

Special Section on Artificial Intelligence

The Emerging Artificial Intelligence Legal-Judicial System's Interface: Assessing the State of Nigeria's Judicial System's Readiness for a Revolution

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Abstract

The revolutionary trend of artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential to become pre-eminent in all facets of life is no longer a subject of debate. Rather, the question is, to what extent will AI become the determinant of the global juridical-legal systems? With a specific focus on Nigeria's judicial-legal system, this article explores the intersection and potential impact of AI as a paradigmatic shift in technology. Starting with the evaluation of the current state of Nigeria's judicial system's existing infrastructure and technological capabilities, we attempt to unpack the level of awareness, understanding, engagement with, and acceptance of AI among judges, legal professionals and general public. Highlighting the increasing importance of AI in various sectors, we examine the potential benefits of integrating AI into the Nigerian judicial system, including, among others, increased efficiency, improved access to justice and enhanced decision-making processes. We also explore the challenges associated with the adoption of AI in the legal sector, including ethical considerations, data privacy and job displacement. This is in cognisance of the result from a polling at the 2019 Doha Debates on AI showing a majority of online voters (53 per cent) forecasting exponential intensification in global inequalities and apocalypse for humanity in the era of AI's pre-eminence. However, drawing on Muthoni Wanyoike's 'Mindful

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Optimism³ thesis on AI, we advocate for legal and judicial systems' embrace of, and adaptation to, AI's technological advancements. Although AI stands to be disruptive in the human sphere, as a human construct it must be taken as a quantum leap in human thinking and a reflection of the progress of human intelligence. Therefore, for lawyers and the judicial system, the case should not be antagonism towards or embrace of AI's presumed destructive force, but rather finding new ways of engineering the regulation of society through AI machines with negligible social disruption. Against this background, we suggest recommendations for the Nigerian judicial system to effectively navigate the integration of AI into its operations. These should see enhanced digital infrastructure, development of AI-specific policies and regulations, investment in education and training for judges and legal professionals and the fostering of public trust and acceptance of AI technologies. We conclude by advocating that the Nigeria's judicial system should be reviewed with a view to aligning with the technological revolution driven by AI. By addressing the challenges and implementing the recommended strategies, Nigeria can harness the potential of AI to transform its legal and judicial systems and improve access to justice for its citizens.

Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), legal-judicial interface, legal/judicial system, Nigeria, access to justice.

Introduction

The revolutionary trend of artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential to become pre-eminent in all facets of life is no longer a subject of debate. Rather, the question is, to what extent will AI become the determinant of the global legal and judicial systems? As Williams views the technology's sweeping revolution, humans have now ceded vast amounts of our existence to competing technologies that seek to dominate our time and increase the amount of life that is available for them to capture.⁴ This is echoed by Zarkadakis, who opines that what AI envisions is a world in which we could recreate and decipher nature by building a bold new civilisation. This civilisation would be complete with self-regulating factories, cures for all ailments, strong economies, just communities and thinking machines.⁵ Yet as he argued, due to its seemingly unreasonable goal of duplicating human nature with all its flaws, AI is perhaps the most perplexing

3 Wanyoike, M. (2019) 'AI Promises Equality Among Nations', presented at 'Artificial intelligence: Is it worth the risk?', Doha Debates, Qatar Foundation, Northwest University, Doha, Qatar, 3 April 2019. <https://dohadebates.com/course/artificial-intelligence/#lesson-4a-speaker-muthoni-wanyoike>

4 Williams, J. (2018) *Stand Out of Our Light: Freedom and Resistance in the Attention Economy*, Cambridge University Press, 93–94

5 Zarkadakis, G. (2017) *In Our Own Image: Savior or Destroyer? The History and Future of Artificial Intelligence*, Pegasus Books, 2

technological advancement ever attempted by humankind.⁶ On the positive side, Zarkadakis prognosticates for AI the powering of a new machine age that could propel humanity to unprecedented levels of social, technological and economic advancement.⁷ However, he sees in AI something more sinister at work, because many in the sector firmly believe that when more powerful computers develop sentience, they will conquer the entire planet and wipe out humanity.⁸

In respect of the legal profession's association with AI there is no doubt that it is walking uncharted territory, with new technologies' disruptive potential being greater in the judicial and legal systems than other sectors.⁹ However, PwC's projection of overall societal configuration by 2030 estimates that AI portends to contribute \$15.7 trillion to the global economy, with \$3 trillion from increased productivity and \$9.1 trillion from new products and services'.¹⁰ In 2017 Canada became the first country to establish a national AI strategy – the \$25 million Pan-Canadian AI Strategy.¹¹ The USA followed suit with a presidential executive order in 2019 to make AI to boost national prosperity, economic security and the standard of living for the American people.¹² China has also aggressively pursued AI growth with centres in Beijing and Tianjin attracting \$2.1 and \$16 billion AI funding respectively.¹³ It goes without saying that other countries – Singapore, France, UK, Germany, UAE, India and Japan – have also devised their national AI strategies.¹⁴

So, how can AI be defined? While no universally agreed definition has been made, this paper highlights two: first, a machine's 'ability to perform the cognitive functions we usually associate with human minds';¹⁵ second, AI is a computer system which has the ability to perform tasks requiring ordinary human intelligence, many 'powered by machine learning, some [...] powered by deep learning and some... powered by very boring things

6 Ibid, p. 10

7 Id, p. 12

8 Ibid

9 Brooks, C., Gherhes C. and Vorley, T. (2020) 'Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector: Pressures and Challenges of Transformation', *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society*, 13, 135–152; see also LexisNexis (2014) 'Workflow and Productivity in the Legal Industry: How Today's Legal Professionals Are Responding to the Changing Landscape'. <https://www.lexisnexis.co.nz/en/insights-and-analysis/research-and-whitepapers/2014/2014-workflow-and-productivity-in-the-legal-industry> (accessed 24/09/2023)

10 Michael C. (2023) 'AI Strategy: Nigeria in Global Hunt for its Best Minds', *Business Day, Nigeria*, 29 August. <https://businessday.ng/technology/article/ai-strategy-nigeria-in-global-hunt-for-its-best-minds/> (accessed 22/9/2023).

