

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
DOCKET NO. 3:24-mc-104

FILED
ASHEVILLE, NC

JUL 29 2026

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
W. DISTRICT OF N.C.

IN RE:)
)
USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)
)
_____)

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become prevalent in many facets of the practice of law and the conduct of legal proceedings. This Order provides guidance to the bar and to parties representing themselves (i.e., pro se parties) regarding the use of AI in cases before this Court.

The requirements of this Order apply equally to attorneys and pro se parties. They are not mere suggestions. They are imperatives that arise from the application of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in civil cases and the duty of candor in both criminal and civil cases. The benefits of efficiency and thoroughness brought by AI do not negate the necessity of adherence to the law and procedural rules. The Court issues this Order to make clear its expectations and its requirements regarding the use of AI in the Western District of North Carolina.

1. Attorneys and pro se parties may employ AI or other technological assistance for conducting legal research or drafting pleadings and briefs. However, **any attorney or pro se party filing any document (pleading, brief, or other document) with this Court is deemed to have certified to the Court all of the following:**
 - a. All factual contentions have evidentiary support;

- b. All legal contentions are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for its extension, modification, or reversal;
 - c. All authorities cited actually exist, are accurately cited, and are accurately represented; and
 - d. All quotations from evidence or authorities are verbatim accurate, except as specifically disclosed.
2. Regardless of the method of preparation, the person filing any document with the Court bears the full responsibility for its contents. This requires human verification of all of the above, either by the signatory, or an attorney of record working under the supervision of the signatory. Any pro se party signing a document is personally and solely responsible for such verification.
3. Hallucinated citations, inaccurate and fictitious quotations, and materially inaccurate descriptions of the law are unfortunate products of various AI programs. It is, however, the responsibility of the person signing a document filed with this Court to remedy all such problems before making the filing.
4. The pitfalls of using AI are not limited to the filing of documents. They extend to the presentation of evidence in its various forms. Transcripts, summaries, analyses, expert reports, demonstrative exhibits, photographs, and audio or video recordings can contain hallucinated or fictitious content if AI was involved in some respect in the process of

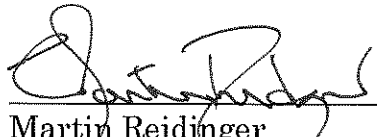
generating or editing the item. The attorney or pro se party offering any such item (whether at trial or in some preliminary stage) is responsible for validating the accuracy and authenticity of such items. This also extends to discovery responses, even if they are not submitted to the Court. Expert reports can be particularly problematic in this regard if they are to be served on the opposing party or if the expert is expected to testify at trial.

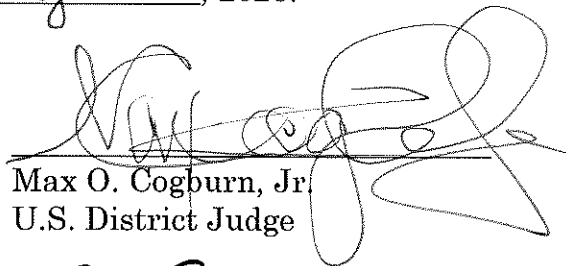
5. Any attorney or pro se party employing any form of AI in relation to a case in this Court has a duty to maintain technological competence regarding the use of such AI, including understanding its benefits, limitations, risks of hallucinations or errors, and confidentiality implications. Such attorneys and pro se parties should be aware that “Public AI Tools” and “Large Language Models” present particular risks when employed in relation to litigation matters.
6. If the Court determines that there has been a violation of any of the above, or that there has been a false certification, the Court may impose appropriate sanctions. The circumstances surrounding an inaccuracy resulting from the use of AI during litigation, whether it is intentional or unintentional, or isolated or repeated, may bear on the appropriate remedy or sanction to be imposed. Remedies would be tailored to prejudice, culpability, and materiality of the violation. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

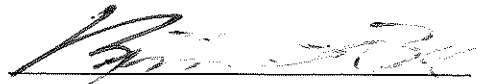
- a. Striking the offending filing, in whole or in part;
- b. Issuing an order to show cause;
- c. Monetary sanctions;
- d. Dismissing an action or striking an Answer;
- e. Referral to appropriate disciplinary authorities;
- f. Barring an attorney from practice in the Western District of North Carolina for a certain period, or
- g. Such other sanction or remedy as the Court may deem appropriate to protect the integrity of the judicial process.

- 7. This Order supersedes the Court's June 18, 2024, Standing Order on the Use of Artificial Intelligence, No. 3:24-mc-00104, and therefore, the filing of a separate certificate regarding the use of AI is no longer required.
- 8. The Clerk is directed to mail a copy of this Order to each pro se party upon the submission of such party's first document in any given case.

SO ORDERED this the 29 day of July, 2026.

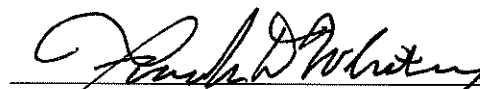

Martin Reidinger
Chief U.S. District Judge

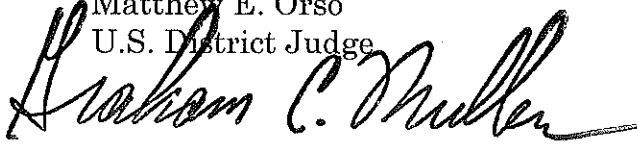

Max O. Cogburn, Jr.
U.S. District Judge

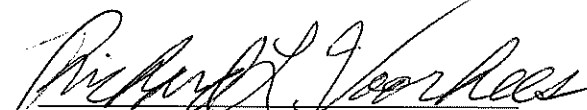

Kenneth D. Bell
U.S. District Judge


Susan C. Rodriguez
U.S. District Judge


Matthew E. Orso
U.S. District Judge


Frank D. Whitney
Senior U.S. District Judge


Graham C. Mullen
Senior U.S. District Judge


Richard L. Voorhees
Senior U.S. District Judge