ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION: EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION?

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&

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Abstract

This article outlined the current state of AI technologies and their applications within the legal sector. It examined how AI-powered tools, such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), machine learning, and predictive analytics, have impacted traditional legal tasks, including contract review, legal research, and document analysis, highlighted the merits of the adoption of AI and explored the impact of AI on the role of legal professionals. However, it also raises questions about the future demand for legal services and the evolving skill sets required in a technology-driven legal landscape. Additionally, the paper addresses the ethical and regulatory considerations surrounding AI deployment in the legal profession. The Doctrinal method of research was adopted by this article using both primary and secondary sources of data. The paper found that while AI's evolutionary impacts enhance efficiency, research, and client service, its revolutionary potential challenges traditional roles and hence the need for a paradigms shift. In conclusion, the article argues that AI represents both a disruptive force and an opportunity for innovation within the legal profession. By embracing AI technologies responsibly and adapting to the evolving landscape, legal practitioners can navigate the challenges and leverage the benefits to drive greater efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness in legal service delivery.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Legal Practice; Evolution, Revolution, Nigeria.

1.0 Introduction

Artificial intelligence is "a technical and scientific field devoted to the engineered system that generates outputs such as content, forecasts, recommendations or decisions for a given set of human-defined objectives".[1]AI has transformed our personal and professional lives and the legal

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profession is not immune to this transformation. AI tools, like smart virtual assistants, are altering the legal profession and creating questions about the long-term usefulness or otherwise of these tools. Artificial intelligence can help lawyers and legal professionals deduce legal solutions, point to sources of law, and even generate draft templates for lawyers. This surge in AI represents more than just a fleeting trend, it's a fundamental shift that is reshaping the way the legal practice operates.

In the legal profession, AI's integration sparks a fundamental question: Does it represent an evolutionary progression, enhancing traditional practices, or does it herald a revolutionary upheaval, fundamentally altering the profession as we know it? This article delves into the complex interplay between AI and the legal profession, exploring the nuances of its impact and the potential pathways for the future. For example, AI has been confirmed effective in management of contracts. It has the ability to identify compliance risks, finding improper clauses and ensuring that all legal terms are included for the general purpose and intendments of the contract.[2] Despite the undeniable ease and efficiency that AI brings to delivery of legal tasks, its application raises a number of legal issues, some of which will be discussed in this paper. This paper therefore addresses legal and ethical considerations surrounding the integration of AI in legal practice.

The study is structured as follows: Section One introduced the topic. Section Two defined Artificial Intelligence and provides conceptual clarifications for the study. Section Three discussed the notable areas of impact of AI on legal practice, impact of Artificial Intelligence on the practice of law, ethical considerations in the adoption of AI to legal practice and regulations of Artificial Intelligence. Section Four examined the future implications of AI in the legal profession and section Five conclude the study and section Six makes practical recommendations.

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[1]I S O 'What is AI? All You Need to Know About Artificial Intelligence' retrieved online at https://www.iso.org/artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai accessed 30 April 2024,

[2] Why you Need AI For More Effective Contract Management available at https://www.docusign.com/en-gb/blog/why-you-need-ai-for-more-effective-contract-management<accessed 27 October 2024>

1.1 What is Artificial Intelligence?

Defining Artificial Intelligence seems like a herculean task, it is well known that there is no widely accepted definition of Artificial Intelligence[3] as the term "AI" has been used with many different perspectives [4]both within the field and outside it. According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Experts Group an AI system is a system based on algorithms and self-learning guided by machine learning and deep learning, which can perform specific human cognitive capabilities by interacting with the environment through sensors, processing information, and adopting decisions and taking actions, with a certain degree of autonomy.[5]

Simply put, AI is the simulation of human intelligence by machines to perform tasks typically done by people.[6]AI systems use intelligent algorithms to identify, analyse, and predict enormous volumes of data. These algorithms are trained on big datasets to find patterns in data, make predictions, and recommend actions. AI is used in a range of applications, including customer service chatbots, speech recognition, self-driving cars, and automation tools such as ChatGPT.[7]

