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PhD Dissertation Defense

Entitled

***The Civil Liability Relating to Autonomous Vehicles: The Legal
Framework***

by

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Abstract:

Adopting artificial intelligence, particularly in operating vehicles requires a particular attention. The technical complexities of artificial intelligence that Autonomous vehicles is not like that of regular vehicles. Unlike conventional vehicles that operate by the complete control of the operator, Autonomous vehicles enjoy a very high level of operational autonomy. The autonomy of Autonomous vehicles generates a wide array of legal controversies that were never present before. Those controversies need proper answers and solutions in order to minimize risks, preserve the environment, and reduce traffic risks and challenges. The possibility of accidents remains however possible. Therefore, there is a need to determine the liabilities of the parties involved in accidents that result from operating Autonomous vehicles. The primary issue regarding the liability relating

to Autonomous vehicles is to determine the party who should carry the liability for the damages. This question is of utmost importance particularly if more than one party is involved. Likewise, whether such liability falls under the umbrella of the general liability rules of civil law or whether it can be or should be governed by other set of specific rules. This research comparatively analyzes the liability that results from damages that Autonomous vehicles cause. More specifically, the research explores whether conventional legal theories of civil liability are applicable in the torts caused by Autonomous vehicles. The research concludes that Autonomous vehicles should primarily be governed by the general rules of civil liability embodied in the Civil Code of the United Arab Emirates only after reviewing other relevant laws. The research also concludes that there is no one single standard that can be applied to determine the liability of self-driving vehicles. Instead, one should examine the liability that stems from the accidents of Autonomous vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

Keywords: Autonomous vehicles; civil liability; Autonomous vehicle producer; Autonomous vehicle operator.