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AI's Impact on the African Legal Profession: A Revolution in Progress?

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Introduction

In the dynamic landscape of legal services in Africa, a profound transformation is underway. This transformation is being driven by legal technology startups that are harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address persistent challenges within the legal profession. As the continent grapples with issues of access to legal services, technological innovators are increasingly exploring innovative ways to bridge this gap and overcome other pressing obstacles. Incorporating AI into legal practice is increasingly becoming a central, yet controversial concern. Issues around reliability and client privacy remain central to the arguments against AI adoption in legal practice while opposing proponents argue that the essence of law is in its use of formal logic, where truths acquired from precedent are utilised to analyse the existing facts and arrive at a definitive result or consequence. Thus, AI, when applied in the field of law, fundamentally utilises machine learning to attain identical results.[1] This paper delves into the multifaceted impact of AI on the future of legal services in Africa, examining the current state of AI adoption, the specific applications reshaping legal tasks, the inherent benefits and drawbacks of this transformative technology, ethical considerations, and pragmatic recommendations for mitigating challenges.

Against the backdrop of a continent where access to legal services remains elusive and systemic inequalities persist, the exploration of AI's potential to enhance efficiency, productivity, accessibility, and affordability in the legal realm becomes particularly pertinent. In this context, the emergence of AI in the legal sector signifies not only a technological evolution but also a crucial step towards addressing the pressing legal needs of diverse communities across Africa.

AI in Africa's legal profession

Incorporating AI in African legal practice has gained attention and interest in recent years. This is largely predicated on AI's potential to enhance the efficiency, quality, and accessibility of legal services, as well as create new opportunities for lawyers and clients.

However, AI adoption in Africa also faces some unique challenges and risks, such as a lack of infrastructure, absence of data, skills, and comprehensive regulation, as well as ethical and social implications. For example, in the fifth edition of the Government Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index, published by Oxford Insights in 2022,[2] the average score of the 46 Sub-Saharan African countries measured by the Index in 2022, at 29.38, which was the lowest globally. The region is overrepresented at the bottom, accounting for 21 out of the 25 lowest scores, and performs particularly poorly on the technology sector pillar, with an average of only 20.96

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[1] LexisNexis, 'Six Ways Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Transforming Law Practice' (no date) https://www.lexisnexis.co.za/evolution-of-legal-research/six-ways-artificial-intelligence-ai-is-transforming-law-practice accessed 22 November 2023.

[2] 'Government AI Readiness Index 2022' (Oxford Insights, 12 December 2022) https://www.oxfordinsights.com/government-ai-readiness-index-2.

out of 100.[3]

Additionally, according to a report[4] compiled by Lawyers Hub Kenya, the legal tech industry was estimated to occupy 3% of the legal market share in Africa.[5] The same report states that the majority of the legal tech solutions being offered across the continent are based on the provision of online legal services (33.9%) while other tech solutions in high demand include legal practice management, legal advisory and consultancy services, case management, and e-contracts and documentation (all at approximately 8.93%).[6] Therefore, although the legal tech industry remains relatively small in Africa, Africa's legal sector has shown an increase in demand for technologically advanced legal services, research tools, case management systems, digital files and client management systems. These legal tech systems continue to be used across various jurisdictions and in many cases, incorporate the use of AI products and processes.[7]

The integration of AI in legal practice

Despite the long-standing presence of AI as a dynamic technology with diverse applications, its potential within the legal domain is still in its nascent stage. AI can be integrated into various aspects of legal proceedings, ranging from research to the prediction of court outcomes. The following three applications emerge as the most widespread and evident ways in which AI can be integrated into the legal life cycle. While some may contend that there are more examples, these instances are solely provided for illustrative purposes. Furthermore, there is difficulty in providing information to follow on who is using a lot of the AI use cases. The difficulty lies in the fact that law firms are not openly acknowledging their use of AI, primarily due to issues related to liability and a prevailing uncertainty regarding the current perceptions and sentiments toward AI, especially from a trust standpoint. Accordingly, we rely on statements from service providers who can confirm the utilisation of their software by these firms. A significant portion of practical AI uses by law firms/legal practitioners remains undocumented or unreported.

