



Charter

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To develop a framework of research and thought leadership about Courts of the Future through a cross-functional group of subject matter talent from around the world, bringing academics, judges, tech experts, funders, court leaders, practitioners and those in industry together to identify the challenges of the Future, and to agree how Courts should best address them.
- 1.2 Utilising thematic vertical working groups outlined below, to consider and to publish information and/or facilitate research and evidence-based policy making about:
 - (a) the current performance and reputation of Courts around the world as perceived by the Forum members in relation to handling of the disputes of the future;
 - (b) the strategic direction required for Courts to maintain and improve their knowledge, performance and reputation regarding future IP, XAI, blockchain, 3D construction, technology and other future related disputes;
 - (c) developments and trends in the arena of international dispute resolution which may have an impact on Courts of the Future and their operation and which, if adopted, might benefit Courts and their users in resolving disputes of the future;
 - (d) universal enforcement of decisions from the Courts of the Future, especially with regard to enforcement (including within universally distributed cloud environments) over virtual assets and crypto-currencies including in “off-planet” jurisdictions such as the Kingdom of Asgardia;
 - (e) the legal frameworks necessary to support and provide confidence in the global supply chains being developed by the world’s leading online retailers, as well as at a macro-economic level through major new

transnational social and economic initiatives such as China's One Belt, One Road initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor;

- (f) harnessing XAI to deliver reasoned decisions based on complex and unstructured inputs, including voice testimony and multi-source data;
 - (g) the implications of private dispute resolution services such as jury.online, rhubard including any potential disruptive effect they may have on Courts; and
 - (h) the Courtroom of the Future including real time translation of voice and physical documents, lie detection, real time fact checking against evidence and the use of augmented reality as well as the impacts that new digital forms of information may have upon the rules of evidence such as the hearsay rule.
- 1.3 To discuss, communicate and invite comment upon the members' views of the changing nature of law and disruptive technology to be able to effectively resolve disputes of the future.
- 1.4 To suggest ways of improving the efficiency of Courts' procedures so that cases can be heard and determined efficiently, cost effectively, globally and without undue delay, all without compromising the quality of the service and the Courts' aim of dealing fairly and justly with all users.
- 1.5 To facilitate, where possible, the innovation of legal education, in order to ensure that new generations of legal practitioners can fittingly operate within the dispute resolution markets of the future.

2. Structure

- 2.1 The Forum will operate as an agile, decentralised and thematic holocracy, in which each member of the leadership council shall be accountable for development of their theme in a collaborative manner with (i) members of their knowledge vertical and (ii) other members of the leadership council. The themes shall comprise:
- a) The application of AI to dispute resolution, including the development of XAI technology, machine learning across a global precedent bank and automated judicial decision making;
 - b) The design (both physical and virtual) of the Courtrooms of the Future, including the use of augmented reality, real time translation, lie detection and live fact checking;
 - c) The enforcement of judgments and orders across boundaries, both geographical and into space (cf the Kingdom of Asgardia) and into the virtual world (blockchain enforcement and crypto-currencies);
 - d) Encoding laws, regulations and contracts within the blockchain, including the development of smart contracts and judge-bots within a global supply chain;

- e) The impact of macro-economic supply chain development on the Courts of the Future, with particular reference to OBOR and CPEC;
- f) Disruption of Courts by private dispute services such as *jury.online* and *rhubarb*;
- g) The financing of disputes of the future in the context of (i) third party funding, (ii) technology development (cf Alibaba and the Courts of the Internet) and (iii) private dispute resolution platforms as an alternative to Courts;
- h) The rules and procedures to be applied by Courts of the Future to be able to efficiently and effectively deliver justice for disputes of the future;
- i) The coding challenges associated with the development of the Courts of the Future;
- j) Building a set of demonstrators that showcase how the Courts of the Future could operate when combining new rules, technologies and frameworks. They will showcase the end user experience for all parties, how these technologies and processes manifest themselves in a Courts' day to day activities and it will incorporate examples that showcase the art of the possible;
- k) The judiciary;
- l) The legal profession;
- m) Court leaders;
- n) Tech experts;
- o) Policy makers and advisors to policy makers;
- p) Court standard setters such as IACA, NCSC and ICCE; and
- q) The innovation of legal education relating to the knowledge verticals specified above.

2.2 Each meeting of the Forum will be opened by the Secretary and each agenda item shall be introduced and led by the relevant member of the leadership council.

2.3 The Secretary will be in charge of:

- (a) Managing the timely progress of the meeting and following up on tasks at the leadership council level; and
- (b) Reporting to the membership, which includes the leadership council, the members of the knowledge verticals and such other members as may be introduced to the Forum by the leadership council from time to time.

3. Members

3.1 The Forum's leadership council shall consist of experts in their respective fields, each of which should represent a distinct knowledge vertical and have considerable expertise in advising on or considering issues pertaining to Courts of the Future, Disputes of the Future and/or Laws and Regulations of the Future. The leadership council may choose to elect a chairman.

- 3.2 Membership of the leadership council is personal and may not be transferred, although a member may nominate a member of his or her knowledge vertical to represent him or her at meetings of the Forum.
- 3.3 Should the number of voting members on the Forum be less than 15, the Forum may appoint such number of additional members to the Forum as is necessary to ensure that there are at least 15 members on the Forum.
- 3.4 Should any member of the leadership council fail to attend two consecutive meetings without having provided a reasonable excuse to the Secretary, their membership may be revoked.
- 3.5 Each member of the leadership council may appoint subject matter experts to comprise a knowledge vertical within his or her allocated theme and may determine how that knowledge vertical shall operate and its deliverables each year. All knowledge verticals shall conduct their activities in accordance with the objectives of the Forum.

4. Meeting Votes and Documentation

- 4.1 The physical venue for each meeting shall be determined by the Secretary although the Forum shall endeavour to use technology for its meetings as much as possible.
- 4.2 A quorum shall be duly constituted when at least fifty percent of the leadership council are present. When a quorum is present, matters shall be determined by a majority vote cast by the leadership council who are present.
- 4.3 It is the responsibility of the Forum Secretary, who will be one of the DIFC Dispute Resolution Authority's staff unless otherwise agreed by the leadership council, to compile the necessary documents in a timely manner.
- 4.4 The Forum Secretary shall record Minutes of each meeting which shall be distributed to all members of the leadership council not later than two (2) weeks thereafter.

5. Scope of Authority

The Forum shall publish academic and popular articles, vlogs, blogs and other research about the likely disputes of the future and provide guidance about how Courts might best adjust their policies, rules and procedures to best support the resolution of those disputes and to become recognised as world leaders in anticipating the disputes of the future. The Forum shall support global educational events that further its research interests, such as ideathons, hackathons or any other innovative activities where law practitioners, academics and students can tailor their expertise in line with the goals of the Forum. The Forum shall not have authority regarding the implementation of the suggestions or the advice, judicial matters and/or administrative work of any Courts.

6. Confidentiality

At any of its meetings, the Forum may determine, by a majority of the voting members present, that all or part of the proceedings shall be treated as confidential to the leadership council.

7. Timings

The Forum shall hold meetings at least three times each year and at such other times as the leadership council may agree. Further meetings may be called by the Secretary on his or her own motion or upon the request of three (3) members of the leadership council upon not less than three days' notice in writing to all members of the leadership council. Meetings may be held in person or virtually, or both.

8. Forum not a legislative or law advisory body

The Forum's published work is intended to provide information, guidance and assistance, or to express opinions or views only, to interested persons. It is not a legislative or law advisory entity. The Forum cannot assume responsibility for any shortcomings in its views or published information, or for the use of such information, by other persons.