The vendor runs the connector, and your agreement with that vendor governs how data moves through it. Your Anthropic plan covers what Claude does with the data, not what the vendor does on its side. The exception worth knowing about is the Microsoft 365 connector, which Anthropic runs directly. There, your Anthropic plan covers the connector itself, while your Microsoft 365 terms govern your underlying data. The practical question to ask, before assuming you are covered, is who actually runs the server behind the connector.

**They do not replace the underlying tool.** The MCP sits alongside NetDocuments, Box, or Docusign. Tasks the connector does not expose still need you logged into the tool directly. Claude pulls work across these systems; it does not replace them.

## Six questions to ask before you turn one on

### 1. Do you already use the tool behind the connector?

If your firm is not on NetDocuments, the NetDocuments MCP will not help you. You need the underlying tool first. Some are free, some are paid. Either way, the connector is a layer on top of something you already have.

### 2. Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?

Some MCPs are worth using through Claude because Claude can take an output from one tool, like a clause pulled from iManage, and feed it straight into another, like a Docusign envelope or a Word memo, without you stepping between them. For others, the tool's own interface is faster and Claude only adds a step. The judgement is whether the connector enables work you could not otherwise do, or just relocates work you can already do somewhere else.

### 3. What does it cost, and can you actually turn it on today?

Some are free. Some require a specific paid tier of the underlying platform. Some are not openly available yet, gated by an access request or still in early testing. Know which bucket the MCP sits in before you start setting it up.



#### 4. Does it respect your existing permissions and ethical walls?

Some vendors are explicit about this. Microsoft 365 and NetDocuments both make a point of it in their marketing. For others, you will need to ask. Your matter security, conflicts walls, and document-level access controls should stay intact once Claude is in the loop.

#### 5. Is MCP access covered by your existing data processing agreement?

iManage's standard Cloud Services Agreement explicitly names MCP Server access. Other vendor terms have not caught up yet. If your DPA is silent on the connector, ask the vendor for an amendment or written confirmation before client data goes through it.

#### 6. Read-only, or read and write?

Read-only means Claude can search, summarise, and retrieve. That is the right fit for research, precedent search, and due diligence preparation. Read and write means Claude can also act inside the tool: send a Docusign envelope, file a document in NetDocuments, update a record. Different work becomes possible at each level. So does the risk profile and the supervision conversation that goes with it.

## Reviews of six common MCPs

Below are six connectors that come up most often in boutique law firm stacks, each looked at through the questions above.

### NetDocuments

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	Claude pulls work across your matter library, which is where the value sits. Build timelines from past matters, run precedent comparisons, draft from prior deals, produce comparison tables across leases. The NetDocuments search and retrieve interface does not do those on its own.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Live in Anthropic's connector directory. Requires the ndMAX Enterprise tier of NetDocuments specifically. Lower NetDocuments subscriptions do not include it.
<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	The connector runs on each user's existing NetDocuments credentials. Ethical walls, matter-level restrictions, DLP, retention policies, and audit trails all apply automatically. IT can switch connectivity on or off firm-wide from a single admin control.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	Covered by NetDocuments' existing data processing addendum. The connector runs within their existing security model rather than carving out new terms. Worth confirming with your NetDocuments account manager that the DPA on file maps cleanly onto the AI integration.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read only. Claude reads documents from NetDocuments. Drafts Claude produces stay inside Claude until you save them back into NetDocuments yourself. Lower exposure than a read and write connector, at the cost of some manual copy-pasting.



## Box

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	The value sits in cross-file work. Compare clauses across multiple SLAs, extract expiration dates across every contract in a folder, summarise across files, combine Box actions with other tools. Box's own interface is faster when you are finding and previewing a single file.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Live in Anthropic's connector directory. Needs Box Business plan or higher, plus Box AI Units. The Enterprise, Enterprise Plus, and Enterprise Advanced tiers include AI Units. Business and Business Plus need them bought separately.
<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	Inherits your existing Box permissions: folder permissions, collaborator roles, classifications. Box is not a legal-specific DMS, so it does not come with ethical walls or matter-level restrictions built in. If your folder structure does not already map to matter security, the connector will not add that layer for you.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	Covered by Box's standard data processing addendum, with EU and UK standard contractual clauses included. AI-specific terms are still evolving, and Box has published guidance on AI compliance under the EU AI Act. Worth confirming with your account team that the existing DPA covers MCP-mediated AI access.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read and write. Claude can search, read, summarise, create files and folders, generate shared links, and write metadata back to files. Higher exposure than read-only. Configure permissions with that in mind.

## DocuSign

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	Worth routing through Claude when signing is part of a larger flow. Pull a contract from your DMS, customize parties, queue the envelope, file the executed copy back to the matter folder. For single-step envelope sending, DocuSign's own interface is faster.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Not openly available today. Closed beta, with rolling access granted based on use case fit. Apply through the request-access form linked from the Anthropic listing. Open beta is planned but undated. Once granted, the connector runs on top of your existing DocuSign subscription.