Due diligence

Legal due diligence is the systematic gathering and evaluation of all legal papers and information.[8] It typically involves an in-depth review of all the necessary legal documents, contracts, agreements, licenses, permits and other legal records to identify any legal risks, pending litigation, compliance issues and contractual obligations.[9] While due diligence is a common feature in commercial transactions (e.g. mergers and

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3   Randall Carolissen, 'Part Two: Africa's Artificial Intelligence Landscape' (no date) <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/part-two-africas-artificial-intelligence-landscape-aea20e8a-728f-48e2-9def-3b36ed58429a> accessed 21 November 2023.
4   Lawyers Hub Kenya, 'State of Legal Tech in Africa Report' (2022).
5   Ibid at 4.
6   Ibid.
7   Ibid.
8   'What is Legal Due Diligence in M&A & How to do it' (ansarada, no date) https://www.ansarada.com/due-diligence/legal accessed 24 January 2024.
9   Heidi Barter, 'A Comprehensive Guide to Due Diligence in South Africa: Key Considerations and Best Practices - Law Firm' (Barter McKellar, no date) https://www.bartermckellar.law/corporate-law-explained/a-

acquisitions), it is also important for litigation purposes, where a lawyer may want to check the correctness and completeness of all the documents they intend to submit as evidence.

A common usage of AI in due diligence is under contract review. Here AI can, for example, identify contract types (even in multiple languages) based on pattern recognition in how the document is drafted. This allows a firm to manage its contracts more effectively by quickly sorting through large volumes of contracts as the algorithm knows – and can easily access – what is in each contract.[10] Likewise, AI can then be used to generate summaries and reports of the due diligence findings and highlight any issues or discrepancies that need further attention.[11] Thus, AI can enhance the efficiency and quality of lawyers' due diligence tasks, allowing them to allocate more time to concentrate on the deal or case's strategic and intricate elements. A process often undertaken by junior lawyers and required days or even weeks to complete contract summaries may now be generated in a matter of seconds. Consequently, this enables legal teams to do more precise due diligence assessments at a lower expense and within a shorter duration.[12] For example, few law firms have openly acknowledged their utilisation of AI for due diligence. Legal analytics firms such as Lex Machina[13] and Kira[14] provide AI-powered solutions for contract analysis and due diligence tasks for multiple law firms as detailed on their respective websites, demonstrating the utilisation and advancement of AI for this purpose.

Legal analytics/Prediction technology

Lawyers can use data points from past case law, win/loss rates and a judge's history to provide insights from large volumes of data. In practice, legal analytics tools are helping lawyers make data-driven decisions on which to build their legal strategies. This could mean things like predicting the probability of a specific motion outcome, how seemingly unrelated cases connect, or how much a settlement award could be.[15] One famous example is Premonition, which analyses data on attorneys, judges and court cases by using machine learning algorithms in order to identify trends and offer advice on how to succeed in legal matters.[16]

Document automation

Law firms use document automation to rapidly draft and generate documents, including forms, agreements, letters, and other legal documents that are often repetitive and similar in nature. Most lawyers, law firms, and legal professionals spend a significant amount of time drafting documents and forms (or reviewing and editing

comprehensive-guide-to-due-diligence-in-south-africa-key-considerations-and-best-practices accessed 24 January 2024.

[10] How AI is changing legal due diligence: Artificial intelligence-based tools are becoming increasingly commonplace.

[11] Chris O'leary and Raees Nakuhuda, 'Artificial Intelligence for M&A Due Diligence: See It in Action' (16 April 2023) https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/en/insights/articles/how-ai-and-document-intelligence-are-changing-the-legal-tech-game accessed 24 January 2024.

[12] Ibid.

[13] See lex machina, 'Legal Analytics by Lex Machina' https://lexmachina.com/ accessed 21 February 2024.

[14] See Kira Systems, 'Machine Learning Contract Search, Review and Analysis Software' https://kirasystems.com/ accessed 21 February 2024.

[15] Phillip Kent, 'AI and the Legal Industry' (Legalese, 2 March 2023) https://legalese.co.za/ai-and-the-legal-industry/ accessed 24 January 2024.

