

Idaho Judicial Branch

Guiding Principles: AI

MISSION ALIGNMENT

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will support the Idaho courts' core mission of providing access to justice through fair processes and timely, impartial case resolution. AI is a tool to enhance effectiveness and efficiency without compromising judicial independence, integrity, and public trust. AI should complement essential human roles in adjudication and service delivery.

ETHICAL USE

AI implementation must uphold the highest ethical standards, ensuring integrity of court processes, accuracy and security of data, protection of confidentiality, and preservation of public trust. AI use will be appropriate to the importance and sensitivity of the judicial function supported.

INDEPENDENCE

The judiciary's independence and judges' independent judgment must be preserved. AI serves only as a supportive tool and must never replace judicial judgment or decision-making. The Code of Judicial Conduct applies fully to AI use.

TRANSPARENCY

AI systems must be documented, validated, tested, and trustworthy. The Idaho courts commit to public information sharing about AI development and use, with ongoing oversight for accuracy, reliability, and security. AI reliance must be transparent to ensure accountability and avoid undue influence with an emphasis on human accountability and autonomy in judicial reasoning.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Human oversight and final responsibility must be maintained throughout AI deployment. Systems must be reliable, continuously monitored for bias, unfairness or discriminatory outcomes, and subjected to recurrent testing. Privacy and security of sensitive information are paramount. Administrative processes will include mechanisms for redress or review when errors or disputes arise in the use of AI systems by courts.

FAIRNESS

AI must promote equal access to justice, be inclusive and accessible to all regardless of socioeconomic status or disability, and actively work to identify, mitigate, and eliminate systematic unfairness and algorithmic bias.

EMPOWERMENT

AI should be guided by user needs using participatory methods involving those who know the work best. Courts must provide adequate education and training to promote AI literacy, help users safely and effectively utilize AI tools, properly monitor AI outputs, and know how to effectively provide feedback on the tools' accuracy and utility.

