

The Pros and Cons of Technology in The Judicial Process in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of humans to the change and manipulation of the human environment is called technology. Its application to the judicial process in Lagos State Judiciary has made it easier to access information, file court processes, enable swift, and accurate research, and improve the delivery of justice thereby curbing the delay in the dispensation of justice though this is with some qualifications. The study juxtaposed and analysed the advancement of technology in the judicial process in Lagos State, Nigeria. Historical and case study designs were adopted. Doctrinal method was used in data collection. The primary sources of data were the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Lagos State High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2019; Magistrates' Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2009; Lagos State Chief Judge Practice Direction dated April 27, 2020; sources of secondary data were published textbooks, law reports, scholarly peer-reviewed journals, and articles. Data were content-analysed and presented thematically. Findings revealed that technology is needed for the advancement, development, and growth of the judicial process in Lagos State. Many a lawyer and litigants have not utilised the technology in the state's judiciary. There is no clear legislation in the state protecting or guiding the utilisation of technology in the judiciary save the practice direction issued by the state's chief judge in 2020. The study concluded that technology is necessary in advancing the judicial process in Lagos State. The study recommended that lawyers and litigants are to be properly educated vide seminars on how to utilise technology in advancing the judicial process. The Lagos State House of Assembly should initiate a bill for the utilisation and applicability of the technology in the state's judiciary.

Keywords: Lagos State, Judicial Process, Nigeria, Pros and Cons, Technology.

Introduction

The importance of technology in the advancement of the judicial process in Lagos State, Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. Judicial legal technology uses technology and software to provide, aid, and support judicial legal services. According to Ryan (2015), "Technology offers judges, lawyers, and law firms the opportunity to improve their overall efficiency and to adapt to a progressively agile working environment."

Globally, nearly every lawyer, judge, and court use email, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and other electronic platforms to aid their daily practice Ziedonis (2003). Lagos State Judiciary makes use of software applications for both internal and external affairs in ensuring speedy turnaround of work activities. Fafinski (2009) stated that "technology has also become an integral part of creating efficiency and promoting access to justice in the world currently. It has revolutionised the way, ease, speed, and time with which legal practitioners and courts conduct their activities."

Before the years 2015 and 2023, the e-filing/online filing and tracking of cases were done manually in the Lagos State Judiciary (High Court and Magistrates' Court) and in the year 2020, the sudden emergence of COVID-19 brought about the introduction of virtual hearing of cases in the state.

Lawyers and litigants do not need to be physically present in the court before court processes can be initiated and filed, payments made, suit numbers generated, and cases assigned to the court. The presiding magistrates are notified of the cases filed and assigned to them vide e-mail and they subsequently fix dates for the cases and the lawyers are aware of the dates fixed for the cases. The Magistrates' Court cases cover all the civil cases both regular and the Small Claims Court though this is not extended to the criminal cases called overnight that are being filed against the defendants and/or accused persons by the police.

These technological innovations in the Lagos State Judiciary are not without some shortcomings which are lack of awareness, cost, unavailability of equipment, interrupted power supply, and a host of others. The judiciary affirmed its commitment to the development of a remote justice system while considering the legal challenge to the constitutionality of virtual hearings in Attorney General of Lagos State vs. Attorney General of the Federation & Anor. (Unrep. Appeal No. SC/CV/260/2020) The plaintiff subsequently withdrew the case when it realised from the reaction of the Supreme Court that the case was speculative and preemptive. However, while striking out the case, the Supreme Court stated that "as of today virtual sitting is not unconstitutional."

Statement of the Problem

Technology law in Nigeria covers a wide spectrum of legal issues, including intellectual property, data privacy and protection, cybersecurity, e-commerce, telecommunications, and regulatory compliance. It also addresses emerging areas such as blockchain technology, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology.

It has increased the efficiency of legal offices and the productivity of clerical workers. With the advent of legal technology, there is greater transparency between legal firms and clients. Clients know how much they must pay and can keep track of the day-to-day progress of the lawyer on their case. It has aided research which is the bedrock of the legal profession that involves finding and assembling authorities that bear on a question of law though technology has both advantages and disadvantages.

Objective of the Study

The study is to investigate how technology, law and society affect and shape one another. It investigates how law and technology aim to answer legislative questions related to a technology-driven society. The study also finds out how information technology is relevant to the lawyers' management and control of the diverse documents which they must master to advance and prepare their clients' case. It relates to efficient use of information technology systems for the efficient storage and speedy retrieval of such documentation.