[16] Ibid.

them, at the very least). AI generated content used for legal document automation is a technique that uses AI to automatically create legal documents such as agreements, contracts, and other documents. Previously, the manual process of document drafting involved spending time looking for the right template, piecing language together from multiple documents, and entering client information.[17] Legal document automation software automates some or all of this document generation process by using advanced algorithms and natural language processing in order to analyse the document's requirements and produce satisfactory results.[18] Notable examples of document automation in practice include Wonder.Legal, which has been used in Nigeria and enables lawyers to create customised legal documents for their clients using a library of over 200 templates. As AI evolves, it is expected that the precision and effectiveness of legal documents produced by AI will also improve. This may lead to a rise in the usage of AI-generated content for intricate legal documents and contracts. It is further likely that AI-generated documents/content may be integrated with other legal technologies (such as legal research tools and e-discovery software), which will allow for a smooth and effective workflow.[19]

Benefits and Drawbacks of AI in the Legal Profession

As can be inferred from above, the most apparent benefits of incorporating AI within legal practice relate to increasing efficiency. Essentially, AI has the potential to reduce the time spent working on certain processes or documents, thereby reducing costs, increasing productivity, and improving accuracy. In addition, while it has not been proven yet, it is reasonable to assume that the use of AI might potentially improve the longstanding issue of lack of access to justice in Africa by expediting court proceedings. A study conducted by Afrobarometer in 2017, revealed that a widespread complaint amongst citizens was that legal cases move too slowly through the courts.[20] AI has the potential to aid in alleviating this problem by automating certain functions which currently are being done manually and thus taking a long time to be completed.

There are numerous challenges and risks associated with the implementation of AI in African legal practice. One prominent issue is that of data privacy. AI is a data-driven technology. This means that the outputs generated by AI applications and software are heavily dependent on input data. The nature of legal practice is such that often the matters deliberated upon, and related information, are often of a private and confidential nature. Thus, there may be a challenge regarding what sort of input data may be fed to AI algorithms. On a positive note, though, as of January 2024, 35 of the 55 African countries have some form of

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[17] Dorna Moini and Molly Anderson, 'Legal Document Automation Guide | Gavel' (no date) https://www.gavel.io/resources/law-firm-document-automation-guide accessed 24 January 2024.

[18] Jesse Mount, 'A Guide to Document Automation for Lawyers' (Clio, 1 October 2020) https://www.clio.com/blog/document-automation-for-lawyers/ accessed 24 January 2024.

[19] AI generated content for legal document automation: https://aicontentfy.com/en/blog/ai-generated-content-for-legal-documentautomation#:~:text=With%20the%20help%20of%20AI,increased%20productivity%2C%20and%20cost%20savings. (6 November 2023).

[20] Carolyn Logan, 'Ambitious SDG Goal Confronts Challenging Realities: Access to Justice is Still Elusive for Many Africans' (Africa Portal, Afrobarometer 1 March 2017) https://www.africaportal.org/publications/ambitious-sdg-goal-confronts-challenging-realities-access-to-justice-is-still-elusive-for-many-africans/ accessed 12 February 2023.

data protection law to guide how to process personal/private data, including for AI uses.[21] While it will be redundant to look at each and every country's individual data protection law, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention),[22] being the continental directive on data protection states that any kind of personal data processing shall be subject to a declaration before the data protection authority except in a few circumstances.[23] The utility of this provision and its effectiveness will therefore depend on the data protection authorities of AU member states. Drawing upon the example of South Africa though, the Protection of Personal Information Act[24] in chapter 3 lays out the requirements for lawful processing of personal information and outlaws (subject to section 27) the processing of special personal information such as religious beliefs, political affiliation, biometric information etc.[25] It is essential to constantly consider and adhere to regulations like these to guarantee the legal use of AI by lawyers and safeguard the interests of their clients.