11 Ibid. See also CIFAR (no date), 'The Pan-Canadian AI Strategy'. <https://cifar.ca/ai/>; Stankovic, M., Amadou Garba, A. and Neftenov N. (2021) 'Emerging Technology Trends: Artificial Intelligence and Big Data for Development 4.0'. International Telecommunication Union. https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tnd/D-TND-02-2021-PDF-E.pdf (accessed 22/07/2023)

12 Ibid

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 McKinsey & Company (2023) 'What is AI?', 24 April. <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-ai> (accessed 25/09/2023).

like rules'.¹⁶ Therefore, AI is a wide-ranging branch of computer science concerned with building smart machines capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence.¹⁷

Although issues of bias, lack of transparency and ethical concerns have been raised regarding AI, juridical-legal systems' incorporation of it portends several benefits, particularly the potential to enhance the systems' efficiency, accuracy and fairness. There are also AI's capacities to control crime, speed up evidence analysis and contribute to the overall effective administration of justice.¹⁸ Given the inevitability of its imminent pre-eminence in the industry, two key questions asked by Lord Sales need to be answered. First, how should legal and judicial institutions adjust to allow algorithmic computer processes in AI to be used in the administration of justice?¹⁹ Second, to what extent should legal and judicial institutions adjust to AI's processes, which are run autonomously of human agency and produce their own answers without direct human intervention?²⁰

With a specific focus on Nigeria's legal and judicial systems, this article explores the intersection and potential impact of AI as a paradigmatic shift in technological revolution. We examine the potential benefits of integrating AI into the Nigerian judicial system, including, among others, increased efficiency, improved access to justice and enhanced decision-making processes. We also explore the challenges and concerns associated with the adoption of AI in the legal sector, including ethical considerations, data privacy and job displacement.

To this effect the paper is presented in five sections, starting with an overview and evaluation of the existing organisation of Nigeria's judicial system's infrastructure and technological capabilities and the system's key challenges and inefficiencies. In the second section, we attempt to unpack the AI-legal system interface, assessing the Nigerian legal system's level of awareness, understanding, engagement with, and acceptance of AI among judges, legal professionals and the Nigerian public. In the third section, using content analysis of existing literature and case studies as the paper's methodology, we highlight jurisdictions where AI has been successfully incorporated into

16 Achin J., DataRobot CEO (2017) Speech on the Definition of and How AI is Used Today. Also cited in Ajayi J. (2022) 'Artificial Intelligence in the Nigerian Legal Industry: A Threat or an Opportunity?' *SSRN Journal*. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3574324> (accessed 27/08/2023), p13; and Sharma R. (2020) 'What is Artificial Intelligence? How Does Artificial Intelligence Work and How is AI Used?' Medium, 17 January 2020. <https://medium.com/@raghav0278/what-is-artificial-intelligence-how-does-artificial-intelligence-work-and-how-is-ai-used-95803f7da570> (accessed 20/08/2023)

17 Sharma R. (2020) above.

18 Inspirit AI (2023) 'Implications of AI in the Criminal Justice System'. <https://www.inspiritai.com/blogs/ai-student-blog/implications-of-ai-in-the-criminal-justice-system> (accessed 24/09/2023); Ismail, N. (2018) 'Artificial intelligence in the Legal Industry: Adoption and Strategy, Part 1, Information Age, 6 August. <https://www.information-age.com/artificial-intelligence-in-the-legal-industry-11023/> (accessed 24/09/2023).

19 Lord Sales, Justice of the UK Supreme Court (2019) 'Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence and the Law', The Sir Henry Brooke Lecture for BAILII. Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, London, (12 November), p. 2.

20 Ibid.

the legal systems and its ethical and societal implications. These will touch on the issues of bias, fairness and transparency in AI algorithms, privacy and data protection concerns, the impact on employment in the legal professions, and public trust and confidence in AI-assisted justice delivery. The fourth section provides a holistic evaluation of Nigeria's judicial-system engagement with, or readiness for, AI adoption. This will consider, among other aspects, the system's existing infrastructure and technological capabilities, legal framework and regulatory aspects, stakeholder engagement and training requirements. In the final section, the strategies for enhancing the Nigerian judicial system's full incorporation of AI into its operations will be suggested. These include policy recommendations for full AI incorporation into the legal sector, collaboration between legal and technology stakeholders, training and capacity building initiatives. It will also stress the necessity of updating the existing guidelines for AI implementation and oversight.

Although AI stands to be disruptive in the human sphere, as a human construct it must be taken as a quantum leap in human thinking and a reflection of the progress of human intelligence. This derives from the result of a polling at the 2019 *Doha Debates* on AI showing a majority of online voters (53 per cent) forecasting apocalyptic futures for humanity and exponential intensification in global inequalities in the era of AI's pre-eminence.²¹ However, drawing on Muthoni Wanyoike's 'Mindful Optimism' thesis, we advocate for legal and judicial systems' embrace of, and adaptation to, AI's technological advancements.²² We take inspiration from Lord Sales' affirmation of the enormous potential for efficiency and benefits in legislative and judicial processes. According to Sales, AI makes platforms for faster transaction times and more connections are made possible by information technology.²³

Consequently, by utilising information technology, online courts have the potential to enhance access to justice and significantly cut down on the time and expense required to resolve disputes.²⁴ It is for these reasons that we conclude that for lawyers and the judicial system, in Nigeria and globally, the case should not be for or against AI's presumed destructive force. Rather, finding new ways of engineering the regulation of society through AI machines with negligible social disruption should be the new norm.

1. Overview and challenges of Nigeria's judicial system

In every functional democracy, a robust, independent and fair judicial system is an indispensable apparatus for upholding the rule of law and the legitimacy of laws,

21 Wanyoike, M. (2019) 'AI Promises Equality Among Nations', from The Doha Debates 'Artificial Intelligence'. Qatar Foundation, Northwest University, Doha (3 April). <https://dohadebates.com/course/artificial-intelligence/#lesson-4a-speaker-muthoni-wanyoike> (accessed 15/07/2023).

22 Ibid.

23 Lord Sales. See footnote 16, pp. 1–2.

24 Ibid.

safeguarding human rights and guaranteeing justice for every citizen.²⁵ The absence of such a solid judiciary inevitably culminates in citizens' loss of confidence with a propensity for social unrest and instability.²⁶ The same realities apply to Nigeria's legal and judicial architecture with the Constitution of the Federal Republic 1999 (as amended) conferring fundamental powers²⁷ to the courts to that effect.

