

## TECHNOLOGY AND LAW: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON LEGAL PRACTICE

**Mercy Chinda\***

**Abraham Orij\*\***

### **Abstract**

*Globally, the legal profession is being influenced by technological advancements. The rise of technology has undeniably transformed the legal field, reshaped traditional practices and introduced innovative tools that enhance efficiency, accessibility, and accuracy. From automated processes to artificial intelligence-driven insights, the legal sector has harnessed technology to address challenges and seize opportunities in the modern era. The introduction of technology into the legal profession marked a significant shift in the landscape, especially with the adoption of computers, which changed how individual lawyers practiced. Undoubtedly, the impact of technology is more evident among lawyers in Nigeria today than ever before. Therefore, this paper focuses on the potential role of technology in lawyers' work, particularly in Nigeria, and how it affects their professional tasks. The paper will also explore the challenges lawyers face with the influx of technological tools. The authors will recommend ways for lawyers to effectively utilize technology to improve their performance.*

**Keywords:** Technology, Law, Legal profession, Lawyers, and ICT.

---

\* Senior Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Associate Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Email: ngozichinda@gmail.com

\*\* Professor and Head, Department of Curriculum Studies & Educational Technology, Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Technology has become a crucial part of everyone's life, whether at work, at leisure, or elsewhere. Incorporating technology in legal practice can greatly boost efficiency, cut costs, and minimize delays. When we consider the influence of technology on lawyers' professional duties, the COVID-19 pandemic immediately comes to mind, as it has compelled the legal sector to adapt swiftly. However, for some lawyers, the pandemic may serve as a much-needed "wake-up call" to the realization that a fundamental understanding of technology is essential for remaining competent in the twenty-first century.

Undoubtedly, legal professionals deal with vast amounts of information, documents, and data. Technological tools, such as case management software, document automation, and legal research platforms, will help streamline lawyers' workflows, saving them time and improving overall job efficiency.<sup>1</sup> Traditionally, all tasks, especially legal ones, were completed manually, and lawyers spent significant time interacting with non-lawyers and other business professionals.

However, lawyers' jobs have changed considerably with the advent of new technologies, including cell phones, the internet, social media, and legal software. Bar, Carretta, and Iyer<sup>2</sup>, who noted that remote hearings are not a new phenomenon in civil proceedings in some countries, such as the United Kingdom, particularly in commercial

---

<sup>1</sup> Atoyeb, M. O., *The Impact of Technology on the Nigerian Legal System* (2024). Available at: <https://omaplex.com.ng/the-impact-of-technology-on-the-nigerian-legal-system/>. Last accessed 22 January 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Bar, G., Carretta, S. A. & Iyer, S., 'The Impact of Law Tech on the Future of Lawyers' in *Internet and New Technologies*, pp.129 – 144. Available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357804925\\_The\\_Impact\\_of\\_Law\\_Tech\\_on\\_the\\_Future\\_of\\_Lawyers](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357804925_The_Impact_of_Law_Tech_on_the_Future_of_Lawyers). Last accessed 25/02/2026.

cases involving an international element or party. The legal profession in Nigeria is undergoing a paradigm shift in standards, as technology plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the legal landscape. Lawyers must stay abreast of these state-of-the-art legal technologies, recognizing their potential to enhance efficiency and client service.<sup>3</sup> It is possible to provide definitions for some terms used in this paper to facilitate better understanding.

- a. Technology:** Technology is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, particularly in industry, education, medicine and daily life. Technology includes machines, systems and techniques that help solve problems and improve efficiency. Technology aims to change and manipulate the human environment for the betterment of humans. Omodele and Olubukola define it as the application of scientific knowledge to human practical aims, specifically to change and manipulate the human environment.<sup>4</sup>
- b. Lawyer:** A lawyer, also known as an attorney, is commonly described as an officer of the court. A lawyer is also described as an advocate.<sup>5</sup> A lawyer is a professionally trained individual, qualified and licensed to practice law. He can offer legal advice, draft legal documents, and represent clients in court proceedings.
- c. Law:** The system of rules and regulations, supported by sanctions when broken, that guides the conduct and behavior of members of a community or society, which they accept and regard as binding.