In addition, the legal status of AI remains an enigma globally. AI's legal status matters especially for instances where Judges or other arbitrators may rely on AI to assist in decision making or delivering a verdict. Related to the *audi alteram partem*[26] maxim and procedural fairness (transparency), the use of AI may be called into question, thus it is important to know what AI's legal status is. In intellectual property law circles, the first legal discipline to question AI's legal status, the majority consensus has been that AI has no legal status as it relates to inventorship (i.e. whether AI can be considered an inventor (legal person) or not).[27] Thus, guided by these judgments, it is highly unlikely that AI will attain legal status. Accordingly, where AI has been relied upon by judges or lawyers, there is a need for harmonisation and standardisation of laws and policies on how to treat these instances in the interests of transparency and fairness to litigants.[28]

AI in legal practice may also raise ethical and social concerns especially as it relates to bias. AI bias occurs when an algorithm's output becomes prejudiced due to false assumptions based on the data fed into it.[29] The pressing problem for Africa now is that the majority of AI software and applications are being developed in the global north. Accordingly, the data sets largely represent global north dynamics and may be biased or underrepresent the unique conditions of Africa. For example, algorithms trained using European data for

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[21] 'Data Protection Africa By ALT Advisory' (Data Protection Africa ALT Advisory, 26 June 2023) https://dataprotection.africa/ accessed 25 January 2024.

[22] African Union, 'African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection' (African Union 2014).

[23] Article 10(2) ibid.

[24] Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act 4 of 2013.

[25] Section 26 of the POPI Act 2013.

[26] The *audi alteram partem* doctrine is a longstanding legal notion of due process that ensures that individuals are not subjected to judgment without a fair hearing when both parties are provided with the chance to address the facts presented against them.

[27] See *Thaler v. Vidal*, 43 F.4th 1207 (Fed. Cir. 2022), *Thaler v. Perlmutter*, Case 1:22-cv-01564-BAH (D.D.C., Aug. 18, 2023) and *Thaler -v- Comptroller* [2021] EWCA Civ 1374.

[28] Anil Balan, 'Lawyers Are Rapidly Embracing AI: Here's How to Avoid an Ethical Disaster' (The Conversation, 19 January 2024) http://theconversation.com/lawyers-are-rapidly-embracing-ai-heres-how-to-avoid-an-ethical-disaster-221135 accessed 25 January 2024.

[29] Jake Silberg and James Manyika, 'Tackling Bias in Artificial Intelligence (and in Humans) | McKinsey' (6 June 2019) https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/artificial-intelligence/tackling-bias-in-artificial-intelligence-and-in-humans accessed 25 January 2024.

facial recognition will perform better for European faces than for African faces.[30] In the US for instance, the use of criminal risk assessment algorithms came under scrutiny owing to bias.[31] Risk assessment tools function by analysing the specific characteristics of a defendant's profile and generating a recidivism score – a singular numerical estimation of the probability that the individual would commit another offence.[32] Subsequently, the court incorporates that score into numerous determinations that can ascertain the specific rehabilitation treatments that certain offenders should be provided, whether they should be detained in jail prior to trial, and the extent of severity for their sentencing. A low score sets the stage for a more benevolent destiny. Obtaining a high score has the exact opposite effect.[33] The most famous one is the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) which, in studies, was found to be biased in that it often concluded that "blacks are almost twice as likely as whites to be labelled a higher risk but not actually re-offend", whereas COMPAS "made the opposite mistake among whites: they were much more likely than blacks to be labelled lower-risk but go on to commit other crimes".[34]

The legal profession has long placed a high priority on ethics. Lawyers are stewards of the law, and as such, they are essential to upholding justice and are required to conduct themselves with the utmost ethics. Thus, it is vital that the information from which data is drawn by AI is factual and correct to reach accurate results and to further ensure fairness in the judicial system.

Additionally, integrating AI in legal practice necessitates lawyers and judicial officers to develop new proficiencies and skills. Digital skills literacy is a significant barrier to the adoption and implementation of AI in Africa. Out of all world regions, sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest percentage of citizens equipped with digital skills, equalling about half of the average level of digital skills adoption seen globally.[35] For legal practitioners, these skills include the capacity to utilise and oversee AI tools, the ability to employ critical thinking and judgement to assess AI outputs, and the flexibility and creativity to navigate the evolving legal environment.

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[30] Tshilidzi Marwala, 'Synthetic Data Should Be Option of Last Resort for Training AI Systems' (Daily Maverick, 25 July 2023) https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2023-07-25-algorithm-bias-synthetic-data-should-be-option-of-last-resort-when-training-ai-systems/ accessed 25 January 2024. See also Joy Buolamwini and Timnit Gebru, 'Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification' in (PMLR 21 January 2018) Proceedings of the 1st Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency 77.