1.1 Overview of the Nigerian judicial system's organisation

While a detailed analysis of the full operationalisation of the judicial system is not within this paper's remit, it is pertinent to outline the structure and organisation of the Nigerian judicial-legal system. The system is founded on four sources of law: customary, Sharia (Islamic) and English/common law based on its traditional, religious and colonial legacies.²⁸ By virtue of section 6(5) of the 1999 constitution (as amended), the composition, character and status of the judiciary in Nigeria are set out as federal and state courts. The federal courts are made up of the Supreme Court; Federal Court of Appeal; Federal High Court; and the High Court of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. There are also the Sharia Court of Appeal of the FCT, Abuja and the Customary Court of Appeal of FCT, Abuja.²⁹ The state courts are stratified as follows: State High Courts; States' Sharia Courts of Appeal; and States' Customary Courts of Appeal.³⁰

However, section 230(1) of the constitution vests in the Supreme Court, as the country's highest court, the overarching and exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from the Court of Appeal as of right or with leave of the court.³¹ Central to the well-organised system, with all intendments, are the twin pillars of administrative law and the sacrosanct independence of the judiciary. The first governs the administration of judicial matters and court management, judge appointments and conduct, case handling and efficient court operations.³² The second, independence of the judiciary, guarantees an unmediated separation of powers. This allows courts to render impartial decisions free from the influence of other branches of government or unrelated organisations.³³

25 *AG Abia State v AG Federation* [2007] 2 SC 146, Per Niki Tobi at 1338

26 Gwunireama, I.U. (2022) 'Appraisal of Existing Frameworks on Judicial Independence in Nigeria', *Activa Yuris*, 2(1) DOI: 10.25273/ay.v2i1.11951; Maduekwe, V.C., Ojukwu, U.G. and Agbata, I.F. (2016) 'Judiciary and the Theory of Separation of Powers in Achieving Sustainable Democracy in Nigeria (The Fourth Republic)', *British Journal of Education*, 4(8), 84–104.

27 See *Gadi v Male* [2010] 7 NWLR (Part 1193), 225.

28 Sokefun, J. and Njoku N.C. (2016) 'The Court System in Nigeria: Jurisdiction and Appeals', *International Journal of Business and Applied Social Science*, 2(3), 1–27.

29 S6(5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

30 *Ibid.* There are also magistrate and district courts at local government level to complement the state judiciary.

31 *AG Lagos State v AG Federation & ors* [2014] LPELR 22; Sokefun, J. and Njoku, N.C. (2016), note 15.

32 Maduagwu, R.O. (2017) 'The Role of the Judiciary in the Sustenance of Democracy in Nigeria', *African Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law*, 1, 100–114

33 *Ibid.*

The court affirmed this in *AG Abia*: 'it is the duty of the court to keep the government faithful to the goals of democracy, good governance for the benefit of the citizen as demanded by the constitution'.³⁴

1.2 The system's current challenges

Despite the comprehensive constitutional provisions for the judicial system's functioning in Nigeria, several factors have, arguably, militated against its expected delivery of efficiency, effectiveness and justice. First, Nigeria's judicial system suffers from pervasive bureaucratic bottlenecks and delays which hinder its efficient operation. These bottlenecks are caused by antiquated laws, paper-based administrative procedures and an unwieldy backlog of cases.³⁵ The consequence of this, as we see in current practice, is a legal system rife with delays and an inability to administer justice effectively and promptly to its citizens.

Second, there is restricted access to justice for marginalised (genderised, poor non-cosmopolitan) populations. These demographics represent nearly 70 per cent of the country's population, yet are invariably confronted by hindrances in their pursuit of legal remedy.³⁶ This situation is exacerbated by inadequate funding, poor legal awareness and shortage of capable legal representation. These marginalised groups find it difficult to understand their legal rights, to get legal help and to navigate Nigeria's complex juridical-legal system.³⁷

Third, it is also well established that court employees in Nigeria seriously undermine the integrity of the legal system by indulging in bribery and corruption, evidenced when they file and assign cases. Undoubtedly, the integrity and fairness of the system are compromised by these dishonest practices, which unjustly erode public trust.³⁸ Additionally, the powerful and wealthy utilise bribery as a powerful instrument to slant the legal system in their favour, impeding the administration and dispensation of justice and fostering inequality.³⁹

Last, and perhaps the most significant challenge to Nigeria's juridical-legal system, is the pervasive reluctance to embrace and incorporate AI into its structure and operations. This is despite the heralding of the revolutionary impact of AI by eminent lawyers and

34 *AG Abia State v AG Federation* [2007] 1 CCLR SC p. 104, at 131.

35 For the statistical data on this phenomenon, see Ayuba, M.R. (2019) 'Justice Delayed Is Justice Denied: An Empirical Study of Causes and Implications of Delayed Justice by the Nigerian Courts', Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. https://www.Justice_Delayed_is_Justice_Denied_An_Empirical_Study_of_Causes_and_Implications_of_Delayed_Justice_by_the_Nigerian_Courts (accessed 22/08/2023)

36 See Gwunireama, I.U. (2022); and Maduekwe, V.C., Ojukwu, U.G. and Agbata, I.F. (2016) at footnote 23.

37 Ibid.

38 Adisa, W.B. and Alabi, T.A. (2021) 'An Empirical Investigation of Court Users' Encounters with Bribery, Judicial Extortion, and Corruption Victimisation in Lagos State', *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 75, 141–163.

39 Ibid.

legal scholars not only in most parts of the world but also in Nigeria. As Ajayi points out, this may be because of the country's conservative approach to legal practice – a common law heritage.⁴⁰ There is also the palpable fear of the threat that AI innovation poses to the 'noble' nature of the legal profession.⁴¹ Interestingly, however, there has been an exponential increase in the turnover of legal practitioners in the last few decades in Nigeria with an associated growth in law firms. However, this applies to a few firms – mostly the top-end, high-yielding – that have basic internet connection. Legal research is still conducted manually in most firms.⁴² This, coupled with the chronic problems of power shortage, means that the likelihood of an AI-driven legal industry is challenging. But even more worrisome is that the bench – the courts – which adjudicates matters has not shown any desire or attempt to embrace AI.