Baker[8] is of the view that with the increase in digitalisation, there is a chance of witnessing a dramatic change in the practice of law and argues that legal research is a highly creative skill that requires a deep level of analysis and that Law Librarians must infuse law students with an understanding of legal research process, and also teach them on the practical aspects of using artificial intelligence responsibly in the face of algorithmic transparency, the duty of technology competence, malpractice, mistakes, and to combat the unauthorised practice of law.[9]

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[3]Pei Wang, 'On defining Artificial Intelligence' (2019) 10(2) Journal of Artificial Intelligence, pp. 1-37.
[4]Ibid, p. 1.
[5]The OECD, 'Artificial Intelligence in Society' (OECD PublishingParis 2019) online at Artificial Intelligence in Society | OECD iLibrary (oecd-ilibrary.org) accessed 30 April 2024.
[6]Clio, 'What is AI and How Can Law Firms Use It?' retrieved online at https://www.clio.com/resources/ai-for-lawyers/lawyer-ai/ accessed 30 April 2024.
[7]Ibid
[8] Jamie J. Baker, 'A Legal Research Odyssey: Artificial Intelligence as Disruptor' (2018) 110 (1) Law LibraryJournal
[9]Ibid

In a study by Dabass, the authoropines that the AI will be challenging the human expertise in the field of law and she goes further to describe how AI is assuming popularity and becoming important in everyday activities and complementing lawyers in their work.[10]

According to Merchant, AI will not replace most lawyers' jobs, and the presence and use of AI in legal practice will be an evolution and not a revolution.[11] The author believes that AI is already transforming virtually every business and activity that legal practitioners deal with, some more quickly and dramatically than others, and the legal profession will not be spared from this disruptive change. He goes on to say that incorporating AI into a law firm's systems and operations is a gradual learning process, so early adopters will have a significant advantage over firms that lag in adopting the technology, and thus lawyers, law firms, and businesses that do not jump on the AI trendwill increasingly fall behind, and eventually be displaced.

2.1 Uses and Capabilities of Artificial Intelligence

a) Generative AI Systems[12]

When directed by a user, generative AI systems can produce text (apps such as ChatGPT and Bard), graphics, audio, video, and other content. These expanding capabilities could be applied in a variety of industries, including education, governance, law, and entertainment. As of early 2023, several nascent generative AI systems had surpassed 100 million users[13]. Advanced chatbots, virtual assistants, and language translation tools are examples of widely used generative AI systems. As news headlines show, this technology is gaining global recognition for its benefits.

b) Machine Learning

[10]Jyoti Dabass & Bhupendar Singh Dabass, 'Scope of Artificial Intelligence in Law' (2018) retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326202085_Scope_of_Artificial_Intelligence_in_Law accessed 4 May 2024

[11]G. E. Marchant, 'Artificial intelligence and the Future of Legal Practice' (2017) The SciTech Lawyer.

[12]U. S. Government Accountability Office, 'Artificial Intelligence's Use and Rapid Growth Highlight Its Possibilities and Perils' (2023) retrieved from https://www.gao.gov/blog/artificial-intelligences-use-and-rapid-growth-highlight-its-possibilities-and-perils accessed 01 May 2024.

[13]Ibid.

Machine Learning (ML) is one of the first subsets of artificial intelligence that allows applications to learn from data through mathematics and statistics. ML algorithms are not hardcoded to produce a particular outcome. Rather, they are coded in such a way that they consume data with labels and then utiliSe statistical models to discover links within enormous datasets that people would find difficult to comprehend. The bots' relationships show their learning. This illustrates how Machine Learning achieves best results by using data rather than codes. GeneraliSed data models designed for specific tasks are the foundation of all ML activities, dividing data into groups based on learned attributes.[14]

c) Neural Network

The neural networks are a type of machine learning inspired by the workings of the human brain. It is a network of interconnected units, similar to human neurons,that process information from external inputs and relay it between them. Computing systems based on neural networks require multiple passes through the input in order to find the correct link and generate meaning from it. Drones for industrial disaster relief, aerial surveillance, and improved vehicle navigation systems are two well-known applications of Artificial Intelligence Neural Network capabilities.[15]

d) Deep Learning

Deep Learning is the next advanced stage of Artificial Intelligence, utilising massive Neural Networks with numerous layers of processing units. These advanced computing systems improve training approaches by utilising these networks and layers to learn from large and complicated data patterns. Deep Learning results commonly include machine output tasks such as speech recognition and image recognition.