[31] See Jeff Larson Mattu Julia Angwin,Lauren Kirchner,Surya, 'How We Analyzed the COMPAS Recidivism Algorithm' (ProPublica, 23 May 2016) https://www.propublica.org/article/how-we-analyzed-the-compas-recidivism-algorithm accessed 21 February 2024. See also Anne L Washington, 'How to Argue with an Algorithm: Lessons from the COMPAS ProPublica Debate' (SSRN Scholarly Paper, 4 February 2019).

[32] Karen Hao, 'AI is Sending People to Jail - and Getting It Wrong' (MIT Technology Review, 21 January 2019) https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/01/21/137783/algorithms-criminal-justice-ai/ accessed 25 January 2024.

[33] Ibid.

[34] See Julia Angwin Mattu Jeff Larson,Lauren Kirchner,Surya, 'Machine Bias' (ProPublica, no date) https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing accessed 25 January 2024. Ed Yong, 'A Popular Algorithm Is No Better at Predicting Crimes Than Random People' (The Atlantic, 17 January 2018) https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/01/equivant-compas-algorithm/550646/ accessed 25 January 2024. Ellora Israni, 'Opinion | When an Algorithm Helps Send You to Prison - The New York Times' (26 November 2017) https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/26/opinion/algorithm-compas-sentencing-bias.html accessed 25 January 2024.

[35] David Kanos and Pace Madden, 'Figures of the Week: Digital Skills and the Future of Work in Africa' (Brookings, 22 July 2020) https://www.brookings.edu/articles/figures-of-the-week-digital-skills-and-the-future-of-work-in-africa/ accessed 25 January 2024.

Preliminary findings in a study conducted by the Intaka Centre for Law and Technology seem to suggest that the more senior legal practitioners are reluctant to adopt AI-based or assisted tools because they do not want to deal with the expenses associated with onboarding, especially when it comes to upskilling.[36] Accordingly, the lack of skills, resources, and standards increases the potential for bias, discrimination, and exclusion and threatens privacy, security, transparency, and oversight.

Recommendations for Mitigating AI-Related Challenges

AI, like any other disruptive technology, comes with both positive and negative effects. Therefore, its regulation plays a crucial role in promoting responsible AI adoption. As always, the job of regulators is to balance citizens' interests, ensuring that they are given ample room to use innovative solutions while simultaneously offering appropriate safeguards against the harms.

The European Union's AI Act is a pioneering piece of legislation that sets strict standards for high-risk AI systems. It is anchored on 3 main pillars, namely, transparency, accountability, and human oversight. The main highlights of the AI Act are that it categorises different AI uses into different tiers. In the first tier, the AI Act identifies certain AI systems as posing an unacceptable risk to individuals and society, leading to an outright ban. Examples of such systems include those engaging in cognitive behavioural manipulation, such as voice-activated toys that encourage dangerous behaviour in children.[37] Additionally, the legislation prohibits social scoring practices, which classify individuals based on behaviour, socio-economic status, or personal characteristics. Secondly, the Act categorises AI systems that negatively impact safety or fundamental rights as high risk. These systems fall into two main categories: those used in products governed by existing EU product safety legislation (e.g., toys, aviation, cars, medical devices, and lifts), and those in eight specific areas requiring registration in an EU database. The designated areas include biometric identification, critical infrastructure management, education, employment, access to essential services, law enforcement, migration control, and legal interpretation assistance.[38] All high-risk AI systems must undergo thorough assessments before being introduced to the market and continually throughout their lifecycle.[39] This stringent evaluation process aims to ensure that AI technologies do not compromise safety, fundamental rights, or ethical standards. Lastly, the EU AI Act recognizes that not all AI systems pose significant risks. Thus, the last two tiers of risk reflect this. With 'limited risk' AI systems that pose some potential risks but are considered manageable within existing regulatory frameworks.[40] Examples might include chatbots or personalized recommendation systems. These systems typically require self-assessment by developers to ensure they comply with relevant regulations. Then within the "minimal or no risk" tier, AI systems that pose negligible or no

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[36] Intaka Centre for Law and Technology. (forthcoming 2024) 'Assessing the Impact of Legal Technology in Africa,' edited by Hanani Hlomani and Tobias Schonwetter.