The consequence of the lack integration of AI technology is, ultimately, continued reliance on time-consuming and labour-intensive procedures. In turn, this increases the possibility of errors and inaccuracies in operating the juridical-legal system.⁴³ This justifies the necessity of the Nigerian judicial system to address these challenges, to leverage technology and to increase court procedures' efficiency and productivity⁴⁴ to keep up with the AI revolution.

2. The Interface between AI and the juridical-legal system

In Nigeria, the National Artificial Intelligence Policy (NAIP) exists to complement the National Information Technology Department Agency (NITDA)⁴⁵ framework. However, in overall governance terms, Nigeria is yet to formulate a national AI strategy. As recently as August 2023, the country's Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy Minister, Bosun Tijani, affirmed that the country was still seeking top researchers globally to help set up the country's national AI strategy.⁴⁶ This indeed speaks volumes about Nigeria's state of readiness for AI revolution, whereas many African countries have already implemented their strategies, devoting millions of dollars to the process.⁴⁷ Although 456 private AI-focused startups now operate in Nigeria, Mauritius was the first in Africa to

40 Ajayi, J., (2022) at footnote 13, p. 13.

41 Ibid.

42 Ibid. Citing M. Ozekhome, 'Modernizing Legal Practice in Nigeria', Law and You, *Punch*, August 26, 2013.

43 Oke, A.E. and Arowoija, V.A. (2022) 'Critical Barriers to Augmented Reality Technology Adoption in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Nigeria', *Journal of Engineering, Design and Technology*, 20(5), 1320–1333.

44 Karakara, A.A.W. and Osabuohien, E., (2020) 'ICT Adoption, Competition and Innovation of Informal Firms in West Africa: A Comparative Study of Ghana and Nigeria', *Journal of Enterprising Communities: People and Places in the Global Economy*, 14(3), 397–414.

45 Michael, C. (2023). See footnote 7.

46 Ibid.

47 Ibid. Citing data from Finextra and Kora.

devise a national AI strategy, with Egypt in tow.⁴⁸ Currently, South Africa ranks highest for the index of the highest number of AI-focused companies with 726 startups. Egypt has 246, Kenya 204 and Morocco 126.⁴⁹

AI's capacity to mimic human characteristics is its most fundamental characteristic and it can function in different categories. The first is artificial narrow intelligence (ANI), an advanced system which enables machines to use 'historical data for decision-machine'. It can also respond to 'different stimuli without previous experience' just like humans, although with no data storage or memory capability.⁵⁰ The second is artificial general intelligence (AGI), a machine with 'human-level intelligence' and capable of solving any task. Imbued with a 'human-like thinking and understanding', it uses a theoretical framework – theory of 'mind AI'.⁵¹ Third, artificial super intelligence (ASI), is a 'hypothetical' AI variant which 'surpasses human intelligence'.⁵² Bostrom describes this as an intelligence that is much superior to the best human brains in almost every domain, including social skills, general knowledge and scientific innovation.⁵³

Regarding the interface with the juridical-legal system, what has been highlighted so far is that AI's beneficial attributes can increase accuracy and productivity in legal and judicial processes.⁵⁴ First, the ease of case management and automation of administrative tasks highlight the pivotal intersection of AI and the juridical-legal system. For instance, AI smart virtual assistants can be instrumental in managing judges' calendars by scheduling appointments, setting hearing dates and notifying them of upcoming duties.⁵⁵ Additionally, they help counsel with client file-management and administrative duties. This includes, for example, time-tracking software which logs the hours counsel spend on each client and automatically generates invoices.⁵⁶

Second, AI has the potential to revolutionise legal research and case analysis by improving the accuracy and efficacy of locating pertinent data through identifying, with precision, patterns, relevant facts and important precedents.⁵⁷ This is enabled

48 Ibid.

49 Ibid.

50 Ajayi J., (2022). See footnote 13, p. 5.

51 Ibid. p. 6.

52 Ibid.

53 Bostrom, N. (2003) 'Ethical Issues in Advanced Artificial Intelligence', in I. Smit et al. (Ed.) *Cognitive, Emotive and Ethical Aspects of Decision Making in Humans and in Artificial Intelligence*, (Vol. 2), Institute of Advanced Studies in Systems Research and Cybernetics, p. 12.

54 Sil, R. et al., (2019) 'Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-based Legal Application: The State-of-the-Art and Future Research Trends', International Conference on Computing, Communication, and Intelligent Systems (ICCCIS).

55 Pietropaoli, I. (2023) 'Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice', British Institute of International and Comparative Law. https://www.biicl.org/documents/170_use_of_artificial_intelligence_in_legal_practice_final.pdf (accessed 22/09/2023).

56 Ibid.

57 Sharma, S. and Sony A.L., R. (2021) 'eLegalls: Enriching a Legal Justice System in the Emerging Legal Informatics and Legal Tech Era', *International Journal of Legal Information*, 49(1), 16–31.

by sophisticated machine-learning algorithms that scan vast amounts of legal data, including statutes, court cases and legal judgments. These significantly reduce the time, money and effort that legal practitioners spend on gathering and analysing such data, freeing them up to concentrate on more complex cases.⁵⁸

Third, AI uses algorithms to process and project case outcomes by analysing large volumes of court records to identify patterns, trends and unnoticed connections that the human eye might miss. This predictive power does not only provide judges and lawyers with insight into possible rulings, but also the conclusion of legal disputes on the balance of probabilities for litigants.⁵⁹ A UCL/Pennsylvania University study of 584 European Court of Human Rights-decided cases using AI software algorithms found a 79 per cent accuracy in case outcomes.⁶⁰

Fourth, AI's significance in contract analysis and document evaluation in the judicial-legal system cannot be overestimated. It helps to improve the speed and accuracy of examining and analysing legal contracts and documents.⁶¹ High-performance AI algorithms are built to quickly find relevant information, identify necessary provisions, sort through large amounts of textual material and highlight potential issues.⁶² These algorithms not only save lawyers' time, but also reduce the possibility of human error. In the process, they identify inconsistencies and assess the overall integrity of the contracts under review.⁶³

Notwithstanding these benefits, the AI-judicial-legal system interface has been shown to have several drawbacks and moral conundrums, primarily the complexity of securing transparency and understandability of AI algorithms.⁶⁴ It can sometimes be difficult for algorithms to grasp the reasoning behind conclusions since they are complicated, opaque systems, raising questions about accountability and equity. As a result, collaborations between jurists, lawyers and AI developers are necessary to develop technologies capable of providing clear explanations for the conclusions they reach.