Methodology

The study adopts historical and case study designs. Doctrinal method is used in data collection. The primary data are the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Lagos State High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2019; Magistrates' Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2009; Lagos State Chief Judge Practice Direction dated April 27, 2020; secondary data are published textbooks, law

reports, scholarly peer-reviewed journals, and articles. Data will be content-analysed and presented thematically.

Technology and Law in Nigeria

Over the years, there has been an intersection of technology and law in Nigeria's legal system. This intersection has led to significant changes and advancements in both areas. They are:

1. The introduction of computers in the 1980s led to the automation of legal processes, such as document drafting and deposition summaries.
2. The launch of the Internet in Nigeria in 1995 led to the emergence of e-commerce and e-contracts, which raised questions about their legality.
3. In 2004, the Nigerian government established the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to promote and regulate the use of technology in all sectors, including the legal sector.
4. In 2011, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) launched a portal for lawyers, providing them with access to legal resources and online legal education. The NBA website was upgraded in late 2023 to accommodate other facilities for the lawyers.
5. In 2015, the Lagos State Judiciary introduced an electronic case management system, which allows for the tracking and monitoring of cases from initiation to resolution.

Technological Advancements and Legal Changes in Nigeria

The intersection of technology and law in Nigeria has led to several technological advancements and legal changes in Nigeria, some of which are:

1. **E-filing:** e-filing enables lawyers and litigants to file cases and documents electronically, saving time and reducing physical court visits.
2. **Evidence gathering:** forensic technology enhances evidence presentation in court, increasing the chances of securing justice (Rowland, Kohl & Charlesworth, 2017)
3. **Data privacy:** the rise of big data necessitates improved data privacy laws to safeguard sensitive information.
4. **Cybersecurity:** stricter cybersecurity laws are needed to protect individuals and organisations from cyber-attacks Clough (2015).
5. **Alternative dispute resolution:** technology enables alternative dispute resolution methods like online mediation and arbitration, promoting faster and more efficient conflict resolution.

The intersection of technology and law in Nigeria has led to significant changes and development in both areas. According to Von Hippel (2001), "Technology has made legal processes more efficient and accessible, while the legal system has provided the necessary regulatory framework for technology to thrive." O'Donoghue, Scotchmer & Thisse. (1998) stated that "as technology continues to evolve, it is essential to put in place legal regulations that keep pace with these advancements."

Technology and the Lagos State Judiciary

Scherer, Herzstein, Dreyfoos, Whitney, Bachmann, Pesek, Scott, Kelly, & Galvin (1959) opined that "technology and law are two important aspects of modern society." In Nigeria, the intersection of these two fields has become increasingly relevant in recent years. Technology continues to advance

at a rapid pace, the legal system must keep up. Wagner (2003) opined that “from new forms of communication to digital evidence, technology presents new challenges and opportunities for the legal profession.” Technology can also enhance the efficiency and accessibility of legal services in Nigeria.

Electronic filing systems, online legal resources, and virtual courtrooms grant Nigerian citizens improved access to justice. Walden (2016) stated that “Lawyers and judges must acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively utilize these tools.” Technology and law are two critical aspects that have significantly impacted Nigeria’s growth and development in recent years. Technological advancements have brought about revolutionary changes in Nigeria’s economic, political, and social life. The law has significantly shaped Nigeria’s legal, regulatory, and institutional framework, governing the country’s activities. Understanding the intersection of technology and law is crucial to unlocking Nigeria’s growth and progress. Let’s explore the importance and relevance of technology and law in Nigeria.

The Importance and Relevance of Technology in Lagos State Judiciary

Walsh, Arora & Cohen (2003) in their study stated that “technology brings about economic growth, job creation, improved healthcare, efficient transportation, legal and regulatory framework, protection of rights, promotion of good governance, provision of legal services, reduction of corruption...” among others.