<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	Inherits DocuSign's existing account roles and permissions. DocuSign is not a legal-specific permissioning system, so it has no built-in ethical wall mechanism. If your firm's DocuSign account is shared across matters, the connector sees whatever the authenticated user can see.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	DocuSign has a robust standard DPA across its services, with EU standard contractual clauses, binding corporate rules, and 72-hour breach notification. The complication is the beta status. Beta software typically comes with additional terms that can modify warranties and occasionally data handling provisions. Confirm with DocuSign's account team that the existing DPA fully covers MCP beta access before client data goes through it.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read and write. Claude can search agreements and surface insights on one side, and create, send, route, and manage envelope workflows on the other. Higher exposure than read-only. Production rollout needs careful permission scoping.

### CourtListener (Free Law Project)

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	For litigators, the highest-value use is verifying citations in AI-drafted briefs against a canonical database, which is how you can catch hallucinations. Also useful for judge profiles and case research without leaving Claude. The CourtListener website is fine for one-off lookups. The connector earns its layer when verification or research is part of a larger workflow.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Live in Anthropic's connector directory. Free for any CourtListener account holder, and creating an account is also free. Default API rate limits are 5 requests per minute, 50 per hour, 125 per day, which is fine for typical boutique use. High-volume users (large-scale brief verification, ongoing docket monitoring) need a Free Law Project membership for elevated access.
<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	Not a concern in the usual way. CourtListener data is public federal and state court records, so no client data flows to them through the connector. The only data your firm sends is your search queries and citation checks. Standard read-side privacy applies.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	Minimal risk surface, because the connector is read-side access to public legal data. Free Law Project publishes standard terms of service for their platform. If your firm has heightened



	concerns about search-query logging, ask them about commercial agreements with stricter terms.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read and write per the Anthropic listing, but the write side is narrow: setting alerts for new opinions and subscribing to docket updates. Almost all practical use is read-side. Lower exposure than other read and write connectors, because you cannot modify legal records.

## iManage

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	iManage's own search finds you a specific document. Claude reads across many documents at once and produces work from what it finds. Ask it to compare break clauses across every commercial lease the firm has drafted in the last three years, draft an NDA from prior NDAs for similar clients, or summarise an entire client matter before a partner call.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Live in Anthropic's connector directory. Generally available as of May 2026. Requires iManage Cloud (so cloud customers rather than on-premises) plus the iManage AI tier of subscription.
<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	Strong. iManage is a legal-specific DMS, designed for matter security from the ground up. iManage Security Policy Manager governs ethical walls, matter-level restrictions, and document-level access controls. The connector runs under each user's existing iManage permissions, so nothing gets bypassed.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	iManage's standard Cloud Services Agreement explicitly names MCP Server access, and the DPA (Exhibit B to that agreement) covers all customer data, including MCP-mediated access. Encrypted at rest and in transit, ISO 27001 and SOC 2 certified, EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework certified. Customer-Managed Encryption Keys are available as an add-on if your firm wants to hold its own keys.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read and write. Claude can search and retrieve documents, and can also save drafts and metadata back into iManage. Higher exposure than the read-only NetDocuments connector, because Claude can change things in your DMS rather than only read from it. Configure permissions to match what you actually want Claude doing.



## CoCounsel

<b>Why through Claude rather than the tool directly?</b>	Most useful for workflows that combine research with other tasks. If you are only doing research, CoCounsel's native interface is fine. The Claude layer helps when research is part of a broader task: research a case, draft a memo from it, summarise for a client, all in one flow. Standalone deep research does not need Claude added on top.
<b>Cost and availability</b>	Live in Anthropic's connector directory. Requires a CoCounsel Legal subscription with Thomson Reuters, which bundles Westlaw Advantage, Practical Law Dynamic Tool Set, and CoCounsel Essentials. Pricing is contract-based and varies by firm size, jurisdiction, and term length. Boutiques on Westlaw alone do not have access; you need the CoCounsel bundle specifically.
<b>Permissions and ethical walls</b>	Not a primary concern. CoCounsel queries Westlaw and Practical Law, which are public legal databases. No client data flows to Thomson Reuters through the queries themselves. Standard subscriber account controls apply.
<b>DPA coverage</b>	Thomson Reuters maintains standard enterprise terms across Westlaw and CoCounsel. The connector queries public legal databases, so personal data exposure depends mainly on what facts you put into queries. AI-specific terms across CoCounsel are still evolving. Worth confirming with your Thomson Reuters account team that the existing terms cover MCP-mediated AI access.
<b>What Claude can do</b>	Read and write per the Anthropic listing. The write side is narrow: saving research conversations and follow-up queries within the CoCounsel workspace. It does not modify Westlaw or Practical Law sources. Lower exposure than other read and write connectors, because the writes are confined to the research session itself.