[37] 'EU AI Act: First Regulation on Artificial Intelligence | News | European Parliament' (6 August 2023) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20230601STO93804/eu-ai-act-first-regulation-on-artificial-intelligence accessed 21 November 2023.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Tessa Baker, 'The EU AI Act: A Primer' (Center for Security and Emerging Technology, 26 September 2023) https://cset.georgetown.edu/article/the-eu-ai-act-a-primer/ accessed 25 January 2024.

[40] 'EU AI Act' (fn 37).

risk to safety or fundamental rights, often used in low-impact applications like spam filters or basic image recognition tools. These systems generally require no specific compliance measures.[41]

While the EU has made strides in AI legislation, Africa is steadily making progress. African governments are developing regulations to drive AI adoption and address ethical considerations such as data privacy, bias, and transparency. Mauritius[42] and Egypt[43] have already published their AI strategies, while Rwanda approved its National AI Policy[44] in June 2023.[45] In addition, Kenya, Tunisia, and Botswana are encouraging AI research and talent development. Additionally, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is currently developing "The African Union Artificial Intelligence Continental Strategy for Africa", although the extent of its development remains uncertain at the time of writing.[46] However, the continent still has a long way to go regarding comprehensive AI regulation.

From the example of the EU above and the directives contained within the various AI strategies and policies in Africa, it is possible to create a regulatory framework that both encourages AI use and adoption while safeguarding citizens' rights and interests. This is true both in a general AI regulation sense, as well as when it relates to AI use within legal practice. The risk-based approach presents itself as an attractive way of doing things for categorising information employable for AI processing. Within the legal fraternity, there is utility in categorising what kinds of information or processes can and cannot be run through AI software, either as a legal tech tool for practitioners or as data for training various legal tech tools. A similar approach of unacceptable risk to low risk can be employed. This approach can be coupled with best practices and recommendations for responsible AI adoption in Africa, such as the development and implementation of legal and ethical frameworks, the promotion of fairness, explainability, privacy, and robustness, the involvement of human-in-the-loop, and the collaboration and participation of various actors and stakeholders.

Conclusion

Although AI provides some advantages such as increased efficiency, expanded legal research capabilities, and automation of jobs, its impact on the future of the legal profession remains unclear. It is imperative to address the emerging concerns related to the legal status of AI, bias, transparency, and accountability in AI-powered judicial systems. Comprehensive legal frameworks and ethical criteria are needed to guarantee

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[41] Baker (fn 39) and 'EU AI Act' (fn 37).

[42] Mauritius AI strategy, available at https://ncb.govmu.org/ncb/strategicplans/MauritiusAIStrategy2018.pdf.

[43] Egypt AI strategy available at https://ai.gov.eg/Egypt%20National%20AI%20Strategy%20(6-4-2021)4.pdf.

[44] Rwanda AI policy available at https://www.minict.gov.rw/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=67550&token=6195a53203e197efa47592f40ff4aaf24579640e.

[45] Sheriff Njie, 'Access Alert | Rwandan Government Approves National AI Policy' (Access Partnership, 5 June 2023) https://accesspartnership.com/access-alert-rwandan-government-approves-national-ai-policy/ accessed 21 November 2023.

[46] See 'Artificial Intelligence is at the Core of Discussions in Rwanda as the AU High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies Convenes Experts to Draft the AU-AI Continental Strategy | AUDA-NEPAD' (no date) https://www.nepad.org/news/artificial-intelligence-core-of-discussions-rwanda-au-high-level-panel-emerging accessed 25 January 2024.

that AI functions as an instrument for justice, rather than a cause of discrimination or inequality.

To handle this ever-changing environment effectively, the African legal profession must adopt a proactive strategy. Lawyers must continuously engage in education and training to develop the necessary proficiency in comprehending and efficiently utilising AI tools. Developers in the legal tech industry should give priority to ethical design principles and actively tackle possible biases in their systems. It is also important for stakeholders within the legal ecosystem, such as bar associations, politicians, and technology developers, to work together to formulate appropriate and efficient methods for implementing AI.

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