---

<sup>3</sup> Robertson, G., *Crimes Against Humanity: The Struggle for Global Justice*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (London: Penguin Books, 2006). (Penguin 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Omodele, A. O. & Olubukola, A. O. (2023) The pros and cons of technology in the judicial process in Lagos State, Nigeria, 13(1). *African Journal of Humanities & Contemporary Education Research* ([www.afropolitanjournals.com](http://www.afropolitanjournals.com)). Pp. 329-341.

<sup>5</sup> Freeland, D. M. H. (2012). "What is a lawyer? A Reconstruction of the Lawyer as an Officer of the Court". *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*, vol. xxxi: 425-497.

It can also be described as a set of rules established and enforceable by social or governmental institutions to regulate behavior.<sup>6</sup>

- d. **Legal Profession:** This term describes the occupation of individuals with expertise in law and its application, involving the study, development, and application of legal principles to advise and represent clients, often in private practice, government, corporations, or academia. Usually, someone choosing a career in law must first pass a bar examination after obtaining a law degree or some other form of legal education, such as an apprenticeship in a law office.
- e. **Information and Communication Technology (ICT):** ICT is a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. It also means utilizing computer-based technology and the internet to provide information and communication services to many users. ICT is both hardware and software communication devices and applications, such as computers, the internet, telephones, radio, television, satellite systems, and other telecommunications products that enable us to communicate information for various purposes.
- f. **Online platform:** Online platforms like Moodle are digital services that enable users to interact, share information, and participate in various online activities. They are digital services that support interactions between two or more distinct but interdependent groups of users over the internet, allowing transactions, information sharing, and community building. ICT refers to all the technologies used to manage telecommunications, broadcast media, intelligent building management systems, audiovisual processing and transmission

---

<sup>6</sup> Robertson, G., (n. 3)

systems, and network-based control and monitoring functions. According to Castillo, an online platform is a collection of technologies designed to operate within an online environment and to provide interactive online services, such as presentation tools, cloud computing, social media, Google Drive, web page creation, file management, mapping, content management systems, and website templates.

## **2.0 IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY TO LAWYERS**

Undoubtedly, technology has not come to replace lawyers but to make their jobs easier, faster, and more precise. Adopting technology in legal processes has reduced bureaucratic burdens and improved lawyers' efficiency. Implementing technology in legal practice can significantly increase efficiency, reduce costs, and minimize delays. It is not an overstatement to say that in 2004, the Nigerian government established the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to promote and regulate the use of technology across all sectors, including the legal sector. Additionally, in 2011, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) launched a portal for lawyers, providing them access to legal resources and online legal education. The NBA website is routinely upgraded to accommodate additional facilities for lawyers. One such upgrade was completed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2026. As stated in the mail circulated to members, "...the NBA is undertaking a system upgrade on the Portal. This upgrade is aimed at resolving issues related to the ordering of NBA stamps, payment of Bar Practicing Fees (BPF), and other identified technical challenges to ensure improved efficiency and user experience."<sup>7</sup> This is one of the ways that technology has impacted the legal profession.

Other ways technology has affected lawyers are:

---

<sup>7</sup> Excerpt from a mail circulated by the NBA National to its Members

**a. Higher Convenience:** According to Singla & Gupta<sup>8</sup>, scholars have found that greater convenience, along with legally based mobile apps and software, improves the efficiency of legal processes. These technological solutions enable ordinary people to connect with lawyers and legal specialists without leaving their homes. These technologies would allow lawyers to communicate effectively with various clients, keep them updated in real time, conduct productive research, and more. Technology makes lawyers' jobs much easier for everyone.