e) Computer Vision

Computer Vision is an AI capability that relies on Deep Learning and pattern recognition in image and video data. These intelligent computer systems process, analyse, and

[14]Digital Aptech Private Limited. '5 Capabilities of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning' retrieved from https://www.digitalaptech.com/5-capabilities-of-artificial-intelligence-and-machine-learning/ accessed 01 May 2024

[15]Ibid

comprehend images by taking real-time photographs or videos and interpreting their surroundings. Augmented Reality features are utilised while shopping, driving a self-driving car, or gaining entrance to a protected location via facial recognition security screening, and this is possible because of the use of Computer Vision.[16]

f) Facial Recognition

This is another capability of AI technology, and it has demonstrated both promise and risk in its application. Facial recognition technology has been employed by law enforcement at the federal, state, and Local Government levels to aid in criminal investigations and surveillance. It is also used at entry points to match travelers to their passports. While this technology can be used to identify potential criminals more rapidly, or individuals who would not have been recognised otherwise, research[17] has revealed several issues about its application. Despite advancements, flaws and bias in some facial recognition systems may lead to more frequent misidentification for some groups.

g) Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Natural Language Processing is one of the most advanced applications of artificial intelligence, allowing robots to analyse, interpret, and eventually converse in human language. The email filters you use every day are one of the most basic and early applications of NLP. Other applications for this subset of AI include predictive text, search results, language translation, and text analytics.

3.0 Some Notable Areas of Impact of AI on Legal Practice

3.1 Legal Research and E-discovery

E-discovery software is an AI tool that allows a large number of documents to be examined and those relevant to the search criteria to be recognised in a timely and cost-effective manner. Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools are being utilised by the software to extract pertinent case law, legislation, and regulations. Many lawyers that have been interviewed on this topic

[16]Ibid

[17]U. S. Government Accountability Office, 'Artificial Intelligence's Use and Rapid Growth Highlight Its Possibilities and Perils' (2023) retrieved from https://www.gao.gov/blog/artificial-intelligences-use-and-rapid-growth-highlight-its-possibilities-and-perils accessed 01 May 2024.

highlighted using NLP tools like ChatGPT not only to answer simple legal questions but also as a legal search engine that can swiftly look up relevant legal laws and cases.[18]

(a) Document Automation

Virtual assistants equipped with NLP capabilities like Genie AI can help lawyers to automate repetitive and time-consuming operations like document review, contract analysis and generating legal documents.

(b) Predictive Legal Analysis

Predictive analysis is one of the most promising applications of generative AI in legal work. AI systems can analyse historical data to predict case outcomes, litigation trends, and potential risks.

(c) Legal Review

AI can also be used for legal reviews, reading and summarising documents, disclosure efficiency, and for finding patterns, discrepancies, and pertinent data in legal documents.

(d) **Case Management**

Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies are also beneficial for mundane tasks like filing and sorting papers, case management, and personal assistants for calendar management, client meeting scheduling, and timekeeping and billing.

(e) **Legal Advice and Expertise Automation**

Some interviewees also use smart virtual assistants to provide client communication and support, handle routine client inquiries, and provide basic legal information to clients.

(f) **Information and Marketing:** Finally, lawyers mentioned using AI tools for virtual research assistants and as marketing tools.[19]

3.2 Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Practice of Law

1) Advancement in Legal Realm

[18]Irene Pietropaoli, 'Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice' (2023) BIICL BLOG retrieved from https://www.biicl.org/blog/69/use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-legal-practice accessed 30 April 2024.
[19]Ibid

Artificial Intelligence is gaining popularity in the legal profession due to the availability of software that can automate repetitive and onerous work now performed by lawyers. Artificial intelligence can help lawyers save time and focus on vital things by automating repetitive procedures. Lawyers are expected to confirm facts on behalf of their clients. Clients receive guidance on how to proceed with their cases depending on the facts provided.[20]

2) Effective Result in Legal Question

The prolonged process of due diligence yields indisputably fruitful results in the long run, however, an artificial intelligence system allows you to do the same activity more quickly. Artificial intelligence extensively verifies the facts and considers earlier decisions made in similar circumstances and helps them deliver suitable counseling to clients.[21]

AI can also predict the results by considering previous decisions made by the judge in similar cases. It takes time to examine and analyse documents in a file but Artificial intelligence software improves the effectiveness of lawyers when reviewing records by organising the documents in the appropriate sequence, it also identifies documents with potential risks.

