



Association of District Court Judges 2026 Summer Conference

NCAOC Update

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State of the Dockets

Median District Court Case Age:

- Felony Cases: **179 days** ↑
- Motor Vehicle Misdemeanors: **111 days** ↓
- Non-Motor Vehicle Misdemeanors: **214 days** ↑
- Driving While Impaired: **243 days** ↓
- District Court Civil: **398 days** ↑
- Small Claims: **131 days** ↑



2026 Legislative Session

- Budget still being negotiated; 3% legislative increase over two years
- Digitization of adoption records w/ DHHS
- Expansion of Safe Babies Court to children up to age 5
- DCJ and staff access to juvenile records
- Frivolity review for indigent filings



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is not...



A precursor to Utopia...





The end of days...





Understanding AI

✓ What AI is

- ✓ A pattern-finding tool that predicts likely responses from data
- ✓ Trained on existing material to learn statistical patterns
- ✓ Fast at drafting, summarizing, and organizing language
- ✓ A capable assistant that supports the work people do
- ✓ A general-purpose tool, like electricity or the internet
- ✓ Something that improves with good prompts and review

✗ What AI is not

- ✗ Sentient or aware; it has no understanding or intent of its own
- ✗ A verified database; it can sound confident and be wrong
- ✗ Infallible; errors on facts, citations, and case law can happen
- ✗ A substitute for legal judgment, discretion, or ethics
- ✗ Magic or unpredictable; its behavior can be understood
- ✗ Set-and-forget; it needs oversight and fact-checking



Why does this matter?

- AOC will be providing judges with Microsoft Copilot in early August
- Copilot will provide a safe, data-secured environment for judges to learn and use AI tools
- Potential use cases:
 - Summaries/chronologies
 - Indexing
 - Order outlines
 - Correspondence/memos
- AOC will provide further guidance in July and survey judges this fall.



Thank You...
and Happy Birthday America!