



Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Effective as from the 35th Edition (2026 Competition)

1. Purpose and Principles

This policy intends to provide guidance on the responsible use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by teams participating in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (MLMC). Generative AI - such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, and similar technologies - is increasingly embedded in legal education and practice. When used ethically and transparently, these tools can assist students in research, language improvement, and understanding complex material. Taking note of the fact that a good level of English is crucial for the competition and for all participants, these tools may nonetheless help level the playing field for non-native English speakers and prepare all students for modern legal workflows.

However, AI must not replace the intellectual work expected from participants. The primary value of this competition lies in cultivating original legal reasoning, argumentation, and communication skills. Teams must develop and write their submissions themselves, with any permitted AI use serving only a **supportive** role. This policy seeks to strike a fair balance between embracing useful innovation on the one hand, and preserving the academic integrity, intellectual quality, and educational objectives of the competition on the other.

2. Permitted Uses of AI

Teams *may* use AI tools **for the following limited purposes**:

- **Language Support:** Proofreading, grammar correction, and language refinement (e.g., AI-enhanced grammar tools such as Microsoft Editor or Grammarly).
- **Research Assistance:** Identifying sources or relevant legal concepts through AI-powered search tools.

- **Translation:** Translating legal sources into English, provided the translations are independently verified by the team.

3. Prohibited Uses of AI

The following **uses of AI are strictly prohibited**:

- Generating or drafting any portion of the written memorials or oral pleadings using AI (even if later edited).
- Using AI to summarize, analyze, or rephrase legal authorities or facts for direct inclusion in submissions.
- Relying on AI to create citations or generate footnotes without independent verification. Competing teams are responsible for verifying that the sources identified are accurate, in light of known cases where AI-powered search tools generate non-existent references.
- Using AI tools trained on prior MLMC problems or confidential materials.

4. Disclosure Requirement

All teams must submit an AI Use Disclosure Statement (annexed to this Policy) with their memorials, indicating:

- Whether any AI tools were used.
- What tools were used.
- The specific purpose for which they were used.

This statement must be signed by all team members and coaches. **Failure to disclose, incomplete disclosure, or false reporting will result in disqualification.**

5. Enforcement and Oversight

Judges and memorial evaluators are encouraged to exercise discretion and professional judgment if AI-generated content is suspected. While AI detection tools may assist, the primary standard is reasoned assessment of authenticity and legal analysis.

This policy will be reviewed as appropriate in light of evolving technologies and practices. For questions or clarification, please contact in the first instance the relevant MLMC Regional Organiser.