These could be discussed in the Nigerian context thus:

1. **Economic Growth:** Technology has opened new opportunities for Nigeria’s economic growth. The country has made significant progress in areas such as fintech, e-commerce, and mobile banking, which has led to increased economic activities.
2. **Job Creation:** Technology has created numerous job opportunities in Nigeria. The country’s ICT sector has grown rapidly, generating significant employment opportunities for its people.
3. **Improved Healthcare Delivery:** Technology has transformed healthcare delivery in Nigeria. Telemedicine, for instance, has made it possible for patients in remote areas to access medical services and consultations easily.
4. **Efficient Transportation:** Technology has improved transportation in Nigeria. The development of transport apps has enabled people to easily book rides, reducing the time and energy required to hail taxis in cities.
5. **Legal and Regulatory Framework:** The law provides the legal and regulatory framework that governs the activities of individuals and businesses in Nigeria. The law helps to ensure that businesses operate within the confines of the law, thereby promoting compliance, transparency, and accountability.
6. **Protection of Rights:** The law protects the rights of individuals and promotes social justice in Nigeria. The law ensures that everyone, irrespective of their social status, has equal access to justice and the protection of their rights.
7. **Promotion of Good Governance:** The law promotes good governance in Nigeria. The rule of law ensures that institutions and individuals operate within the scope of the law, reducing corruption and promoting transparency in governance.
8. **Provision of Legal Services:** The law provides legal services to individuals, businesses, and the government in Nigeria. The legal profession plays a crucial role in the administration of justice and has become a significant contributor to the country’s economy.

9. **Reduction of Corruption:** The introduction of technology to the Lagos State Judiciary has reduced corruption in the system. Filing fees, certification fees, stamp fees, and a host of others are no longer paid in cash though some judicial workers have adopted means of extorting litigants and their counsel such as requesting counsel and litigants to let them assist in making payment and do the filing on their behalf thereby collecting more money from them.

Balkin (2016) stated that "technological advancements have opened new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, improved healthcare delivery, and transportation. The law, on the other hand, provides the legal and regulatory framework that governs the activities of individuals and businesses in the country and promotes good governance, the protection of rights, and the provision of legal services." Therefore, adopting technology and ensuring compliance with the law must remain a crucial aspect of Nigeria's development agenda.

Challenges Facing the Intersection of Technology and Law in Nigeria

1. **Outdated legislation:** The legal framework in Nigeria is not up-to-date with the pace at which technology is evolving. This is particularly true of cybercrime, which is not adequately addressed by existing laws.
2. **Legal capacity:** The legal system in Nigeria lacks sufficient capacity, both in terms of well-trained personnel and infrastructure, to effectively deal with the legal challenges posed by technology.
3. **Low technological literacy:** Lawyers and judges in Nigeria may not possess adequate technological literacy to effectively navigate technology-related legal issues.
4. **Enforcement challenges:** The implementation and enforcement of legal decisions relating to technology can be problematic in Nigeria due to the lack of a robust enforcement system.
5. **Cost:** The cost of adopting and maintaining modern technological infrastructure and systems necessary for effective legal practice can be prohibitive for many legal practitioners in Nigeria.
6. **Security concerns:** Nigeria's security challenges can pose a threat to technology-dependent legal systems, particularly those that rely on digital processing and storage of legal documents.
7. **Poor electricity supply:** the supply of electricity in Nigeria is poor. The cost of buying diesel and petrol motor spirit to power generators is high therefore poor power supply reduces the adherence and/or adoption of technology in the practice of law in the country.

The Opportunities and Potential Benefits

While the challenges facing the intersection of technology and law in Nigeria are significant, there are also opportunities and potential benefits to be realised. These include:

1. **Increased efficiency:** Adopting technology in legal practice can significantly increase efficiency, reduce costs, and minimize delays.
2. **Improved access to justice:** Technology has the potential to bridge the gap in access to justice, particularly for people in remote areas of Nigeria who currently face significant barriers to accessing legal services.
3. **Greater transparency:** Technology can facilitate greater transparency and accountability in the legal system in Nigeria, which can help address issues such as corruption.

4. **Enhanced legal research:** Technology can be used to develop and maintain a centralized database for case laws, legal doctrines, and other legal resources, which can be accessed by both lawyers and the public.
5. **Increased security:** The adoption of technology in legal practice can enhance the security and integrity of legal records and documents, minimising data loss or breaches.
6. **Improved dispute resolution:** Technology can facilitate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as online mediation and negotiation, which can be more efficient and cost-effective for parties involved in disputes.
7. **Corruption:** The rate at which things were done fraudulently in the Lagos State Judiciary has been reduced due to technology. Payments are made electronically and no more cash payments. Gone are the days in which fake receipts of payment abound in the judiciary. Receipts of payment these days are electronically generated which the payer will print at his or her convenience because the same will be sent to his e-mail address.

