

NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS OF PAKISTAN

Approved by
National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee
(57th Meeting - February, 2026)




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Introduction



1. Background

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has prompted a proactive institutional response from Pakistan's judiciary to ensure that technological innovation strengthens, rather than undermines, the integrity of the legal system. In early 2025, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in its landmark judgment in *Ishfaq Ahmed v. Mushtaq Ahmed* (CPLA No. 1010-L/2022), formally acknowledged AI's potential to alleviate chronic case backlogs and improve judicial efficiency.

At the same time, the institution remained cognizant of the risks associated with the unregulated use of AI; particularly in the absence of verified data, clear accountability structures, and an established institutional policy framework. In response, the Secretariat of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) initiated a structured effort to govern the integration of AI within the judicial system. A Draft Charter on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary was accordingly developed, drawing upon international best practices, including the EU AI Act and UNESCO's ethical frameworks on AI governance.

Following detailed deliberations in its 53rd meeting, the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) referred the draft to the National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) for specialized review. The NJAC was tasked to refine and finalize the National Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Institutions of Pakistan, ensuring their alignment with constitutional principles, institutional needs, and emerging technological standards.

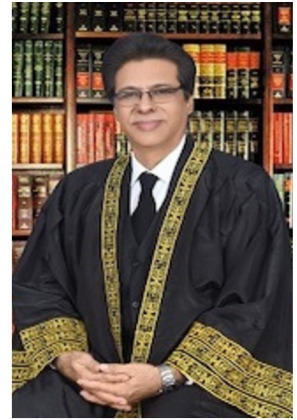
2. National Judicial Automation Committee

The National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC) is a sub-committee of the

National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) mandated to steer the digital transformation and modernization of Pakistan's judiciary.

The composition of NJAC, as notified on May 27, 2025, was as under:

- **Chairman:**
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar**, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan
- **Member:**
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shahid Waheed**, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ali Baqar Najafi**, the then Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar**, Alim Judge, Federal Shariat Court
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Junaid Ghaffar**, then Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Malakhail**, then Senior Puisne Judge, High Court of Balochistan
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh**, Judge, Lahore High Court
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad**, Judge, Lahore High Court
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wiqar Ahmad**, Judge, Peshawar High Court
 - **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan**, Judge, Islamabad High Court
 - **Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat**, the then Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar
Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan

As the technical arm of the judiciary, the NJAC is responsible for modernizing court processes and integrating digital infrastructure across both superior and district judiciary.

3. The Consultative & Review Process

On 12 September 2025, the NJAC considered the Draft Charter on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Judiciary, prepared by the LJCP Secretariat. In order to ensure that the proposed framework was both technically robust and operationally viable, the NJAC constituted a specialized sub-committee under the leadership of Mr. Fakhar Zaman, Director (Academics and Training) Federal Judicial Academy with representatives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and Ministry of IT and Telecom.

The sub-committee, comprising Mr. Abdul Rasheed Mahar (Director General, ICT, Supreme Court of Pakistan) and Mr. Zakir Sayed (Director, Ministry of IT and Telecom), adopted a consultative and collaborative approach. A central feature of its work was an extensive consultation process through which feedback was solicited from all High Courts. This process ensured that the diverse operational realities, institutional capacities, and jurisdictional needs of the High Courts were adequately reflected in the evolving framework.


In addition, the sub-committee incorporated academic and technical expertise by engaging Dr. Qaisar Ahsan, Director General, National Center for Physics, Quaid-e-Azam University and Dr. Yasir Ayaz, Chairman of the National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), NUST. Following the integration of inputs received from the High Courts and the incorporation of technical refinements, the sub-committee finalized its recommendations and submitted to the NJAC. Following the approval of NJAC, the amended framework was placed before the NJPMC for consideration in its 56th meeting.

4. Conclusion and Adoption

After extensive deliberation, the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee, based on the recommendations of the NJAC, approved the guidelines, reaffirming the foundational constitutional principle: the administrative and judicial autonomy of the provincial High Courts.

