

Annual Conference 2026

Programme



AI: Powering the Future of Dispute Resolution

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Scottish Branch) Annual Conference will take place on 30 April 2026 at the Collector's Hall, Glasgow. Artificial intelligence is no longer theoretical in dispute resolution – it is already changing how we analyse cases, manage evidence, and advise clients. This conference is designed for dispute resolution professionals who want to understand what AI actually means for their practice now – and what comes next.

What you'll gain:

- A clear understanding of how AI is already being used in disputes and arbitration
- Insight into the real risks (confidentiality, accuracy, ethics) practitioners need to manage
- Practical examples from construction disputes and court submissions
- A realistic view of how AI will shape dispute resolution in the near future

Speakers include:

Ally Thomson (Director of Hey Legal and Senior Tutor of the "Introduction to Legal Innovation and Technology" Diploma course at Glasgow University Law School)

An introduction to AI for dispute resolution practitioners – demystifying key concepts, tools, and risks.

Cristen Bauer (Chartered Institute of Arbitrators)

The Ciarb approach to AI in arbitration – exploring policy, principles, and practical implications.

Iain Mitchell KC (Arnot Manderson, OpenUK)

Artificial Intelligence and Natural Stupidity – a Cautionary Tale: which will explore the use of AI in court submissions

Lee Lothian and Chiara Pieri (Senior Associates, CMS)

AI in construction disputes – practical insights into how AI is being used in construction

The afternoon will start with a networking lunch with dispute resolution practitioners across law firms, in-house teams, and industry at 13:00, followed by the conference from 14:00 till 17:00.

In-person event in Glasgow – designed for discussion, not just presentations.

The event is open to members and non-members.

Registration

To book your place, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code shown on the right.



Following the conference, the annual lecture will take place. Thereafter, will be the AGM and a drinks reception. All conference attendees are welcome to attend but we ask that attendees sign up separately [here](#).

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Time	Session	Topic	Speaker
13:00 to 13:45	Registration and network lunch		
13:45 to 14:00	Introduction and welcome		Andrew Drennan Ciarb Scottish Branch Chair
14:00 to 14:40	Session 1	<i>An introduction to AI for dispute resolution practitioners – demystifying key concepts, tools, and risks.</i>	Ally Thomson Director of Hey Legal and Senior Tutor of the “Introduction to Legal Innovation and Technology” Diploma course at Glasgow University Law School
14:40 to 15.10	Session 2	<i>The Ciarb approach to AI in arbitration – exploring policy, principles, and practical implications.</i>	Cristen Bauer Ciarb Director of External Affairs
15.10 to 15.25	Coffee break		
15:25 to 16:00	Session 3	<i>Artificial Intelligence and Natural Stupidity – a Cautionary Tale: which will explore the use of AI in court submissions</i>	Iain Mitchell KC OpenUK Arnot Manderson OpenUK
16:00 to 16:30	Session 4	<i>AI in construction disputes – practical insights into how AI is being used in construction</i>	Lee Lothian & Chiara Pieri Senior Associates, Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP
16:30-17:00	Panel discussion	<i>Can AI Deliver Fairer, Faster Dispute Resolution?</i> A moderated discussion exploring the opportunities and risks of AI in dispute resolution.	All speakers
17:00	Closing comments and thanks		Andrew Drennan Ciarb Scottish Branch Chair