**b. Computers:** The advent of computers has made lawyers' work much easier, as information can be safely stored, retrieved, and accessed at the user's convenience. Computers can also minimize errors. Microsoft's platform combines traditional productivity tools, such as word processors and spreadsheets, to simplify lawyers' work. According to Singla and Gupta<sup>9</sup>, technology is crucial in the legal field because it reduces the risk of errors. Legal software, such as word processors and eDiscovery software, automates certain operations. This speeds up procedures and allows attorneys to focus on more productive work. The introduction of online computer-aided legal research has enabled lawyers to perform their tasks more easily and quickly than ever before. Technological advancements have also impacted the Nigerian Legal System, with computer-aided legal research and instructions being introduced. The Nigerian Legal System has improved through the launch of online legal research sites such as LexisNexis, Legal Pedia, and Law Pavilion. These software applications have alleviated lawyers' research difficulties, as legal resources are now readily accessible online. This software not only

---

<sup>8</sup> ibid

<sup>9</sup> ibid

makes law reports available electronically to lawyers, but also to judges, magistrates, and students.<sup>10</sup>

**c. Social Media:** Lawyers can now utilize social media platforms for their professional jobs. Social networking has made legal work more accessible, enabling lawyers to connect with clients more easily and quickly. They can exchange ideas, assist colleagues, and seek help from their peers through online legal communities. Lawyers use social media for professional networking, marketing, and staying informed about legal developments.<sup>11</sup>

**d. Email & Websites:** Lawyers can now communicate, interact, or relate with clients with the software above to reach them on time.

**e. Document Management:** The shift from paper-based to digital document management systems has improved efficiency in organizing, storing, and retrieving legal documents. Lawyers have also shifted from paper-based jobs to digital document management systems, which have improved efficiency in storing, retrieving, and organizing legal documents in both offices and lawyers' records.

**f. Internet Services:** Before now, lawyers were used to consulting their clients face-to-face, that is, offline. But today, law practices are no longer limited to offline practice. However, with Internet connections, lawyers can store and access data from any location without hindrance. Technology has made it easier to access

---

<sup>10</sup>Available at: <https://www.lawmatics.com/blog/how-will-technology-change-in-the-future-for-lawyers/> Last accessed 22/01/2026

<sup>11</sup> Hill, J. *How will Technology Change in the Future for Lawyers?* (2024). Available at: <https://www.lawmatics.com/blog/how-will-technology-change-in-the-future-for-lawyers/> Last accessed 22/01/2026

information, streamline court processes, facilitate swift and accurate research, and enhance the delivery of justice, thereby reducing delays in dispensing justice.<sup>12</sup> Lawyers can now publish textbooks, law reports, scholarly peer-reviewed journals, and articles online.<sup>13</sup>

Legal research tools help lawyers stay up to date on regulatory changes, even when they are not at their desks. Harris<sup>14</sup> avowed that lawyers can use legal research databases, AI-powered research tools, and other technology to quickly and accurately find relevant case law, statutes, and regulations. Lawyers can easily collaborate with colleagues, link with other attorneys in real time, and learn basic legal requirements. Clients can be reached easily and quickly, and important documents may be obtained via the WhatsApp application with a few easy clicks. Lawyers can file documents electronically through an electronic data/information exchange system. Similarly, in advanced societies, evidence can be presented electronically.

- a. **Legal Analytics:** The emergence of technological tools, like legal analytics tools, can empower lawyers to make data-driven decisions. Legal analytics tools analyses legal data, identify trends, and predict case outcomes, empowering lawyers to make data-driven decisions. Although this software is not developed in Nigeria, these online legal databases, including Manupatra, SCC Online, Taxman, Westlaw, and LexisNexis, provide access to legal

---

<sup>12</sup> Atoyeb, M. O., (n. 1)

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*

<sup>14</sup> Harris, N., *Why do Lawyers Need to Keep up with Legal Technology?* Available at:

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/law\\_practice/resources/law-technology-today/2023/why-do-lawyers-need-to-keep-up-with-legal-technology/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_practice/resources/law-technology-today/2023/why-do-lawyers-need-to-keep-up-with-legal-technology/) Last accessed 25/02/2026

materials such as case law, legislation, and regulations from advanced countries.<sup>15</sup>

