



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

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Advisory Committee on AI and the Courts Issues Inaugural Annual Report

NEW YORK—An advisory group appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas to study the intricate issues surrounding the use of artificial intelligence in the courts has released its inaugural annual report, a landmark document outlining policies, recommendations, and ethical frameworks for the responsible use of AI in the state’s court system.

Drawing on the diverse expertise of its 40-plus members, the Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts thoroughly explored the opportunities AI presents to improve efficiency, enhance legal services, and expand access to the courts, while also confronting the serious risks it poses, such as bias, misinformation, and threats to confidentiality and due process.

Based on extensive research, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative deliberation, the 154-page report includes findings, recommendations, and policy proposals from each of the Advisory Committee’s six specialized subcommittees: Access to the Courts; Bias and Equity; Court Administration and Management; Evidence, Authenticity, and Reliability; Generative AI in Lawyering and Dispute Resolution; and Knowledge, Proficiency, and Professional Responsibility.

Among the highlights contained in the report are:

- An interim policy on AI use, adopted by the court system in October 2025, that establishes guardrails for judges and court staff, requiring AI training and restricting AI use to approved platforms such as Microsoft Copilot Chat, with the Advisory Committee now monitoring feedback from the 200-plus judges and non-judicial employees who recently completed the court system’s Microsoft Copilot Chat pilot program.
- A document produced in connection with the AI use policy that sets forth ethical considerations for judges and their staff in using AI, with an emphasis on confidentiality, judicial independence, and responsible AI use.

- A proposed model rule addressing the use of generative AI by attorneys or litigants in preparing court papers and firmly establishing that any such use of AI must be undertaken in a conscientious manner.
- Recommendations for the use of AI tools that, prioritizing data security, transparency, and accountability and guarding against bias, will serve to assist unrepresented litigants and improve language accessibility.
- Findings related to the assessment and admissibility of AI-generated evidence and ways for courts to avoid the risk of unreliable evidence being admitted at trial and prevent unnecessary delays in proceedings, among other evidentiary issues.
- Recommendations on the use of AI to enhance court operations and administration, such as for court research, case inventory management, computer programming, and data security, among other tasks.
- Strategies for mitigating bias, with the Advisory Committee calling for safeguards to ensure that AI tools are developed and implemented in a manner that promotes equity, prevents unfair bias, and supports the courts' ability to safeguard the rights of all individuals, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. The report contains detailed findings from the Bias and Equity subcommittee that address the risks, as well as the legal and ethical challenges, presented by AI in the justice system. These findings underscore the need for guardrails to prevent algorithmic bias, along with cross-validation protocols and strict limits on AI, particularly in the high-risk context of assisting with crucial decisions such as bail and sentencing.
- Proposals for the creation of educational materials to promote AI literacy for all court users.
- Recommendations for expanded judicial training and CLE programs, with the Advisory Committee on AI in the Courts collaborating with the courts' Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics in presenting several judicial training programs designed to address some of the legal, practical, and ethical dimensions of AI.

“The use of AI in and by our courts must be thoughtful, careful, and principled,” said Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson. “This report provides a roadmap for harnessing technology to improve efficiency and access to justice while safeguarding fairness and fostering public trust in our courts and justice system.”

“This inaugural Annual Report reflects the Advisory Committee’s in-depth exploration of the myriad, knotty issues relating to the use of AI within our courts and legal system as we seek, cautiously, to embrace the efficiencies and enhancements offered by this fast-evolving technology,” said Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas. “I am grateful to the Advisory Committee co-chairs, Appellate Division, Second Department Associate Justice Angela G. Iannacci, prominent attorney Stuart Levi, and distinguished law professor Jason Schultz, to the subcommittees’ chairs, and to the Committee’s counsel, Karl Pflanz, for their tireless work in developing a broad foundation to guide the implementation of AI technology within the judiciary. I look forward to the group’s ongoing efforts and recommendations.”

“I commend the Advisory Committee on this stellar report, which meticulously examines both the benefits and the risks posed by AI as it relates to the various aspects of court operations, legal practice, and access to justice,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George. “A key takeaway from this pivotal document, which lays the groundwork for the courts’ ongoing progress in integrating AI, is the need for continuous learning, collaboration, and adaptability as we work to leverage this emerging — and transformative — technology in the fairest, most effective manner.”

The Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on AI and the Courts is available at:
[Advisory Committee on AI and the Courts Annual Report 2025](#)

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