

Shenzhen's AI-Assisted Trial System Lifts Judicial Caseload 50% — And a Peer-Reviewed Study Flags a Sentencing-Bias Risk

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · China

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Shenzhen's courts deployed an in-house LLM covering 85 trial procedures; judges' caseload rose 50% (495→744/year) after launch. An Oxford-published study of 139 judges found no verdict effect but longer sentences under AI assistance in a bias test (13.83 vs 6.59 months).

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	2/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[Shenzhen Intermediate People's Court](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[South China Morning Post — AI helped Shenzhen judges handle cases 50% faster](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[Journal of Legal Analysis \(Oxford\) — How do judges use large language models? Evidence from Shenzhen](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

[Bangkok Post — AI helped Shenzhen judges handle cases 50% faster](#) — accessed 2026-08-17

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