- b. Automation:** Technology has enabled the automation of certain legal tasks. Some laborious work that humans are used to doing is now automated. Some automated tools have modernized repetitive tasks, such as document review, contract analysis, and legal research. The introduction of computers in the 1980s led to the automation of legal processes, such as document drafting and deposition summaries.<sup>16</sup>
- c. Video Conferencing:** Video conferencing tools are now available for lawyers. They can use these tools to hold meetings and negotiate with clients from virtually anywhere. Additionally, video conferencing enables lawyers to attend lectures from the comfort of their homes at any school they choose. The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted most higher education institutions in Nigeria to transition to online platforms.<sup>17</sup>
- d. Competitive and Relevant:** In today's world, lawyers want to remain competitive and relevant amid significant regulatory and other professional changes.<sup>18</sup>
- e. Online Filing Sharing:** With technology, cases can now be filed online. This makes it easier for lawyers to meet deadlines and reduce delays in the dispensation of justice. Sharing files in this digital age has been simplified, with numerous tools enabling legal practitioners to share case papers and collaborate seamlessly. According to Omodele and Olubukola, e-filing enables lawyers and litigants to file cases and documents electronically, saving time and reducing the need for physical court visits. Even if not fully adopted or in practice, the COVID-19 pandemic has

---

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*

<sup>16</sup> Atoyeb, M. O., (n. 1)

<sup>17</sup> Skjolsvik, T. & Breunig, K. J., Virtual Law Firms: An Exploration of the Media Coverage of an Emerging Archetype. (2018) 26(1), *Int. J. Law Inf. Technol.* 64-88.

<sup>18</sup> Robertson, G., (n. 3)

introduced the concept of remote court proceedings (RCP) into the Nigerian legal system. Moreover, it enables law students to stay informed about the latest developments in the law. Additionally, technology has simplified the process for law students to research case law and stay up to date on the latest legal developments. It has also made it easier for lawyers to exploit loopholes and engage in unethical behavior.

- f. **Communication:** Who can say communication has not recently improved, particularly among lawyers? Harris<sup>19</sup> has revealed that with social media, email, instant messaging, and video conferencing, attorneys can connect with clients and coworkers more effectively and efficiently. Technology has dismantled geographical barriers for lawyers, enabling easy access, communication with attorneys, and collaboration with global clients through remote access.<sup>20</sup> With the ever-increasing litigation across the court hierarchy, lawyers must contend with voluminous records. However, preparing and filing these records takes time, which technological advances have made easier. Lawyers can now access and read judgments from different courts, news reports of cases, constitutions and other laws, as well as case notes and opinions published by various law firms. Globally, nearly every lawyer, judge, and court uses email, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and other electronic platforms to aid their daily practice.<sup>21</sup>
- g. **Marketing:** Marketing has been made easy for lawyers. Lawyers can now reach many of their clients online. Harris affirmed that lawyers could utilise technology software, such as mobile phones, social media, and online advertising, to reach potential clients, a

---

<sup>19</sup> Harris, N., (n. 13)

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> Ziedonis, R., *Patent Litigation in the U.S. Semiconductor Industry* In *Patents in the knowledge-based economy*, W. Cohen and S. Merrill, Eds. Washington, D.C.

practice that had never been done before.<sup>22</sup> Omodele and Olubukola revealed that the launch of the internet in Nigeria in 1995 led to e-commerce and e-contracts, which lawyers now use effectively in their work.

- h. Use of Mobile Devices:** Presently, Nigerian courts recognize the significance of digital evidence and establish guidelines for its admissibility. Mobile applications assist practitioners in case research, time tracking, and client management.
- i. Broader Skillset for Clients:** By integrating technology competency into the legal practice curriculum, lawyers will offer a broader skill set to clients amid increasing demands and changing service expectations.
- j. More Patronage:** The twenty-first-century lawyers will attract and maintain business by serving clients in the best, most cost-effective ways.<sup>23</sup>
- k. Valued Lawyers:** Technology competence will be a game changer for lawyers because it adds professional value by being one of several areas where they can employ a more diverse skill set.