58 Ibid.

59 Grimm, P.W., Grossman, M.R. and Cormack, G.V. (2021) 'Artificial Intelligence as Evidence', *Northwestern Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property*, 19, 9–106; Bernard, M. (2018) 'How AI and Machine Learning are Transforming Law Firms and The Legal Sector', *Forbes*, (May 23). <https://bernardmarr.com/default.asp?contentID=1464> (accessed 25/09/2023).

60 UCL News (2016) 'AI Predicts Outcomes of Human Rights Trials', (UCL, October 2016). <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2016/oct/ai-predicts-outcomes-human-rights-trials> (accessed 25/09/2023); also cited by Ajayi, J. (2022). See footnote 13.

61 Catterwell, R. (2020) 'Automation in Contract Interpretation', *Law, Innovation and Technology*, 12, 81.

62 Ibid.

63 Sharma, S., Gamoura, S., Prasad, D. and Aneja, A. (2021) 'Emerging Legal Informatics Towards Legal Innovation: Current Status and Future Challenges and Opportunities', *Legal Information Management*, 21(3–4), 218–235.

64 Pasquale, F. (2019) 'A Rule of Persons, Not Machines: The Limits of Legal Automation', *George Washington Law Review*, 87, 1–55.

Also, maintaining human judgement and accountability is a significant challenge at the AI-legal-judicial system nexus⁶⁵. While AI can increase the effectiveness and accuracy of legal decisions, it is imperative to maintain the human component and the accountability that goes along with it⁶⁶. To overcome this conundrum, AI should be presented as a complementary technology for humans- judges and lawyers- rather than taking their place.⁶⁷ Where this operates, AI algorithms become powerful information tools giving judges and lawyers better insights into the outcomes of cases.

Given the undeniable fact that AI systems are still heavily dependent on substantial datasets, they run the risk of maintaining the innate prejudices and forms of discrimination that may be present in the initial data used for training.⁶⁸ The biases and prejudices must be addressed to prevent discriminatory outcomes in legal procedures if AI is to guarantee equality and fairness in in legal procedures.⁶⁹

3. AI integration in law: case studies and ethical/societal Implications

In the American, Canadian and other western countries' integration of AI systems, the potential to minimise bureaucratic paperwork and improve the operational efficiency of judicial procedures⁷⁰ has seen a high degree of success. This includes the legal-judicial systems in those countries. Yet the ethical implications of transparency, interpretability and bias reduction in AI algorithms continue to pose obstacles to AI's ability to ensure justice and fairness. Other issues include job displacement and the need for human oversight and responsibility in legal procedures.⁷¹ These are outlined below.

3.1 Case studies of successful application

In her study of AI's machine learning in legal matters, Pietropaoli has noted that *Lex Machina* leverages machine learning to assist lawyers and judges in forecasting case results and, when appropriate, in offering legal strategies.⁷² Also, electronic discovery

65 Re, R.M. and Solow-Niederman, A. (2019) 'Developing Artificially Intelligent Justice', *Stan. Tech. L. Rev.*, 22, 242–289.

66 von Eschenbach, W.J. (2021) 'Transparency and the Black Box Problem: Why We Do Not Trust AI', *Philosophy & Technology*, 34, 1607–1622.

67 On this, see Amaya, A., (2023) 'Reasoning in Character: Virtue, Legal Argumentation, and Judicial Ethics', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-023-10414-z>; and von Eschenbach, W.J. (2021) at footnote above.

68 Dixon Jr, H.B., (2020) 'What Judges and Lawyers Should Understand about Artificial Intelligence Technology', *Judges' Journal*, 59(1), 36–38; Lubin, A. (2022) 'The Reasonable Intelligence Agency', *Yale Journal of International Law*, 47, 119–164.

69 See Carabantes, M. (2020) 'Black-box Artificial Intelligence: An Epistemological and Critical Analysis', *AI & Society*, 35, 309–317; also, Dixon Jr, H.B., (2020) and Lubin, A., (2022) at footnote above.

70 Sharma, S., and Sony A.L., R. (2021). See footnote 60.

71 Turner, J. (2019) *Robot Rules: Regulating Artificial Intelligence*, Springer.

72 Pietropaoli, I. (2023). See footnote 52.

(e-discovery), a document review system, has been shown to be a highly resourceful tool for assisting lawyers to promptly locate pertinent case law, edicts and other statutory regulations during legal proceedings.⁷³ Salter also observes that in Canada, the British Columbia Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) has integrated AI into its dispute resolution process, with disputes now mostly settled through an online platform.⁷⁴ This is in addition to the use of sophisticated AI tools to analyse contracts and extract important legal terms, saving lawyers appreciable time.⁷⁵

These examples of AI's successful application in the judicial system imply that Nigeria is well-positioned to benefit from other national policies by integrating AI into its judicial system via transparent regulation, accountability and fairness.⁷⁶ Nigeria can also gain from other Commonwealth nations' expertise in data security and other AI technology, with such knowledge disseminated via educational initiatives and peer-reviewed publications on websites that are easily accessible. This is consistent with the country's ongoing efforts to combat corruption. By effectively incorporating all the major languages spoken into its AI education policy and upholding the ethical and privacy issues, Nigeria can guarantee justice and the rule of law for its citizens.

3.2 Ethical and societal implications of AI integration

It is unarguable that AI portends to significantly benefit every sector of humanity, including the legal and judicial systems. However, the burgeoning literature on it has been universal on the ethical and societal implications of its integration. This is because ethical harms can arise from AI, either from unethical design, inappropriate application or misuse.⁷⁷ Some of the ethical and societal implications are evaluated below.

First, regarding the issues of bias, fairness and transparency in AI algorithms, in Broward County, Florida, USA, a criminal justice algorithm mistakenly classified African American defendants as 'high risk' twice as frequently as white defendants.⁷⁸ Also, as Hamilton and Ugwudike observe, AI has been utilised in the US to help judges assess risk factors and decide whether to give bail to a defendant. In this instance, the defendant's attributes are considered by the AI system and compared against those of several hundred

73 Ibid.

74 Salter, S. (2017) 'Online Dispute Resolution and Justice System Integration: British Columbia's Civil Resolution Tribunal', *Windsor Yearbook Access to Justice*, 34(1), 112.