3) Reduction of Risk Factors

Software with artificial intelligence assists not only in evaluating case files but also in the contracts that businesses sign. The majority of the work that law firms do is examining the contracts that their clients sign. They identify the contract's risks or difficulties and modify the relevant clauses regarding their client's request.[22]

4) Alterations in Client Treatment

The way clients are currently treated will alter in the future with the use of AI in the legal profession as AI will be used to assess the conduct of interviews and recommend better ways to conduct interviews and further deal with clients.[23]

5) Intensive Client Advice

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[20]S. KhadeejaBeegum, Biju Antony, Suranya S. Kumar, 'Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Law' (2023) International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

[21]Ibid

[22]Ibid

[23]Ibid

Intelligent automation-based software is improving the veracity and accuracy of research and analysis that is focused on producing results. Software powered by AI can cut down on a lawyer's workload. Additionally, it can assist law firms and Attorneys in providing better client-focused advice.

1.0 Some Ethical Considerations in the Adoption of AI to Legal Practice

Adoption of AI in legal practice undoubtedly raises a number of ethical issues. For example, the usage of AI in international arbitration is on the increase and there are arguments needing positive adumbration on the 'prediction theory of law'. Perhaps AI is left solely to determine what is right between parties, how then can we be assured that justice has been done? It follows therefore to ask if there will still be a need for procedural guidelines where AI has been opted for. Can AI distinguish between cases of the current from the past? It is doubtful that human agent can be dispensed with in the matter of justice. In the case of *MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd v. Babayode,*[24] the Court of Appeal in elucidating on the importance of justice in any legal proceeding states that:

> The role of courts is to apply the principles of substantial justice according to law. The principles cannot be applied outside the law or in contravention of the law. A court of law will not be performing its role as an independent umpire if it bends backward to do justice to one of the other party. Justice, that very expensive commodity in the judicial process, should be evenly distributed between the parties… The Principle that substantial justice should not be allowed; where possible to overcome by procedural irregularity which could be cured by proper exercise of court's discretion was affirmed long ago…[25]

AI systems may make errors, present erroneous information, or develop legal interpretations or conclusions that differ from established legal norms, all of which could have major legal ramifications. If AI tools are utilised to help make legal decisions, the question of who is accountable for those conclusions arises. Determining culpability for these errors can be

[24](2014) LPELR-23520(CA)
[25]See also *Ekwere v. State (1981) 9 S.C 3; Dada v. Dosunmu (2008) 18 NWLR (pt. 1010) 134*

challenging, particularly when AI is involved. Challenging considerations arise regarding the allocation of accountability between the developer of a defective AI system and the law firm that utilises it.

Also, Lawyers are obligated to give competent representation and clear information to their clients. The responsibility of competent representation necessitates an understanding of the benefits and risks connected with AI technology. Lawyers must also communicate with their clients, swiftly alerting them of any choice or scenario that requires their informed consent.

Furthermore, AI systems may unknowingly perpetuate biases perceived in training data, resulting in inaccurate results. This can lead to unequal treatment or unjust outcomes, violating the principles of fairness and equal protection under the law. The adoption of AI will undoubtedly raise data protection related matters. AI frequently needs access to sensitive legal information and documents. Lawyers are required by law to safeguard the confidentiality of client information and are not allowed to represent clients in conflict-of-interest situations.

5.0 Regulations of Artificial Intelligence

5.1 United Kingdom AI Regulation: A Pro-Innovative Approach[26]

The United Kingdom presently lacks overarching regulation governing all AI development but published a framework in 2023[27] for 'A Pro-Innovative Approach to AI Regulation' to the development of AI. The framework proposed an activity-based approach that vests individual regulatory bodies with the responsibility for AI governance in their respective domains, with "central AI regulatory functions" to help regulators achieve this. The UK government in November 2023 hosted the International AI Safety Summit which is the first international government-led conference on AI. The global interest in the event and the attendance by representatives from around the world show how far the conversation around AI governance has come in recent years.