Case Studies and Examples

There are specific case studies that demonstrate the intersection of technology and law in Nigeria. In recent years, technological advancements have significantly impacted legal processes in the country.

Here are some examples that show how technology has influenced the legal system in Nigeria:

1. **Electronic Case Filing and Case Management System:** The Nigerian judiciary implemented an electronic case filing and management system, enhancing efficiency and transparency.
2. **Online Company Registration:** Lawyers can now file cases, monitor progress, and receive notifications more easily.
3. **E-Discovery in Litigation:** The Corporate Affairs Commission introduced an online company registration platform to simplify the process, enabling businesses to register anytime and from anywhere.
4. **Digital Evidence Collection:** e-discovery has become essential in litigation, allowing lawyers to retrieve data faster and reduce time and costs.
5. **Mobile Applications for Legal Practice:** Nigerian courts recognise the significance of digital evidence and establish guidelines for its admissibility. Legal mobile applications assist practitioners in case research, time tracking, and client management.

Taylor & Von Tersch (1998) stated that "The adoption of technology in legal processes has improved efficiency and reduced bureaucratic challenges." Vermont (2001) concluded that "By embracing the growing significance of digital evidence and the implementation of e-discovery in litigation, legal professionals can enhance their practice and advance transparency in the legal system." Technological advancements will continue to shape and transform the legal landscape in Nigeria.

Lagos State Judiciary, E-Filing and LagosCoMiS

The e-filing system in place in the Lagos judiciary system is a significant technological advancement. It allows users to file cases electronically via the internet, which offers several advantages over traditional paper-based filing. As part of efforts to digitalise filing processes, the Lagos State judiciary has deployed Cinfores Court Management Information System, (CoMiS) to automate its filing processes. This system is run on a web application also known as LagosCoMiS.

Electronic filing (e-filing) is the creation, submission, sharing, and accessing of structured digital documents or forms via online channels. Paper documents are converted to Extensible Markup Language (XML) digital files that can be read by both machines and humans. Electronic submission permits the court to make documents available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. E-filing is a feature in the Lagos State High Court Judiciary Information System (JIS). It allows Lawyers to file a case from anywhere in the world using the internet.

Lagos CoMiS

The Lagos State Courts Management Information System for Magistrate and Small Claims Court (LagosCoMiS) was launched at the Lagos High Court in Ikeja, with the signing of the service level agreement between the state's judiciary and the Cinfores. As part of efforts to digitalise filing processes.

How Lagos CoMiS Works

- a. Users are required to have login credentials to file a case online.
- b. The system will calculate the Fee associated with a case automatically. The total court fee includes the court fee prescribed in the court rules. The total court fee is payable online through debit/credit card only.
- c. Lawyers are also notified when their cases have been assigned to courtrooms. This process is seamless and easy to use. A litigant may decide to file his case through a lawyer, an authorised e-agent, or a private citizen.

Benefits of the E-filing System

Velicogna (2021) in his study concluded that the benefits of e-filing of court processes are:

1. "Convenience: users can file cases from anywhere in the world, at any time of day or night. This is especially beneficial for lawyers and litigants who live or work outside of Lagos.
2. Efficiency: the e-filing system automates many of the tasks involved in filing a case, such as calculating court fees and generating case numbers. This can save users a significant amount of time and effort.
3. Accuracy: The e-filing system helps to reduce errors in case filing by requiring users to enter all required information in a standardized format.
4. Transparency: The e-filing system provides users with access to real-time information about their case status, including hearing dates and court orders. This helps to ensure that users are always aware of what is happening in their case."

In addition to the benefits listed above, the e-filing system also has the potential to make dispute resolution more affordable. It reduces the need for litigants to travel to court and to hire lawyers.

1. How the E-Filing System Aids Technological Advancement in Dispute Resolution
The e-filing system aids technological advancement in dispute resolution in several ways: The e-filing system encourages judges and lawyers to use technology in their work, which can lead to more efficient and effective dispute resolution.