75 Ibid.

76 Eke, D.O., Wakunuma, K. and Akintoye S., (2023) 'Introducing Responsible AI in Africa', in D.O. Eke, K. Wakunuma, and S. Akintoye (Eds) *Responsible AI in Africa Challenges and Opportunities*, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1–12.

77 See generally, Bird, E. et al., (2020) *The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence: Issues and Initiatives*, European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS). [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/634452/EPRS_STU\(2020\)634452_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/634452/EPRS_STU(2020)634452_EN.pdf) (accessed 25/09/2023).

78 Manyika, J., Silberg, J. and Presten B., (2019) 'What Do We Do About the Biases in AI?' *Harvard Business Review*, October 25. <https://hbr.org/2019/10/what-do-we-do-about-the-biases-in-ai> (accessed 29/10/2023).

previous defendants on a database.⁷⁹ For Manyika et al., this may exhibit racial or gender stereotypes through natural language processing models that are trained on news items.⁸⁰ These are thus significant indicators of bias and lack of fairness and transparency, which constitute AI's ethical challenges. While justice is centralised on impartiality in legal processing and judicial decision-making in democratic societies, it is feared that individual bias in profiling may have made its way into the development of such software. Also, such technology, used on defendants living in the west, may not directly apply to the Nigerian legal-judicial system, given the country's complex cultural, religious and linguistic dynamics.

Second, AI's role in assessing the predictability of a suspect committing an offence concern remains an ethical concern. This AI intelligence gathering method uses facial recognition along with data from social media and other sources to create an overall picture of an individual's activities and estimate the likelihood that they will commit a crime.⁸¹ While some information comes from public behaviour and appearance, other information may come from criminal records.⁸² Transposing this operational function of AI into a jurisdiction like Nigeria, with a criminal justice system beset with allegations of human rights violations and denial of the right to fair trial, becomes particularly challenging. Therefore, it is crucial to guarantee equality and fairness in AI to prevent these discriminatory outcomes in Nigeria's legal system's integration of AI into its operation. This is achievable through robust data collecting, annotation techniques and monitoring to address any emerging biases.

Third, privacy and data-protection concerns are, perhaps, some of AI's biggest challenges. The major feature of AI systems is to store data for long periods of time. In this sense, the preservation and protection of judicial and legal records depend on this. But this also comes with issues of data security and privacy because it has been a significant challenge to keep large amounts of data safe from ransomware, hackers and accidental leaks. This was highlighted by the recent case in England, where police institutions suffered significant data breach.⁸³ In this case reported by Halliday and Weaver, more 12,500 employees and officers of the Greater Manchester and London

79 Hamilton, M. & Ugwuđike, P. (2023) 'A "black box" AI System Has Been Influencing Criminal Justice Decisions for over Two Decades – It's Time to Open It Up', *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/a-black-box-ai-system-has-been-influencing-criminal-justice-decisions-for-over-two-decades-its-time-to-open-it-up-200594> (accessed 29/10/2023).

80 Manyika, J., Silberg, J. and Presten B. (2019). See footnote 76.

81 Min, B. and Ferris, G. (2022) 'Regulating Artificial Intelligence for Use in Criminal Justice Systems in the EU', Policy Paper for Fair Trials, 2-4. Available at <https://www.fairtrials.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Regulating-Artificial-Intelligence-for-Use-in-Criminal-Justice-Systems-Fair-Trials.pdf> (accessed 29/10/2023).

82 Ibid.

83 Halliday, J. and Weaver, M. (2023) 'Greater Manchester Police Officers' Data Hacked in Cyber Attack', *The Guardian*, 14 September. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/sep/14/greater-manchester-police-officers-data-hacked-in-cyber-attack> (accessed 29/10/2023).

Metropolitan Police had their personal information compromised.⁸⁴ During the ransomware attack on a third-party vendor that both forces had employed, information from officers' warrant cards, such as names, ranks, pictures and serial numbers, was reported stolen.⁸⁵

When the foregoing is juxtaposed with AI's integration and regulation of data privacy in Nigeria, the challenge becomes even bigger. For Nigerian legal practitioner, Olumide Babalola, several factors continue to beset the system and may hamper AI's effectiveness in the country. These include 'inadequacy of data privacy and protection legislation, deplorable consciousness of data privacy rights/laws, lack of enforcement-will/drive, and dearth of judicial decisions on data privacy violations'.⁸⁶ The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation⁸⁷ and the Nigerian constitution 1999 (as amended)⁸⁸ both safeguard the rights of natural persons to data privacy. They also engender the fostering of safe conduct for transactions involving the exchange of personal data, and to prevent manipulation of personal data.⁸⁹

In *Emerging Market Telecommunication Services v Barr Godfrey Nya Eneye*,⁹⁰ Nigeria's Federal Court of Appeal found against Emerging Market for giving unknown persons and organisations access to the respondent's Etisalat GSM phone number to send unsolicited text messages to it.⁹¹ This, the court found, amounted to a violation of the respondent's right to privacy guaranteed by section 37 of the constitution, which includes the right to the privacy of a personal's telephone line.⁹² Yet, as Babalola notes, Nigeria's case law is replete with straightjacketed privacy cases which relate to invasion of homes and offices as opposed to invasion of data privacy which have not been resolved.⁹³ These incidences, both in the UK and Nigeria, are valuable lessons for the Nigerian judicial system integrating AI into its mainstream.

Fourth, the capacity of AI algorithms to fast-track processing, project case outcomes, revolutionise legal research and automate administrative tasks, portends a disruption of existing employment structures⁹⁴ in the legal sector. These, in the short-term may make certain low-level jobs redundant. This may not only have far-reaching impacts on the Nigerian legal-judicial system, but it may also have devastating effects on its economy

84 Ibid.

85 Ibid.

86 Babalola O., 'Data Protection and Privacy Challenges in Nigeria (Legal Issues)', Lecture delivered at the Nigerian School of Internet Governance, 9 July 2019, at NIRA Office Lagos. <https://oblp.org/privacy-challenges-nigeria/> (accessed 29/10/2023).