[26]Government of United Kingdom, 'A Pro-Innovative Approach to AI Regulation' retrieved from https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper#executive-summary accessed 01 May 2024.
[27]Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology on 29 March 2023.

1.2 The EU Artificial Intelligence Act 2021

In April 2021, the European Commission presented the first EU regulatory framework for artificial intelligence. It states that AI systems that can be employed in a variety of applications are evaluated and classified based on the risk they bring to users. The varying risk levels will result in more or less regulation.[28] The underlying premise of the bill was to regulate AI based on its capacity to cause harm. The drafters outlined various AI use cases and applications and then classified them with an appropriate degree of AI risk from minimal to high. Some AI systems were deemed to have an unacceptable level of risk and would be banned outright, except for a few for law enforcement. These included:

a) AI systems deploying subliminal techniques
b) AI practices exploiting vulnerabilities
c) Social scoring systems
d) 'Real-time' remote biometric identification systems[29]

1.3 United States (US) AI Regulations

The United States is yet to implement comprehensive AI regulation, but there are several frameworks and standards at both the federal and state levels. In October 2023, President Joe Biden issued an executive order promoting the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.[30] The decree notes that using AI for good and reaping its numerous benefits necessitates limiting its significant hazards. This endeavour requires a collaborative effort from the government, the commercial sector, academia, and civil society. The presidential order attempts to impose duties on firms to test and report on AI systems, which would most likely be reflected in rules and regulations developed at the federal and state levels.

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[28]European Parliament, 'EU AI Act: First Regulation on Artificial Intelligence' retrieved fromhttps://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20230601STO93804/eu-ai-act-first-regulation-on-artificial-intelligence accessed 01 May 2024.

[29]Nick Sherman, 'AI Regulations Around the World' retrieved from https://www.mindfoundry.ai/blog/ai-regulations-around-the-world accessed 01 May 2024

[30] Executive Order for the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligencehttps://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/10/30/executive-order-on-the-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence accessed 4 May 2024

1.4 China's New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan

China published the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan in July 2017, outlining a strategy for national AI regulation. A top-level design blueprint was proposed to chart the country's approach to developing AI technology and applications, laying out broad goals up to 2030. Since then, China has enforced certain pieces of regulation for specific AI uses, such as managing AI algorithms, generative AI services, and "deep synthesis" provisions.[31]

1.5 AI Regulation in Nigeria

Nigeria is on the verge of developing its first national AI strategy, a strategic endeavour designed to propel the country's aspirations for transformative progress through AI technology. This roadmap demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to using AI for long-term development while maximising its potential to fuel innovation, boost national production, and improve human welfare. Nigeria is in the forefront of AI breakthroughs on the African continent, having developed the National Centre for AI and Robotics (NCAIR) as well as government organisations dedicated to fostering a knowledge-based economy. These organisations play an important role in promoting AI research and development throughout the country. Laws and institutions in Nigeria that have similar goals to the regulation of artificial intelligence are:[32]

1.6 The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR)

This regulation furnishes a robust legal framework for the orchestration and exchange of electronic data. The NDPR not only corresponds with international norms defending individual data privacy, but it also ensures the integrity of transactions involving personal data exchange.

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[31]Nick Sherman, 'AI Regulations Around the World' retrieved from https://www.mindfoundry.ai/blog/ai-regulations-around-the-world accessed 01 May 2024

[32]Josephine Uba, 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) Regulation in Nigeria: Key Considerations, Recommendations, Legal Framework, and Policy Development for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nigeria' (2023) OlisaAgbakoba Legal, online at https://oal.law/artificial-intelligence-ai-regulation-in-nigeria-key-considerations-recommendations-legal-framework-and-policy-development-for-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-nigeria/ accessed 4 May 2024.

