

**THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON LAWYERS :A CASE STUDY  
ON LAWYERS IN KAMPALA**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS OF  
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**DECLARATION**

I **NABACHWA VANESSA SARAH**, declare that this dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted for any award of Bachelor's Degree of Law (LLB) in any University or institution of Higher learning

Signature.....

Date 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2025

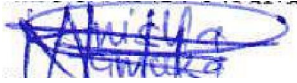
## DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my supervisor, **MISS ANN NAMUKASA**, my parents, **Mr and Mrs Muganga** for their moral and financial support, my friends who stood with me in my journey of law school and whose support has helped come up with this work. I want appreciate myself for the commitment and efforts despite the hardships encountered.

## APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation was done under my supervision.

Supervisor: Miss Ann Namukasa



Sign: .....

Date: .....22<sup>nd</sup>, May, 2025

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## ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence into legal systems has engendered a paradigm shift in the legal landscape, presenting a complex interplay of challenges and opportunities for the lawyers in Uganda. The comprehensive research delves into the multifaceted impact of

Artificial Intelligence on lawyers, focusing on its transformative potential and implications. Through an extensive analysis of the integration of Artificial Intelligence technologies including natural language, processing machine learning and predictive analytics, the study illuminates the profound improvements in legal research, decision making processes and case management, emphasizing the unprecedented efficiency and accessibility that Artificial Intelligence offers within the legal domain. Artificial Intelligence is increasingly shaping the legal field, particularly in the way Lawyers communicate. However, challenges such as ethical concerns, job displacement and data privacy issues persist. This study examines Artificial Intelligence role in streamlining routine tasks, its potential for improving legal practice and the associated risks. Additionally, it considers the future implications of ethical standards and training in Artificial Intelligence use within the lawyers. **KEYWORDS:** Artificial Intelligence, Legal system, Lawyers, Technology

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 GENERAL INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

AI is shaking up the legal world everywhere, but we still don't know much about how it's catching on in developing countries like Uganda. Our study looks at how lawyers in Kampala are dealing with AI - who's using it, what problems they're running into, and the ethical questions that keep them up at night. Uganda's legal system is struggling with massive backlogs and many people simply can't access justice, so AI could be a game-changer... or create new headaches. By talking to actual lawyers on the ground in Kampala, we're trying to fill in the blanks about how AI fits into emerging legal markets. The goal? Give everyone from policymakers to practicing attorneys some real-world guidance on bringing AI into Uganda's legal world without creating a mess.

#### 1.2 Background of the Study

AI is shaking up the legal world in a big way, completely changing how lawyers work, how clients get help, and even how we think about legal services. Around the globe, law firms are jumping on technologies like natural language processing, machine learning, and predictive analytics - fancy terms for tools that are making legal research, case management, and decision-making so much easier. Pretty eye-opening when you see the numbers: a 2022 International Bar Association report found that more than 60% of law firms in developed countries have jumped on the AI bandwagon to cut down on mundane tasks and save money.<sup>1</sup> This global transformation is not only a technology advancement but a fundamental

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Stone et al., "Artificial Intelligence and Life in 2030: The One Hundred Year Study on Artificial Intelligence."

reinvention of the legal profession, raising questions about the future role of attorneys, ethical standards, and access to justice<sup>2</sup>. For example, AI-powered platforms such as ROSS Intelligence and LexisNexis have become essential legal research tools in the United States, allowing attorneys to quickly examine a large volume of statutes and case law<sup>3</sup>. Similar to this, government initiatives in the UK, including the £10 million investment in Aldriven legal tech businesses to modernize the justice system, have expedited the adoption of AI in judicial system<sup>4</sup>. These advancements show how AI has the potential to revolutionize the legal field, but they also draw attention to the difficulties in guaranteeing ethical use, protecting data privacy, and allaying worries about job displacement<sup>5</sup>.

