

# THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SERIES

# Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC



Webinar, 4 December 2025

## THE AOA'S AI GUIDELINES AND THE USE OF AI IN ADR

Join the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC (AoA) for the fifth webinar, presented by the AoA's **AI Committee**, in a series as part of the Association's ongoing mission to provide regular upskilling opportunities for everyone interested in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

### ABOUT THIS WEBINAR:

Whilst Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming the way professionals work, are you feeling overwhelmed by the noise and the hype? The AoA's AI Committee has taken the initiative to assist its professional members on the path towards navigating the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) successfully.

This is your opportunity to join the interactive discussions with our AI Committee.

### KEY TOPICS:

- ✓ An overview of the AoA's [AI Guidelines](#);
- ✓ The limits of AI usage;
- ✓ Confidentiality;
- ✓ Prompting;
- ✓ Current commentary from the judiciary on the use of AI.

### MEET THE AI COMMITTEE:

#### Adv Des Mahony, Vice Chair, Treasurer:



Des has served as the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC's (the Association) Treasurer since 2018 and is the current Vice Chair and Treasurer. He is the Chair of the AI Committee. He is a chartered accountant with experience in various financial roles across the financial sector, tourism and pharmaceutical industries. After completing articles at a medium-sized firm, Des spent some time working in the UK, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, before joining Brait's African business, which was bought out by management and grew into corporate advisory, asset management, stock broking and micro-finance across 14 African countries. Des served on various boards and audit committees. Des now runs a private equity business. Des serves on the Inspections Committee of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors and acts as treasurer to a number of community associations. Arbitrations bring together two of Des' passions: finance and law.

#### Mr Gareth Ahier, Director:



Gareth Ahier is a Professional Construction Project Manager, through his career spanning 26 years. He is a director of the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC ("the Association") and has been for a number of years. Other memberships are the Society of Construction Arbitrators and he is a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators. He is an international arbitrator and adjudicator and has been involved in ADR for the past 18 years. He established Critical Link Project Management (Pty) Ltd and successfully completed several projects in the housing, commercial, industrial, educational and retail sectors.

He practices ADR under Gareth Ahier & Associates and has been doing so for several years. He is

knowledgeable in many of the standard forms of contracts like the JBCC, GCC, FIDIC, NEC, JCT and PROCSA. ADR matters covered have been across the spectrum from commercial, retail, housing, leisure and infrastructure both from contractor disputes to client and consultant. He is a course evaluator for CESA and has been since 2018. He has an interest in artificial intelligence (AI) and how it can be used and impacts the built environment and ADR. He is part of the AI committee of the Association which was established earlier this year.

**Mr Chris Binnington, Director:**



Chris is a Life fellow of the AOA and a past Chairman (1997-2010). He is passionate about ensuring that the AOA is both seen to be, and actually is, at the forefront of developments in ADR. To this end he was instrumental in suggesting the initiative which resulted in the publication of the AI Guidelines. He also acts as convenor of the Rules committee.

**Mr Darlington Chakapfava, Fellow (FAArb):**



Darlington is a Professional Engineer (ECSA) with 20 years of experience in road pavement design and construction. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Zimbabwe (2000) and a Master of Pavement Engineering degree from Stellenbosch University (2012). He is Specialist Pavement Design Engineer, Resident Engineer, and both a Fellow and AI Committee member of the Association.

Darlington's career began on the ground—literally—where he supervised and administered projects as a Resident Engineer, gaining invaluable insight into the realities of construction sites, from roadworks, bridges, high-rise buildings to water systems. He understands all types of construction and engineering projects including how they are managed, where and why problems occur, and why proper site record keeping is important for use in claims / defenses and subsequent dispute resolution processes.

With several records generated on construction sites, Darlington believes that the use of AI spans from collating site records to analysis of the same by claimants, defendants, adjudicators or arbitrators during the different phases of the dispute resolution processes. Properly used, AI will assist ADR practitioners in satisfying Article 18.1 of the Association's Rules for The Conduct of Arbitrations: 2021 Edition.

**Ms Annie Cohen, Fellow (FAArb):**



Annie's qualifications, skills and experience compliment the value she brings to organisations. She is results driven, dynamic and proficient. She leverages her strengths which makes her proficient and effective in any workspace. She is flexible and can adapt to any group dynamic, corporate culture and business philosophy.