1.7 The Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act 2015 (as amended 2024)

This Act has a substantial impact and was enacted to combat cyber risks and establishes a comprehensive framework that includes legal, institutional, and regulatory components. It criminalises cybercrime, encouraging investigation, prosecution, and punitive measures against perpetrators. Furthermore, the legislation promotes cybersecurity by protecting computer systems, networks, electronic communications, data, and software. It is steadfast in protecting intellectual property rights, privacy, and the preservation of critical national information infrastructure. The legislation establishes a comprehensive framework for combating cybercrime in Nigeria, from prevention to resolution;

5.8 The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)

The NITDA has issued guidelines for the management of personal data by Nigerian public institutions. The recommendations address several elements of AI use in Nigeria, both directly and indirectly. This signals Nigeria's entry into an era of "AI Normative Emergence," which is expected to result in a collection of laws, regulations, and directives governing the adoption and use of AI.

One of the noteworthy areas of law where the use of artificial intelligence has been well utilized and still developing is international arbitration. According to the Silicon Valley guidelines, parties to an arbitration process are imbued with the responsibilities to ensure that certain precautions are opened. One of the guidelines states that "all participants in international arbitration are responsible for ensuring their use of AI tools is consistent with their obligations to safeguard confidential information (including privileged, private, secret, or otherwise protected data). They should not submit confidential information to any AI tool without appropriate vetting and authorization.[33]

It provides further that attention should be paid to policies on recording, storage, and use of prompt or output histories and of any other confidential data submitted to the AI tool. Only AI tools that adequately safeguard confidentiality should be used with confidential information.

[33] Guideline 2, Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Guidelines on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Arbitration (1st edition 2024) Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center 555 Bryant Street, Ste. 524 Palo Alto, California 94301 USA Tel: +1 650.308.9860 www.svamc.org

Participants should assess the data use and retention policies offered by available AI tools and opt for secure solutions. Where appropriate, participants should redact or anonymize materials submitted to an AI tool."[34]

6.0 Future Implications of AI in the Legal Profession

These initial applications of AI to legal practice are just the early beginnings of what will be a radical technology-based disruption to the practice of law. AI "represents both the biggest opportunity and potentially the greatest threat to the legal profession since its formation.[35]The future of the legal profession in the age of AI hinges on proactive engagement and strategic foresight. By embracing the duality of evolution and revolution, legal practitioners can harness AI as a catalyst for positive change, driving innovation and redefining the boundaries of legal excellence. As AI continues to evolve and permeate the legal landscape, legal professionals must remain adaptive, agile, and committed to shaping a future where human expertise and AI converge to advance the pursuit of justice and uphold the rule of law.

7.0 Conclusion

The robots and technologies that Artificial Intelligence is introducing are being programmed to think like and outperform humans, not just programmed to say particular things, and this makes it even harder to handle. Industries want the best result at the least time and cost possible, and this is what AI presents, hence making the temptation to swiftly replace humans with robots is difficult to achieve. This paper concludes that while AI's evolutionary impacts enhance efficiency, research, and client service, its revolutionary potential challenges traditional roles and paradigms. By embracing change while upholding ethical principles, legal professionals can effectively navigate this transformative era and thus AI serves not as a replacement but as a tool for innovation, reshaping legal practice towards a future where human expertise and technological advancements converge to redefine excellence in the pursuit of justice.

8.0 Recommendations

[34]ibid.

[35]G. E. Marchant, 'Artificial intelligence and the Future of Legal Practice' (2017) The SciTech Lawyer

It is important to bear in mind that justice is the hallmark of any disputable matter whether through litigation or alternative dispute resolution process. The question of whether AI can achieve justice on its own without any human intervention remains the logical inquiry to make in the circumstance.

However, it is recommended that there should be a strong foundation of AI in the curriculum of lawyers so that they may have the basis for the adequate application of the same in the industry. Lawyers must be trained in the computer beyond the rudimentary computer education by designing a course that will specifically prepare lawyers for the roles that AI plays and may play in their legal practice in keeping in line with modern technological advancement.

It is also recommended that a robust legal framework be established which will ensure that the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) aligns with national principles concerning human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Bearing on the fact that the use of AI raises a number of socio-legal concerns which may ultimately lead to violation of certain human rights, there is need to develop a framework that will ensure that AI is not in conflict or in violation of existing laws.

Also, Nigerian statutes and policies must ensure that humans should exclusively undertake tasks that would transgress the boundaries of human dignity if executed by machines. It is important to note that there are certain tasks that cannot be left to the programmed whims and caprices of a machine. The role of humans should not be diminished or undermined because of AI.