



# **PRACTICE DIRECTION**

## **ETHICAL USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT PROCEEDINGS**

*August 2025*

**PRACTICE DIRECTION****NO. 18 OF 2025****ETHICAL USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN COURT  
PROCEEDINGS**

This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to the powers of the Rules Committee under section 101 of the Senior Courts Act, Act No. 27 of 2022 of the Substantive Laws of Belize.

**1. Definition**

“Generative Artificial Intelligence” is a form of artificial intelligence that produces new content including text, images, video, or audio in response to prompts, based on patterns and data acquired from a body of training data. These systems range from generic large language model programmes, available as closed-source and open-source, to more bespoke programmes specifically directed to legal professionals.

**2. Scope and Application**

- (1) This Practice Direction provides guidance on the ethical and responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.
- (2) The aim is to ensure that AI is used in a manner that upholds the integrity, fairness, and transparency of the judicial process while safeguarding legal and ethical standards.
- (3) This Practice Direction applies to all AI-assisted tools used in case research, document drafting, evidence analysis, court filings, and other legal processes within the jurisdiction.
- (4) It applies to all legal professionals, judges, court personnel, attorneys, parties, witnesses, self-represented persons, and other court users.

**3. Principles Governing the Use of AI*****General Principles***

- (1) The use of AI is prohibited in the generation of the content of affidavits, witness statements, or any other material intended to reflect the evidence or opinion of a deponent or witness, or other

material tendered into evidence or used in cross-examination. Such documents shall solely reflect a person's knowledge and shall not include artificial intelligence-generated content.

- (2) The use of AI is prohibited for the purpose of altering, embellishing, strengthening, diluting, or otherwise rephrasing the evidence of a witness or deponent.
- (3) In exceptional circumstances, permission may be sought for the use of AI in the preparation or generation of any annexure or exhibit to an affidavit or witness statement. An application to the Court shall specify—
  - (a) a detailed description of the intended use of Generative AI;
  - (b) the Generative AI programme or system proposed for use (including the relevant version);
  - (c) whether the Generative AI is closed-source or open-source;
  - (d) whether the Generative AI contains privacy and/or confidentiality features; and
  - (e) the anticipated advantages of employing Generative AI in the preparation of the annexure or exhibit.
- (4) The Court does not prohibit the use of AI tools for the preparation of other court documents, provided that users comply with this Practice Direction and any relevant legislation, rules, and ethical obligations.

### ***Transparency and Explainability***

- (5) Court users shall disclose when AI-generated content is used in court submissions, including legal arguments, precedents, and reports.
- (6) Any reliance on AI-generated legal research shall be verified against authoritative legal sources to ensure accuracy.
- (7) Court users who utilise AI tools assume full responsibility for the accuracy, relevance, and appropriateness of the outputs incorporated into court documents, annexures, and exhibits presented to the Court.
- (8) Court users are reminded of their professional duty to ensure that all submissions, reports, evidence, and statements presented to the Court are independently verified and comply with rules of professional conduct.

***Accuracy and Reliability***

- (9) AI tools shall not be used as a sole source of legal reasoning or factual analysis.
- (10) Users shall independently verify AI-generated outputs to prevent errors, misinformation, or misapplication of legal principles.

***Confidentiality and Data Protection***

- (11) AI tools processing legal documents shall comply with data protection laws and ensure client confidentiality.
- (12) Sensitive or privileged information shall not be input into AI systems that lack adequate safeguards against unauthorised access.
- (13) The use of secure platforms which adhere to established ethical standards and legal requirements is recommended for processing private and confidential information.

***Bias and Fairness***

- (14) Court users shall be aware of and mitigate the risk of AI bias that may unfairly influence legal reasoning or decision-making.
- (15) AI-assisted tools shall not be used to reinforce or perpetuate discriminatory practices.

***Ethical Responsibilities of Legal Practitioners***

- (16) Attorneys shall exercise professional judgment in all AI-assisted legal work and remain accountable for their submissions.

**4. Use of AI in Judicial Decision-Making**

- (1) Judges and judicial officers shall exercise caution when reviewing AI-generated material and ensure it aligns with legal standards and precedent.
- (2) AI shall not replace human judgment in judicial decision-making. It may, however, be used as a tool for case management, legal research, and administrative efficiency.
- (3) Judges shall critically assess any AI-generated insights and ensure that legal reasoning remains independent and unbiased.

### 5. Non-Compliance and Sanctions

Failure to adhere to this Practice Direction may result in court sanctions, including but not limited to—

- (a) rejection of AI-generated submissions that lack proper verification;
- (b) ethical review of practitioners who improperly use AI in legal proceedings; or
- (c) other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate by the Court.

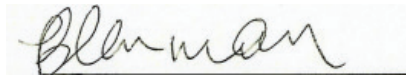
### 6. Review and Amendments

- (1) This Practice Direction shall be subject to periodic review to keep pace with developments in AI technology and its impact on the legal system.
- (2) The court reserves the right to issue further guidance as necessary to address emerging AI-related challenges.

### 7. Effective date

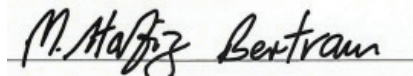
This Practice Direction shall come into effect on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

**MADE** by the Rules Committee this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.



**(HON. MDE. JUSTICE LOUISE ESTHER BLENMAN)**

*Chief Justice and Chairperson of the Rules Committee*



**(HON. MDE. JUSTICE OF APPEAL MINNET HAFIZ BERTRAM)**

*President of the Court of Appeal and Member of the Rules Committee*



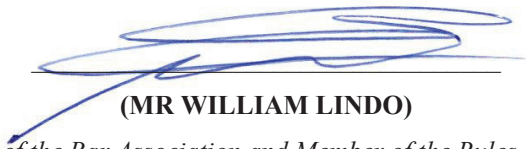
**(HON. MDE. JUSTICE ANTOINETTE MOORE)**

*Senior High Court Justice of the Criminal Division and Member of the Rules Committee*



**(HON. MDE. JUSTICE MARTHA ALEXANDER)**

*Senior High Court Justice of the Civil Division and Member of the Rules Committee*



**(MR WILLIAM LINDO)**

*President of the Bar Association and Member of the Rules Committee*