

National association of Trial Judges of Liberia (NATJL) response to the 2024 Questionnaire of the 1st Study Commission

"The Effects of Artificial Intelligence on the Judiciary"

Questions:

- 1) Do judges in your country utilize artificial intelligence technology ("AI") and how so?

Answer: In Liberia, the use of artificial intelligence is not common among Judges. However, some young Judges of subordinate courts (Magisterial Courts) who are exposed to technology are beginning to explore the use of artificial intelligence technology in various aspects of legal proceedings. This includes AI applications for legal research and analyzing cases.

- a. If not, have judges in your country considered utilizing AI, and, if so, in what ways?

Even though the use of AI is not common among Liberian Judges, the use of AI could help to assist in processing large volumes of legal documents and identifying relevant precedents and statutes.

- b. Is the use of AI in legal proceedings regulated?

Since the use of AI among Liberia Judges is not common, it is only safe to say that the use of AI in legal proceedings might not be regulated in Liberia. However, the use of AI must be subjected to regulation to ensure fairness, transparency, and ethical considerations.

- c. Does the use of AI impact the handling of evidence?

AI can impact the handling of evidence by offering tools for data analysis and interpretation, potentially improving the identification of relevant evidence and supporting decision-making processes.

- 2) What are the pros and cons of having judges utilize AI?

The use of AI by judges presents both advantages and challenges.

Pros include increased efficiency, more consistent decision-making, and improved access to justice through reduced costs and faster case resolution. However, the potential for overreliance on technology over human judgment might be a serious issue to consider.

a. What are the possible effects of AI on judicial independence?

AI can enhance judicial independence by reducing external influences and biases. However, laws vary from region to region. Using AI might affect the interpretation of our laws, thus affecting the perception of judicial impartiality and Judicial Independence.

3) Should there be limits on the use of AI by judges, and, if so, to what extent?

There should indeed be limits on the use of AI by judges to safeguard against potential risks and ensure accountability. Guidelines should be set to address the appropriate utilization of AI to maintain the integrity and independence of judicial decision-making.