87 The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation, 2019.

88 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

89 See ss1–5 Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019 and s37 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

90 *Emerging Market Telecommunication Services v Barr Godfrey Nya Eneye* (2018) LPELR-46193.

91 Ibid. Also see Babalola, O. at footnote 84 for a detailed commentary on the case.

92 Ibid.

93 Babalola O. See footnote 84.

94 Bird, E. et al. (2020). See footnote 75.

in the immediate future as there may be a reduced need for secretaries and paralegals. This will, therefore, raise issues of access to justice for Nigerians. Hence, Nigeria needs to plan for training opportunities in legal technology as the way forward in justice thinking. It should also embrace the opportunity to shift its workforce to engaging in more complex and strategic tasks to cope with the AI integration process.

4. AI: Assessing the judicial system in Nigeria's readiness for a revolution

It is predicted that, by 2036, AI will generate 100,000 legal tasks.⁹⁵ Also, the likelihood of AI automation processes in the legal profession is higher than in other professions, including counselling, pharmacy, engineering and teaching.⁹⁶ What these predictions mean is that the global legal and judicial landscape is about to undergo a radical AI transformation, offering Nigeria's judicial-legal system tremendous benefits.

However, as noted earlier, despite the massive proliferation of lawyers in Nigeria in the last three decades, with the number of legal practitioners running into tens of thousands, it is arguable that the AI revolution is yet to 'catch a bug' among them. The few firms which have incorporated AI into their practice find the cost of using AI software robots prohibitive, given the extraordinarily ridiculous exchange rate of the Nigerian currency (Naira) against the US dollar. For instance, FindLaw estimates that a small practice must spend \$30,000 to install software robots to handle legal work,⁹⁷ which amounts to 36,000,000 million Naira given the current exchange rate. This is exacerbated by the absence of quick and high-speed internet connection by the country's mobile telecommunication service providers – MTN, 9Mobile, Airtel and Globacom – on which most Nigerians rely to access the internet.⁹⁸

These realities, according to Ajayi, make most high-end AI solutions too complex for the typical Nigerian lawyer or law practice.⁹⁹ Nevertheless, this has not prevented firms such as Aluko & Oyebode, Bam and Gad Solicitors, Aelex, ACAS-law, The New Law Practice (TNLP), Banwo and Ighodalo, and Chris Ogunbanjo LP to incorporate AI software into their practices.¹⁰⁰ Within this transition, the lacuna of AI infusion cuts across the entirety

95 Hill, J. (2016), 'Deloitte Insight: Over 100,000 Legal Roles to Be Automated', Legal Insider, March 2016, <https://legaltechnology.com/2016/03/16/deloitte-insight-over-100000-legal-roles-to-be-automated/> (accessed 28/09/2023)

96 Frey, C.B. and Osborne, M.A. (2017) 'The Future of Employment: How Susceptible Are Jobs to Computerisation?' *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 114, 254–280. The researchers based their prediction on their profiling of over 700 professions, including the legal profession.

97 Vogeler, W. 'How Expensive is AI for Law Firms Really?' FindLaw, February 23, 2017 (last updated 21/03/2019). <https://www.findlaw.com/legalblogs/technologist/how-expensive-is-ai-for-law-firms-really/> (accessed 25/09/2023).

98 Ajayi, J. (2022). See footnote 13, p. 20.

99 Ibid.

100 Ibid.

of the bench – Nigerian judiciary. The courts (including the Supreme Court) are to make a conscious effort to take advantage of AI's benefits, necessitating an assessment of Nigeria's judicial system's state of readiness for the AI revolution.

4.1 Existing infrastructure and technological capabilities

Nigeria's judicial-legal system's capacity to adopt AI largely depends on its technological capabilities and infrastructure. However, it is evident that, save a few law firms, the existing frameworks lack the incorporation of state-of-the-art technology.¹⁰¹ This makes it difficult to use AI tools and methodologies to enhance the administration of justice.¹⁰² These deficiencies also make it necessary for Nigeria's judiciary to bolster its existing structures and functioning by devoting renewed energies towards securing comprehensive and valid data for AI optimisation. This is to be underpinned by robust regulatory and ethical parameters to ease AI into its jurisprudence.¹⁰³

4.2 Availability of relevant data for AI applications

Given that Nigeria's judiciary has been found to lack the infrastructural and technological wherewithal for AI integration, it follows that it does not have available, applicable data which is of paramount importance to work with. The challenges arising from this would be inadequate digitisation of legal texts and records, and incomplete, poor data quality.¹⁰⁴ To overcome these, initiatives to digitise and standardise legal data should be given priority to fully utilise AI's potential and to guarantee its availability and accuracy.¹⁰⁵ By engaging in multidisciplinary partnership to identify and address data-centric issues, judges, regulatory agencies, lawyers and IT experts stand to reap enormous benefits.¹⁰⁶

From the foregoing, the Nigerian judicial-legal system's need to adopt AI-based technology is founded on its promise of improving the system in order to increase public access to justice. Overcoming the challenges will involve modernising the existing infrastructure by collaborating, as the Minister of Communications has affirmed, with foremost global AI experts.¹⁰⁷ By learning from successful global AI

101 Oke, A.E. and Arowoija, V.A. (2022) 'Critical Barriers to Augmented Reality Technology Adoption in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Nigeria', *Journal of Engineering, Design and Technology*, 20(5), 1320–1333.

102 Ibid.

103 Turner, J. (2019). See footnote 69, pp. 207–2012.

104 Ade-Ibijola, A. and Okonkwo C. (2023) 'Artificial Intelligence in Africa: Emerging Challenges', in D.O. Eke, K. Wakunuma and S. Akintoye (Eds) *Responsible AI in Africa Challenges and Opportunities*, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 101–118.

105 Ibid.

106 Arakpogun, E.O. et al., (2021) 'Artificial intelligence in Africa: Challenges and opportunities', in A. Hamdan et al., (Eds) *The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Implementation of Artificial Intelligence for Growing Business Success, Studies in Computational Intelligence*, 935, Springer, pp. 375–388.

107 Ibid.

initiatives, and prioritising continuing education and skill development initiatives for legal professionals, Nigeria's judicial-legal system stands to reap the innumerable benefits AI revolution offers.

