PRACTICE DIRECTION ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
(No. 1 of 2026)

Introduction

1. This Practice Direction is issued pursuant to articles 38.2 and 26.2 of the Rules and Procedures of the QFC Civil and Commercial Court (the '**QFC Court**') and the QFC Regulatory Tribunal (the '**RT**'), respectively. Unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Practice Direction to the Court shall be deemed to apply to the RT equally.

2. This Practice Direction applies to litigants, their legal representatives, and any legal practitioners who appear in the QFC Court and the RT ('**Court Users**').

3. For the purposes of this Practice Direction, "*Artificial Intelligence*" and "*AI*" refers to computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence.

4. The use of Artificial Intelligence is to be welcomed in litigation in the QFC Court and RT with its potential to reduce cost and promote greater effectiveness[1].

5. Nothing in this Practice Direction alters, diminishes, or replaces a Court User's existing ethical, professional, or legal duties, all of which continue to apply in full when using AI.

6. The QFC Court and RT recognise that the field of AI is continuously developing. This Practice Direction, and any related Practice Guidance, will be reviewed periodically. Opinions from Court Users and other competent professionals will be welcomed.

Professional and ethical obligations

7. Court Users remain responsible for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of information submitted to the Court.

8. It is a breach of duty to mislead the Court or submit materials containing fabricated or unverifiable legal citations.

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[1] *Jonathan David Sheppard v Jillion LLC* [2025] QIC (E) 3, paragraph 19.

Understanding generative AI's limitations

9. Court Users must understand that AI tools may generate false citations or misstate applicable law.
10. AI tools do not reliably distinguish between jurisdictions and may refer to irrelevant foreign legal principles.

11. When drafting witness evidence, Court Users must not rely solely on AI-generated outputs. All material generated by AI tools must be verified before use.

Confidentiality and data protection

12. Confidential, privileged, or protected information must not be entered into AI tools, except where private, secure AI platforms are used.

13. Where possible, Court Users are encouraged to disable chat history or use privacy-protective settings when using AI tools.

14. Misuse of AI in breach of confidentiality may result in sanctions or other appropriate measures.

Accuracy and accountability

15. Court Users must review and verify the factual and legal accuracy of AI-generated material.

16. All citations must be checked against primary sources or recognised legal databases.

17. The Court and RT will disregard submissions containing fictitious cases, legislation, or factual assertions outside the evidence, and may take further action.

18. AI tools must not be used to generate evidence. It is prohibited to ask AI to fabricate or tamper with evidence.

Bundles

19. If AI systems are used to create or organise eBundles, parties must ensure all documents are correctly indexed, paginated, and relevant.

20. Responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of eBundles remains with the submitting party.

21. All eBundles must conform to the requirements of the Maroon Book (User Guide), Chapter 16.

Use of multimedia AI tools

22. Where visual or audio evidence is generated or enhanced using multimedia AI, the Court User who submitted it must clearly disclose the use and source of the technology.
23. Any submission suspected of being a 'deepfake' or manipulated without disclosure may be excluded and investigated.

Disclosure of AI use

24. Pre-emptive declaration of the use of AI is not required unless the Court specifically asks for it.

25. The Court may determine that fairness or procedural good faith requires disclosure of AI use to other parties or the Court.

26. Court Users must be prepared to identify portions of documents that used AI-generated content and explain how they verified the output. The Court may require an explanation or an affidavit.

Inappropriate or misleading use

27. Inappropriate or misleading use of AI may lead to:

    i.   Disregarding affected pleadings or evidence in part or in whole.

    ii. Adverse costs orders.

    iii. Referral to professional regulators.

    iv. Contempt of court proceedings where appropriate.

Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd
President of the Qatar International Court

Sir William Blair
Chairman of the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Tribunal

6 January 2026