### 3.0 PITFALLS OF TECHNOLOGY TO LAWYERS

Today, machines are rapidly replacing human effort in providing certain human services, and legal services are no exception, particularly with the use of Artificial Intelligence in the legal profession. Technology. What challenges do legal professionals (Lawyers) face in adapting to technological advancements in their field? Technology is said to have a more nuanced impact on lawyers. Technology adoption can be a double-edged sword in the legal profession, as Singla & Gupta advised not to rely heavily on

---

<sup>22</sup> Harris, N. (n. 13)

<sup>23</sup> Burk, B. A., *What's New About the New Normal: The Evolving Market for New Lawyers in the 21st Century*, ((2014) *Fla. St. U. L. Rev.* 541, 584.

technology to protect clients' data, but instead to seek better safeguards and ensure we are not disclosing unnecessary information. However, let us examine some factors that militate against lawyers' jobs.

- a. **Client's Privacy:** Technology is not without its shortcomings. While technology helps lawyers perform their jobs effectively, it also poses risks to their employment and their clients' privacy. Here, we raise security concerns; Nigeria's security challenges can threaten technology-dependent lawyers, particularly those who rely on digital processing and storage of legal documents. With increasing reliance on digital tools, lawyers must focus more on cybersecurity and privacy. Although the use of technology makes it easy to experience data breaches and security concerns, it also creates risks to their work. As technology evolves rapidly, new concerns emerge. With all these hazards in mind, we should be cautious not to rely too heavily on technology. Many people worry that artificial intelligence may be biased and may not understand legal terms, potentially replacing human lawyers, which authors Singla & Gupta said would be detrimental to the legal profession. Technology is essential to teamwork and communication; however, it has also made the legal system more vulnerable to cyberattacks, as no one is immune to such incidents. Without proper cybersecurity precautions, data leaks will continue to occur, causing irreversible damage to clients and lawyers' practices, according to Singla & Gupta. Some scholars have argued that technological advances will transform legal services by making lawyers obsolete or less pervasive.
- b. **Poor Electricity Supply:** The newborn in Nigeria knows that electricity supply is very poor. If lawyers are addicted to technology, what will be their fate when there is no power supply?

Omodele and Olubukola<sup>24</sup> stated that the cost of buying diesel and petrol motor spirit to power generators is very high. Therefore, a poor power supply reduces lawyers' adherence to and adoption of technology in the practice of law in the country.

- c. **Resistance to Technology:** The legal profession has long been slow to adopt new technology; hence, resistance to change stems from several factors. Among some of the factors, according to Singla & Gupta,<sup>25</sup> are:
- a. The view that legal work is exceptionally specialized.
  - b. It requires human expertise.
  - c. The conservative nature of legal traditions and culture.
  - d. There are fears about the effect technology will have on the legal profession.
  - e. The assumption that legal work is specialized and requires human knowledge.
  - f. Relied on their expertise and abilities to provide legal services.
  - g. Many believe that the very nature of legal work makes digitization or automation difficult.
  - h. Placed a high value on following established norms and procedures.
  - i. The hierarchical structure of law firms and legal organizations may make it difficult to obtain assistance from those in positions of influence.
  - j. Fear about its potential impact on the industry.
  - k. It may reduce the quality of legal services and lead to job losses.
  - l. There is concern that technology will replace legal professionals, particularly those in starting positions or performing routine tasks.
  - m. The legal profession is also subject to strict ethical norms and laws, and worries about technology's ethical consequences have fueled opposition to its use.

---

<sup>24</sup> Atoyeb, M. O. (n. 1)

<sup>25</sup> (n. 6)

- n. There is fear that using technology may undermine attorney-client privilege, violate confidentiality, or raise questions about the impartiality and equity of legal decision-making.
- o. Using algorithms for decision-making in legal processes has also raised concerns around bias and discrimination.

Ethical Behavior: Using technology will make it difficult to observe some ethical misbehaviours among lawyers, particularly in Nigeria.

