

AI-Judicial Simulation

Authors: Ilya Akdemir, Ernest Lim, Jeannie Paterson, Julian Webb

Against the backdrop of growing deployment and experimentation with the use of LLMs in decision-making and courts worldwide, we explore an emerging mode of adjudication that we term the “simulated judgments” model - a form of AI-assisted opinion-drafting and adjudication which extends beyond administrative support or conventional legal research, in which LLMs contribute to the production of judicial opinions, while the human judge retains ultimate epistemic control and responsibility for the resulting decision. In this paper, we explore the objections and concerns regarding this emerging mode of AI use in adjudication - the technical, epistemic, procedural and legitimacy concerns - asking which of these concerns pose genuine limits to AI-assisted adjudication and which might instead be addressed through appropriate forms of human oversight, institutional design, and AI governance.