2. It makes it easier for litigants to access the justice system: The e-filing system makes it easier for litigants to file cases and track their case progress, even if they are not familiar with the legal system.
3. It can help to reduce the backlog of cases in the courts: The e-filing system can help to reduce the backlog of cases by automating many of the tasks involved in case processing.
4. It can help to improve the quality of justice: The e-filing system can help to improve the quality of justice by providing judges and lawyers with better access to information and by making it easier for litigants to participate in the legal process.

Technologies for the Administrative Component

Oskamp et al. (2004) stated "The role of the administrative component of the court is to perform several tasks that range from case-tracking and keeping official records of all court matters to official court notifications. Furthermore, court personnel carry out an important role as an interface, and at the same time a buffer between the judge and the other actors that participate in the judicial process. As lawyers very well know, the judicial proceeding starts long before a case reaches the courtroom. The administrative personnel of the courts file and keep registers and documents in compliance with codes of procedure, laws, and regulations. For example, a civil action is commenced when a plaintiff (or a plaintiff's attorney) files a summons or a complaint with the clerk of court in any manner prescribed by law. A series of actions are linked to such procedures, such as the collection and formal control of the filed documents by the clerk, the documentation at the time of collection, the registration on a court register of the event, and the issuance of a receipt. All these actions require time and resources. In supporting the clerk's activities, technology can play an important role in saving much-needed resources at the earliest stage of the trial."

Boeuf (2021) stated that "Traditional court dockets and other court registers are one of the pillars of court activities. They are generally huge books, that need to be kept not only to formally comply with procedural rules but also for the functions that such tools perform."

On the other hand, Owoeye (2021) stated that "paper dockets and other register books are cumbersome tools and present many limitations, having all this data in electronic format opens several options to further enhance the efficiency of the court. This reduces not only the workload of personnel but also the risk of mistakes." According to Hadfield (2016) "In courts across Europe, several other applications have been developed that use automated register data. Some of these applications have a more strategic focus. For example, the provision of management information and statistical reporting can play an important role in the organisation and administration of court offices."

Technologies for Supporting Judges

Several applications have been designed to support and automate Judges' activities. While many of the tools described in the previous section are 'organisational tools', most of the technology for supporting the Judges' activities are 'individual tools. This is for several reasons, including the independence and nature of the task judges perform. Surden (2014) in his work stated that "conducting online legal research and surfing the growing number of websites has become more and more a part of a judge's daily activity." The use of search engines and text-mining techniques has greatly increased both the quality and efficiency of legal research. Forums and discussion groups in which judges can 'virtually' meet and discuss legislation, procedures, and cases, have been an

important development all around the world such as the annual WIPO Intellectual Property Judges Forum which aims to provide a platform for judges from across the globe to exchange their expertise on the most pressing intellectual property (IP) challenges raised by accelerating innovation and the increasingly transnational use of IP (Taylor & Silbertson, 1973).

Official Electronic Communication

Uba (2023) stated that "In judicial proceedings, the formal communication between the court and parties is generally paper-based and rooted on a complex set of formal rules, work practices, and local adaptation and it is strategically used by the parties to gain some advantage in the trial."

Atoyebi (2021) states that "In the last decade, judicial administrations around Europe have examined the feasibility of providing court services electronically. Specific areas being considered include the electronic payment of fines, electronic filing, electronic means for notification and communication to attorneys and parties, and full electronic trial. Many countries around the world have launched notable projects in this regard. These projects have aimed to radically change the paper-based infrastructure underlying the formal communication exchange within judicial proceedings; to improve and enhance access to justice, and to reduce inconvenience and the cost (in terms of time, resources, and money) of justice to parties and their legal representatives. Where this is implemented, a lawyer, using a computer from work, home, or even from a vacation location, can electronically file a claim, get information on a case, receive court e-notices, and download electronic documents concerning the case."

Theoretical Framework

Technology has played a useful role in the advancement of the legal profession in Nigeria particularly in Lagos State. The e-filing, case tracking, CoMiS, and a host of others have done more good than harm to the profession in the state. The call for these is because of the importance and the necessary part of the technology to the judicial process. Therefore, the applicable theories for this study are discussed below.