Online Legal Templates: The impact of technology on the legal profession is the widespread availability of legal templates online. The consequence of this is making these legal documents available to certain roadside typists or cafeterias that charge clients unreasonable low prices, thereby making technology or machines fast replacements.<sup>26</sup>

Technological Literacy: Low technological literacy has been a major problem among lawyers in Nigeria. Omodele & Olubukola<sup>27</sup> opined that lawyers in Nigeria may not possess adequate technological literacy to effectively navigate technology-related legal issues, resulting in many lawyers not utilizing the services technology offers in the law profession.

Cost: Nigerian lawyers may not be sufficiently well-versed in providing and maintaining technological infrastructure.<sup>28</sup> As Omodele & Olubukola<sup>29</sup> stated, the cost of adopting and maintaining modern technological infrastructure and systems necessary for effective legal

---

<sup>26</sup> Singh, Peeyush, *What's the Role of Technology in the Legal Sector?* 19/01/2026. Available at: <https://appinventiv.com/blog/technology-in-legal-sector/>. Last accessed 22/01/2026.

<sup>27</sup> (n. 1)

<sup>28</sup> *ibid*

<sup>29</sup> *ibid*

practice can be prohibitive for many legal practitioners, especially in Nigeria. When these ICT devices are purchased, they require ongoing upgrades and maintenance, which lawyers cannot afford. For instance, most law firms are privately owned or sole proprietorships. Hence, they cannot afford the capital-intensive funds to invest in adequate computers, projectors, or internet connectivity in the classrooms. Again, quality online legal research is not usually free, as a subscription to Nigeria's Law Pavilion is required. Academic journals require subscription fees, whether individual or institutional, which many law faculties and firms cannot afford.

Isolation: Bar, Carretta, and Iyer affirmed that social connections among students and teachers are disintegrating. Again, excessive automation might reduce the need for human-to-human interactions, limiting exposure to worldviews and peer coordination, and might also polarize relationships and views. This may reduce the development of emotional interactive skills for future lawyers and the quality of client relationships.<sup>30</sup>

Unfamiliar Technology: Artificial intelligence is undoubtedly still nascent, especially for lawyers in Nigeria. Using a new technology that is alien or not fully understood by lawyers will create more problems than it solves. Bar, Carretta & Iyer<sup>31</sup> have also stressed that implementing innovative artificial intelligence solutions in the legal industry is only just beginning and will pose additional challenges for lawyers. It will take decades to understand or see how it will play out.

Internet Technology: The lack of internet access or a technology culture among law teachers, their students, lawyers, and their clients has been cited as one of the factors militating against effective law

---

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*

<sup>31</sup> *ibid*

practice. While many advanced jurisdictions/authorities have been able to inculcate technology/internet culture, many Nigerians still lag far behind. According to the website above, many law teachers, students, lawyers, and their clients are still in the analogue and paper world, unwilling to change or adapt to the sweeping technological culture. Sheer conservatism or a general distrust of the internet and technology have been the reasons behind this attitude. Unfortunately, most internet service providers in Nigeria are unreliable and slow, hampering lawyers' jobs. There is no gainsaying that most Nigerians today access the internet through their mobile phones via Airtel, MTN, Globacom, and Etisalat (now V-Mobile), which may not be able to download heavy files.

Plagiarism: With the advent of the internet, the incidence of plagiarism is now very high among lawyers and law teachers, and it is also incontestable, as none of them downloads internet resources. Copy and paste is the order of the day without regard to the original copyright owner(s). Nowadays, students download soft copies or copies of someone's work from the internet, especially theses and dissertations. They change the information and the institution, replace it with their own, and present it as their original research work. The internet makes it very easy for lawyers, students, and law teachers to plagiarize others' work.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Today's language is digital or online. It is wholly fundamental that we move with it. There is a saying that knowledge is power; hence, the study recommends that lawyers be properly educated through seminars, workshops, conferences, and other awareness programs to sensitize them to the importance of legal technology. They should know how to utilize technology to advance the judicial process. Lawyers should be acquainted with technological tools, both hardware

