New!
The Chicago Bar Association
AI 2035 COMMITTEES
Open to all CBA Members

AI 2035: THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE JUDICIARY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

By Sharon Nolan, CBA Marketing Director

CBA President Judge Nichole C. Patton's 2025-2026 initiative, *AI 2035: The Legal Profession and the Judiciary in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,* started the Bar Year off on a strong note and serves as a powerful foundation for continued success in the years to come.

This AI Corner series recaps some of the expert-led sessions that examine AI critically and offer practical guidance for its use in the legal profession. Past sessions are available on demand at learn.chicagobar.org.

Judged by Data: The Future of Fairness

The AI and Criminal Justice Committee welcomed Professor Renee Cummings of the University of Virginia School of Data Science for an examination of how we should be thinking about justice in the age of algorithmic fairness and how we can manage bias and conflicts in decision-making data. She pointed out that data can perpetuate past bias and historical harms. For example, she noted that predictive policing tools using biased crime data can disproportionately target Black and Brown, underserved, under-resourced, and high-needs neighborhoods, creating a feedback loop of surveillance, systemic racism, and inequities. The question often in front of courts is how to balance algorithmic decision-making and civil rights.

After discussing what we do know—that risk scores are not neutral evidence; false positives are racially skewed; fairness has competing definitions; and trade secrets block meaningful challenge—Professor Cummings explored other concepts that need further contemplation by the courts, including:

Design and data encode inequality. Internal logic is hidden in the code of systems. We can't challenge what we can't see. What happens if defendants can't inspect risk and the algorithm becomes the accuser?

Governance. Explainability must be a right, and contestability must be a default. Human ability to override, with authority and independent auditing and enforcement power, need to be considered.

Neutrality. Although many systems appear to be neutral, neutrality in design does not guarantee neutrality in outcome. Systems might be neutral in language but discriminatory in effect. The legal question is no longer simply intent. It is impact. Courts are now the gatekeepers of algorithmic accountability. Algorithms must meet the same evidentiary standards as human decision-making.

The committee is chaired by Judge Beatriz Santiago, Circuit Court of Cook County; Associate Judge Ankur Srivastava, Circuit Court of Cook County; and Ashonta Rice, Park Gold Group.

Illinois Legislative Update: Focus on Housing

The AI and Fairness, Transparency, and Inclusion Committee looked at where Illinois legislation focused on AI and housing fairness stood as of February 2026. Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Safron covered what Illinois lawmakers are working on to address algorithmic discrimination in housing, with a specific look at how a credit score is a defining characteristic for AI tools. He discussed two bills in particular: SB2203, which would create the Preventing Algorithmic Discrimination Act to regulate automatic decision-making tools, and SB1728, a related bill to amend the Illinois Human Rights Act to expand anti-discrimination protections in real estate transactions. Watch the on-demand video to take a deep dive into this proposed legislation.

The committee is led by Judge Tracie Porter, Circuit Court of Cook County; Angela C. Spears, Cass Law Group; Jonathan Safron, Attorney at Law; and Taylor Tyler, Tyler Law Offices P.C. ■

Running for Public Office: Keys to Success
May 21, 2026 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. | 2.75 IL MCLE Credit | Live Webcast (on demand also)
See fees and registration at Learn.ChicagoBar.org.

The seminar is geared towards candidates for the 2026 General Election and those individuals who will be running for office for the 2027 municipal election cycle, as well as the attorneys who will be representing them. Requirements for getting on the ballot, defending and prosecuting petition challenges, ethical and finance issues relating to campaigns, and an overview of campaign-related communications and avoiding defamation claims will be covered.