Necessity Theory: the usefulness of law and technology, especially in the administration of justice in the Lagos State Judiciary is enormous. The importance and relevance of law and technology are facilitated based on necessity. Susskind (2013) opined that "Necessity theory states that technological advancements in the administration of judicial services are driven by a pressing need or demand. It states that technology responds and evolves to fill gaps or address inefficiencies in the existing system." In the administration of justice in Lagos State, the theory posts that the facilities available in terms of space, land, human and material resources are not increasing while the population increases every day, and as such technology came to make it comfortable and affordable for humans, therefore, the law must allow technology do its work without interferences. Etherington and Spaic stated that "legal advice and representation were often reserved for those with the financial means to engage a lawyer or for corporations with legal teams." Etherington & Spaic (2015) concluded that "The traditional model of legal service delivery, characterised by face-to-face consultations and paper-based documentation, lacked the scalability and flexibility to cater to large populations." While Smith (2017) stated "As the world became more interconnected and as legal

challenges became more complex, the demand for legal services grew exponentially. However, the traditional model struggled to keep pace with this burgeoning demand, leading to a service gap." Katz (2015) stated that "Necessity theory, became the catalyst for technological intervention." Virtual hearings, e-filing, case tracking, and a host of others became the business of the day in the Lagos State Judiciary to manage the resources available.

Autonomous Theory

Autonomous theory states that technological changes can be self-propelled, not just reactive to judicial needs Benkler (2002). The usual ways and manner of dispensing justice, filing of cases, follow up of case files, assigning of suit numbers, swearing to affidavits, and carrying of case files from one office to the other were dominated by some autonomous people were changed by technology. Lagos State Judiciary has been able to break the jinx of dominancy of workers on the mode of doing things with the aid of technology which has brought development to the sector.

Innovative Theory

The theory states that the application of technology to the filing of cases, hearing of cases, movement of case files, tracking of cases, virtual hearing, assignment of suit numbers, and a host of others in the Lagos State Judiciary is an innovation that has brought excellency to the services being rendered in the judiciary. Therefore, the newness of technology left some people in the dark. This applies to analog persons but must one way or the other find themselves in line with the usage of technology.

Disruptive Theory

The newness of technology in the administration of justice in Lagos State has kept some persons out of jobs ironically though, the government did not send the workers away but redeployed them to some other units in the Lagos State Judicial Service Commission while about 500 computer-minded persons were employed to take charge of the technological aspect of the system. It suffices to say that it has created jobs for some persons thereby reducing hardship for some persons.

Reverse Reactionary Theory

This theory is of the view that persons who were disrupted from their jobs due to technology will have to find themselves relevant by ensuring that they update and/or upgrade to cope with technology Murray (2019). In the Lagos State Judiciary, many a worker were sent for computer training due to technological advancement in the system. Some of those workers have been posted to the computer unit of the sector after being trained properly for the technological job. They are being sent on retraining every year to cope with technological changes.

Technological Determinism

Ziedonis (2003) found that "technology has been seen as the pivotal of the society and the game changer of the world." It follows therefore that everything done in the world today is because of technological advancement. Therefore, what operates in the Lagos State High/Magistrates' Court these days is based on the intervention of technology to assist in managing the little resources available that will reduce stress for the lawyers, judicial workers, and litigants as well. Technology determines everything done globally.

Summary

The usage of technology in the Lagos State judiciary has both advantages and disadvantages. The use of technology in legal processes has brought efficiency and transparency, reducing corruption and legal bottlenecks. **It is a system that is convenient, efficient, accurate, and transparent. It also promotes the use of technology in the courtroom, makes it easier for litigants to access the justice system, and can help reduce the backlog of cases in the courts.** However, it has also created new challenges such as cybercrime and data protection. The outlook of technology in the Nigerian legal system is promising as more digital solutions will be incorporated.

Conclusions

The e-filing system is a positive development for the Lagos judiciary system and technological advancement in dispute resolution. The e-filing system is still under development, but it has the potential to revolutionise dispute resolution in Lagos State. As the system becomes more widely used and more sophisticated, it is likely to lead to even greater efficiency, transparency, and affordability in the justice system.

Recommendations

The study recommends as follows:

- i. Government should further invest in technological training for legal professionals and establishing a legal framework to address cybersecurity and data protection,
- ii. The implications of the intersection of technology and law for Nigeria's development and growth are positive be encouraged,
- iii. The growth of technology will improve the ease of doing business and attract foreign investments in Nigeria particularly Lagos State, and
- iv. Nigeria should position itself as a leader in Africa in terms of technological advancements in the legal industry.

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