and software, that help them remain relevant in the contemporary age. In fact, Clio.com<sup>32</sup> recommends that lawyers of tomorrow focus on using artificial intelligence to augment their services rather than fear being replaced by it. Lawyers will be required to develop their know-how in using the underlying technology and to acquire more advanced digital and computational competencies.<sup>33</sup> Governments at all levels in Nigeria should invest heavily in technological training for legal professionals and establish a legal framework to address cybersecurity and data protection, two challenges in technology adoption and adaptation. Lawyers should also understand the pitfalls of technology, especially cyber-hacking, which is very prevalent and plan to protect and/or safeguard their sensitive data/information online. Also, Clough<sup>34</sup> suggests that stricter cybersecurity laws are needed to protect individuals and organizations from cyberattacks. And Kumar and Navya<sup>35</sup> have warned that without stringent data protection frameworks, there could be potential risks of data breaches, identity theft, and unauthorized access to confidential legal information. Omodele & Olubukola<sup>36</sup> suggested that Nigeria position itself as a leader in Africa in technological advancements in the legal industry. Conclusively, Nigeria needs to invest heavily in technological tools and law firms and faculties to make lawyers' jobs technology-compliant and remain relevant today and tomorrow. She must do this by continually purchasing, upgrading, and maintaining the necessary

---

<sup>32</sup> Clio 2025 Report, *Legal Trends for Solo Law Firms*. Available at: <https://www.clio.com/resources/legal-trends/2025-solo-small-firm-report/>. Last accessed 25/02/2026

<sup>33</sup> Bar, G., Carretta, S. A. & Iyer, S., (n. 2)

<sup>34</sup> Clough, J., *Principles of Cybercrime*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139540803>. Last accessed 22/01/2026

<sup>35</sup> Kumar, A. & Navya, "Artificial intelligence (AI) and the Future of Law". *International Journal of Progressive Research in Engineering, Management and Science (ijprems)*, (2025) 5(1), 1134-1146

<sup>36</sup> Omodele, A. O. & Olubukola, A. O., (n. 4)

technological tools, and by training and retraining the lawyers to keep pace with technological advances.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The impact of technology on lawyers' practice cannot be overemphasized in this modern society. Its effect on the legal industry worldwide is undeniable, marking a transformative shift in various facets of legal practice.<sup>37</sup> The advent of technology has not really replaced lawyers' jobs, but has made their jobs easier, faster, and more precise. Those who are resistant to change and unprepared for the changes technology is bringing /or has already brought, to lawyers will undoubtedly fall behind.<sup>38</sup> However, Harris (2023) revealed that attorneys should keep up with legal technology trends, including artificial intelligence, cloud computing, e-discovery, blockchain, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), and Virtual Reality (VR), to remain competitive, effective, and efficient in the current legal market. Therefore, Omodele & Olubukola<sup>39</sup> have advised that adopting technology and ensuring compliance with the law must remain a crucial aspect of Nigeria's development agenda. Bar, Carretta. & Iyer<sup>40</sup> opined that "in the digital world of the future, human lawyers will need to demonstrate emotional intelligence and a deep understanding of how technology can help them provide better services". Therefore, if any lawyer, male or female, especially in Nigeria, refuses to integrate technology into their law practice, they will remain irrelevant in the contemporary knowledge age and the fast-unfolding future, as

---

<sup>37</sup> Rodgers, I. , Armour, J and Sako, M., How technology is (or is not) Transforming Law

Firms. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, (2023) 19(19)

<sup>38</sup> Hill, Jan, "How Will Technology Change in the Future for Lawyers ` *Lawmatics*. Available at: <https://www.lawmatics.com/blog/how-will-technology-change-in-the-future-for-lawyers/> Last accessed 22/01/2026.

<sup>39</sup> Omodele, A. O. & Olubukola, A. O, (n. 4)

<sup>40</sup> Bar, G., Carretta, S. A. & Iyer, S., (n. 2)

technologies evolve daily. It has become necessary or pertinent for lawyers to understand and speak the language of technology, both hardware and software tools, that can help them perform certain legal services for better and greater productivity.