She particularly enjoys designing innovative strategies to benefit stakeholders and organisational process flows. She likes developing policies and reviewing protocol. Her finest work – which most excites and motivates her – includes enhancing organisational processors; which subsequently improve productivity and consequently increase organisational output and the business bottom line.

Her current role involves reviewing operational processors and consequently designing and implementing strategic interventions – collaborating with internal and external partners - towards enhancing business viability and resilience.

She is passionate about strategy, people and improving business models.

**Adv Mias Mostert, Fellow (FAArb):**



Mias is an experienced litigator who practises in all jurisdictions of the High Court of South Africa, and have appeared in the Supreme Court of Appeal, the Constitutional Court, and the Court of Appeal of Botswana. He has an established civil and commercial litigation practice, with a specific emphasis on the law of contract, company law, insolvency and business rescue, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, and the law of delict. Since 2014, he has gained extensive experience in the conduct of class litigation.

He has also developed particular interest and experience in administrative law, and acts for a number of prominent meat and processed meat producers, importers, retailers and exporters in a regulatory context, gaining extensive experience in litigation pertaining to the Meat Safety Act, the Agricultural Products Standards Act, as well as internationally recognised standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, relating to food, food production, food labelling, and food safety. He became a Fellow of the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC in 2020, and successfully completed the Association's Specialisation in Construction Law Course in 2023.

As Fellow of the Association of Arbitrators, he has taken appointments as arbitrator in a number of construction related disputes,

including disputes arbitrable under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

#### **Ms Zandile Ndlovu, Fellow (FAArb):**



Zandile is a Professional Engineer (ECSA) and Project Manager (PMI) with over a decade of experience in the planning, design, and delivery of civil engineering projects across the water and construction sectors. Zandile holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Master of Engineering in Project Management from the University of Pretoria.

Zandile began her career as a Site Engineer at Construction Associates before joining the Eswatini Water Services Corporation, where she spent more than eleven years overseeing a range of water supply and sewer infrastructure projects from feasibility to completion. Her experience encompasses every stage of the project lifecycle, with a strong emphasis on planning, implementation, and delivery of sustainable engineering solutions that enhance community access to water services.

Zandile is a Fellow member of the Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa), eligible for appointment as an arbitrator, adjudicator and mediator. She also serves in the Association of Arbitrators AI Committee which serves to effectively incorporate AI into dispute resolution proceedings.

In 2017, Zandile founded LSN Project Managers (Pty) Ltd, where she serves as Director and Project Manager. She is currently managing a range of infrastructure projects from factories to offices in Eswatini. She is passionate about infrastructure development, leadership, and fostering collaboration among multidisciplinary teams. With proven skills in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and contract management, Zandile continues to drive excellence in project delivery and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the engineering profession in Southern Africa, with the view of advancing services to Africa.

#### **Adv Paul Strathern SC, Fellow (FAArb):**



Paul is a practising senior advocate at the Johannesburg Society of Advocates, with over 35 years of experience, the last 11 of them as a silk. Prior to that, he completed his articles of clerkship and was admitted as an attorney before joining the bar.

He has a wide and varied commercial practice. He is a fellow of the Association, having joined in 2020. He completed the associations accelerated course in arbitration for lawyers (Modules 2 and 4). He is an accredited mediator having successfully completed the Association's accredited mediation course in 2021 (run in conjunction with the Society of Mediators UK). He also successfully completed the Association's course on Specialisation in Construction Law in 2022.

Paul has held appointments as arbitrator and adjudicator (primarily in the construction law field) and as a mediator in commercial mediations. He is qualified to conduct mediations in terms of the Gauteng Court's revised mediation directive, by virtue of his accreditation by the Association which is in turn a Recognised Mediation Organisation.

Paul is a member of the management committee of the Association and a tutor in the Association's Module 4 award writing course. He is also a member of its AI committee and was part of the team that prepared the Association's AI Protocol. He believes that AI can be effectively utilised in arbitration proceedings by practitioners and arbitrators alike, particularly when it comes to navigating tricky timelines and event sequences. It is also gaining traction in research habits. As AI (or machine learning and large language models) continue to develop and become smarter and more refined, Paul believes that no one can afford to ignore the impact they will have on the way we carry on business.

**DATE:** Thursday, 4 December 2025      **TIME:** 18:00 to 19:00 (SAST)

**LINK:** [Click here.](#)