5. Strategies for enhancing the Nigerian judicial system's readiness

To ensure the Nigerian justice system's successful integration of AI into its operation, four critical factors need to be carefully considered. These are, first, the institutionalisation of a robust legal framework for applications of AI. Nigeria should consider outlining the parameters of AI applications as well as data security, privacy and ethics within the country's legal and judicial systems. It is suggested that an oversight body is set up to facilitate the monitoring and identification of any issues or problems that arise in Nigeria in the short and longer term. This should be tested via a pilot scheme to assess the potential impacts of integration of AI into the judicial system before implementing AI across the nation's judicial institutions. Aided with business incentives such as tax exemptions or grants to help with the cost of acquiring AI technology, these measures would help to maintain transparency and fairness, and to preserve justice and openness.

Second, alongside the legal framework, a robust regulatory oversight mechanism is important to establish guidance on the development, use, implementation and monitoring of AI in the Nigerian judicial system. World-leading oversight systems in operation in the US, Europe and Commonwealth countries such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand¹⁰⁸ can offer Nigeria valuable guidance in this respect. However, oversight committees should be drawn from national resources, taking into consideration the various cultures, customs and legal pluralism. This is because Nigeria's legal system consists of judges, lawyers in the English and federal and state courts and chiefs in the customary courts.¹⁰⁹ Nevertheless, Nigeria is well placed to absorb codes of best practice from various African and Commonwealth states.

Third, the Nigerian legal sector and technology stakeholders should engage in collaborations for effective operationalisation of AI technology. In jurisdictions such as the USA, providers of technology consult with law firms to develop leading software on AI software for lawyers.¹¹⁰ In the Harvey AI system, the OpenAI-backed legal start-up founded in 2022 ensures collaboration between several law firms and consultancy group PwC.¹¹¹ In addition to using the technology for common tasks such as drafting and

108 Roberts, H. and Floridi, L. (2021) 'The EU and US: Two Different Approaches to AI Governance', The Oxford Internet Institute, 15 November. <https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk/news-events/news/the-eu-and-the-us-two-different-approaches-to-ai-governance/> (accessed 29/10/2023).

109 Kolade-Faseyi, I. (2021) 'Artificial Intelligence and the Nigerian Legal Profession', *Achievers University Law Journal*, 1(1), 161–175.

110 Saunders T. (2023) 'Legal Tech Teams Turn to AI to Advance Business Goals', *Financial Times*, October 19. <https://www.ft.com/content/9a117ac7-29ae-43fe-b840-a04005b98799> (accessed 29/10/2023).

111 Ibid.

summarisation, lawyers are also using the algorithm in more inventive ways to create litigation strategy. By feeding it into their arguments and then requesting a rebuttal, this AI tool offers linked citations to increase user confidence in the accuracy of the results.¹¹² This could be replicated in Nigeria with an AI technology industry/Nigerian judicial system collaboration through memorandums of understanding binding the legal industry and tech firms. From an international perspective, Nigeria may also look to legal technologies and AI in other Commonwealth judicial systems for guidance on best practice.

Fourth, through training and capacity-building initiatives in AI technologies for the courtroom and legal practice, Nigerian judges, lawyers and courtroom staff can keep up to date with emerging trends and changes with the technology. Recently, UNESCO, in association with Future Society, developed the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on AI and the rule of law as an introductory course targeted at people working in the judicial systems.¹¹³ It aims to engage judicial operators in a global discussion about AI application in, and impact on, the rule of law. Based on six modules, it unpacks the opportunities and risks of adopting AI technology across justice systems and AI's impact for the administration of justice, particularly for human rights, AI ethics and governance issues.¹¹⁴ The Nigerian judicial system draws from this scheme, and from the exchange of best practice with Commonwealth and African countries already ahead in this, such as South Africa, Mauritius and Egypt.

Thus, despite AI's potential disruptive nature, as a human construct, it represents a quantum leap in human thinking and a reflection of the progress of human intelligence. Anderson and Rainie describe AI as an 'ontological leap' requiring its identification as a living being with consciousness capabilities. They see its evolution as being likely to enhance many aspects of human life, including medical remedies, education and environmental conservation.¹¹⁵

For Nigeria's legal and judicial systems, therefore, several change-management techniques need to be adopted to help make the move from manual to AI technology-based operations. These include balancing the promotion of innovation with fundamental rights safeguards, transparency, accountability and legal predictability through a robust regulatory framework for AI.¹¹⁶ Also necessary is bridging the knowledge

112 Ibid.

113 UNESCO (2022) 'Global MOOC on AI and the Rule of Law Engaged Thousands of Judicial Operators', UNESCO, 23 May. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-global-mooc-ai-and-rule-law-engaged-thousands-judicial-operators> (accessed 29/10/2023).

114 Ibid.

115 Anderson J. and Rainie L. (2018) 'Improvements Ahead: How Humans and AI Might Evolve Together in the Next Decade', Pew Research Center. Available at <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/12/10/improvements-ahead-how-humans-and-ai-might-evolve-together-in-the-next-decade/> (accessed 19/01/2024).

116 Obi U.V., Ole N.C. and Uzoigwe S. (2023) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems Use in Nigeria: Charting the Course for AI Policy Development, Alliance Law Firm, (October 27). <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=600a8ee0-5b28-44da-8415-0e07c7f333fe> (accessed 19/01/2024).

gap through education and training on AI technologies for legal professionals and stakeholders.¹¹⁷ There also needs to be continuous engagement and adaptation to ensure that the law and regulation adjust to technological advancements in AI.¹¹⁸

Conclusion

This paper has focused on the juridical-legal system in Nigeria's readiness for a paradigmatic shift in technology and the potential impact of AI. In considering the evidence, we advocate that AI is integrated with care into the operation of Nigeria's legal-judicial system. Despite the ethical questions about government agencies mining our personal data and other misgivings, AI is already with us and has come to stay. It will 'define and shape the twenty-first century. It will determine the future of humanity in the centuries beyond'.¹¹⁹

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117 Erojikwe T. (2023) 'Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Legal Practice in Nigeria', Lawyard (May 27). <https://www.lawyard.org/lawyard-spotlight/artificial-intelligence-and-the-future-of-legal-practice-in-nigeria-by-tobenna-erojikwe/> (accessed 19/01/2024).

118 Ibid.

119 Zarkadakis, G. (2017). See footnote 2, p. 12.