While the approved guidelines establish a coherent national standard for the integration of Artificial Intelligence, the NJPMC underscored that each High Court retains full discretion to adopt and implement the framework within its respective jurisdiction. This approach ensures that the deployment of AI tools can be calibrated to local institutional capacities, operational realities, and regional contexts, while remaining aligned with the overarching ethical, legal, and technical benchmarks set at the national level.

This publication is intended to serve both as an authoritative reference and a collaborative blueprint. It enables the High Courts to steer their own digital transformation trajectories, ensuring that the integration of Artificial Intelligence within Pakistan's judiciary reflects a careful equilibrium between technological advancement, provincial autonomy, and the enduring imperative of judicial independence.



National Guidelines for use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Institutions of Pakistan

Preamble

Pakistan's judiciary stands at a defining moment, with challenges of substantial case backlogs and the imperative to strengthen efficiency, transparency, and access to justice. This regulatory basis is designed to establish a clear, comprehensive, and structured framework for the ethical, responsible, and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the judicial institutions of Pakistan. Aligned with the National AI Policy 2025 and informed by leading international best practices, the framework underscores that AI is intended to augment – not supplant – humanly reasoned decision-making. It further recognizes that the adoption of AI must safeguard judicial independence, uphold constitutional values, stimulate innovation, and guard against algorithmic risks. The deployment of AI within Pakistan's judicial sector shall always be anchored in constitutional principles, robust human oversight, and an unwavering commitment to ethical responsibility.

1. Short Title and Commencement

These Guidelines may be called “National Guidelines for Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Institutions of Pakistan”, hereinafter referred as The Guidelines. These Guidelines shall come into force at once.

2. Applicability of the Guidelines

The Guidelines are intended to be followed by Superior Courts, the Courts subordinate there to, including tribunals and special courts, as well as other justice sector institutions, while using AI System assisted and generated documents in judicial proceedings.

3. Scope of the Guidelines

3.1. The Guidelines shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the overarching principles of the National AI Policy 2025, while ensuring the independence of judiciary and focusing more on ethical aspect of use.

3.2. Implementation of the Guidelines shall be subject to laws, rules, regulations and policies for the time being in force.

3.3. The Guidelines shall be applicable to the use of all types of AI Systems.

4. Guiding Principles

4.1 Human Oversight (Human-in-the-Loop): AI shall be used as a tool to assist and augment judicial functions, not to replace the final decision-making

authority of judges. All AI-supported processes must include human validation checkpoints, where the judge must record independent reasoning, ensuring generative thinking does not substitute critical judgment.

4.2 Ethical Integrity and Transparency: AI Systems used in the judiciary must be transparent and free from algorithmic and data bias. Users of AI in the judiciary must be able to identify, with references, specific portions of the document that are generated by AI and explain as to how this information was verified. A standardized reporting system shall be used for this purpose to ensure traceability, accountability and avoiding plagiarism.

4.3 Privacy and Data Security: The use of AI must comply with all relevant data protection and privacy laws and regulations where applicable. Confidential legal information and personal data of litigants, witnesses, and other parties must be secured against unauthorized access, use, or disclosure.

4.4 Accountability and Oversight: Judges, court staff and other users must be provided appropriate training to understand the capability and limitation of AI tools.

5. Permissible Use of AI Systems

Use of AI in judicial system of Pakistan includes but is not limited to the following areas of application:

5.1. Administrative Functions: AI systems for case management, scheduling, automated document routing, translation purposes, transcribing minutes of meetings, and generating administrative reports.

5.2. Legal Research: AI-powered legal search engines and tools that assist judges in finding relevant case law, statutes, and legal commentaries.

5.3. Predictive Analytics: AI tools for predicting case durations or identifying case patterns to assist in resource allocation and case management.

5.4. Judicial Assistance: AI systems that provide initial summaries of case documents, draft sample legal texts, and assist in organizing evidence.

5.5. Preference shall be given to the use of locally developed explainable AI systems trained on Pakistani legal data to avoid potential biases and associated challenges.

6. Capacity Building

The Secretariat of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), which also serves as the Secretariat of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) may coordinate training sessions/workshops for the Judges, Court Staff, etc. on the use of AI in accordance with these Guidelines, through Federal and Provincial Judicial Academies.



Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan

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