VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF AMHERST

LOCAL RULE ON USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Pursuant to the authority granted by Rule 1:15 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the following Local Rule is established in this Court.

1. **AI Use Generally.** The Court recognizes the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence technology and tools ("AI") by lawyers and *pro se* litigants. Although the use of AI is not prohibited by this Court, AI users are responsible for understanding its limitations and risks when using generative AI for materials submitted to the Court, and/or when relying upon AI in any form for legal advice, documents, citations, authorities, sources, arguments, and/or conclusions.

2. **Oversight Required.** AI use within the Court in any form must have human oversight. Any person submitting materials drafted, created, enhanced, or modified by generative AI must review the same for accuracy of factual claims, legal claims, citations, authorities, sources, arguments, and/or conclusions, and is responsible for compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, court policies, and rules of professional conduct.

3. **Disclosure Required on Generative AI Submissions.** All attorneys and *pro se* litigants must provide a written disclosure certification at the end of, or attached to, materials drafted, created, enhanced, or modified by generative AI. Attached hereto is a model disclosure for written materials that meets the requirements of this Local Rule. This requirement applies to any filing, pleading, motion, brief, memorandum, sketch order, letter, or other document, including exhibits or attachments to the same, submitted to the Court. All attorneys and *pro se* litigants shall also, no less than ten (10) days before any trial or evidentiary hearing, file a certification disclosing the use of generative AI in any proposed exhibits, including demonstrative exhibits.

4. **Non-compliance/Sanctions.** Pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-271.1(B), materials submitted to the Court must be well grounded in fact and warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law. Failure to properly review any submissions drafted, created, enhanced, or modified in any way by generative AI, or which otherwise used AI for any aspect of research or preparation, may result in sanctions and/or findings of contempt.

As required by Rule 1:15, the Clerk is hereby **DIRECTED** to forthwith: (1) spread this Order upon the order book; (2) post a copy of this Order with the date of entry in the Clerk's Office; (3) file a copy of this Order with the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia; and (4) place a link to this Order on the Court's website.

The Clerk is further **DIRECTED** to forward a copy of this Order to local bar associations including Amherst/Nelson County, Bedford County, Campbell County, and the City of Lynchburg.

It is so ORDERED.

ENTER: 03/03/2026

Jeffrey P. Bennett, Judge

DISCLOSURE ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

I hereby acknowledge that generative artificial intelligence was used in the drafting, creation, enhancement, or modification of the instant filing. I certify that I have personally reviewed this filing for accuracy of all factual claims, legal claims, citations, authorities, sources, arguments, and/or conclusions. I further certify that, generative artificial intelligence use notwithstanding, this filing complies with all duties imposed on me by Virginia Code § 8.01-271.1, Rule 1:5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and where appropriate, any rules of professional conduct.

I acknowledge that this certification only applies to the instant filing.

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Attorney/*Pro Se* Litigant Date