The use of AI in the legal field is still in its infancy at the regional level, especially in Africa, but it is picking up steam as public and private organizations realize how it may help with systemic inefficiencies. For instance, the Legal Practice Council in South Africa has started looking at how AI might be used to increase access to justice, especially for underserved groups.<sup>6</sup> Similar to this, over 70% of Nigerian lawyers believe that their practice is now more efficient thanks to AI-driven platforms like Law Pavilion, which are being utilized to improve legal research and

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<sup>2</sup> Richard Susskind, *Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> W Bradley Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law," *Okla. L. Rev.* 72 (2019): 21.

<sup>4</sup> Chay Brooks, Cristian Gherhes, and Tim Vorley, "Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector: Pressures and Challenges of Transformation," *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 13, no. 1 (May 15, 2020): 135–52, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cjres/rsz026>.

<sup>5</sup> Miriam C Buiten, "Towards Intelligent Regulation of Artificial Intelligence," *European Journal of Risk Regulation* 10, no. 1 (March 2019): 41–59, <https://doi.org/10.1017/err.2019.8>.

<sup>6</sup> Izuoma Egeruoh Egeruoh-Adindu, "Technology and the Law: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Litigation and Dispute Resolution in Africa," in *Nigerian Yearbook of International Law 2018/2019*, ed. Chile Eboe-Osuji, Engobo Emeseh, and Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, vol. 2018/2019, *Nigerian Yearbook of International Law* (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021), 413–36, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-69594-1\\_18](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-69594-1_18).

case management.<sup>7</sup> However, the adoption of AI in Africa is not without challenges. Limited technological infrastructure, high costs, and a lack of regulatory frameworks have hindered widespread implementation<sup>8</sup>. Moreover, ethical concerns, such as algorithmic bias and the potential for AI to perpetuate existing inequalities, remain significant barriers to its adoption in the region<sup>9</sup>. Despite these challenges, the potential for AI to transform the legal profession in Africa is immense, particularly in countries like Uganda, where the legal system is often overburdened and under-resourced.

In Uganda, the legal profession is at a critical juncture as it grapples with the opportunities and challenges posed by AI. The country's legal system, like many others in the developing world, faces significant challenges, including a backlog of cases, limited access to legal resources, and a shortage of qualified lawyers<sup>10</sup>. According to the Uganda Law Society, there are approximately 3,000 registered lawyers serving a population of over 45 million, resulting in a lawyer-to-population ratio of 1:15,000, one of the lowest in the world<sup>11</sup>. This disparity has created an urgent need for innovative solutions to improve access to justice and enhance the efficiency of legal services.

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<sup>7</sup> Paul Atagamen Aidonojie, Godswill Owoche Antai, and Saminu Wakili Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE," *Euromentor Journal* 15, no. 3 (2024): 78–99.

<sup>8</sup> Nishith Reddy Mannuru et al., "Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries: The Impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies for Development," *Information Development*, September 14, 2023, 02666669231200628, <https://doi.org/10.1177/02666669231200628>.

<sup>9</sup> Alfonso Min, "Artificial Intelligence and Bias: Challenges, Implications, and Remedies," *Journal of Social Research* 2, no. 11 (October 5, 2023): 3808–17, <https://doi.org/10.55324/josr.v2i11.1477>.

<sup>10</sup> G Kagaba Amina, "The Role of Legal Tech Startups in Transforming the Legal Industry: Communicating Innovation in Law," 2025.

<sup>11</sup> J Kakungulu Samuel, "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Communication," 2025.

AI offers a promising avenue for addressing these challenges, particularly through tools that automate routine tasks, such as document review and contract analysis, freeing up lawyers to focus on more complex legal issues<sup>12</sup>. For instance, the introduction of AI-powered legal research tools in Uganda has already begun to transform the way lawyers access and analyze case law, with platforms like Barefoot Law leveraging AI to provide free legal advice to underserved communities<sup>13</sup>.

However, the adoption of AI in Uganda's legal profession is not without its challenges. Ethical concerns, such as the potential for AI to undermine the role of human judgment in legal decision-making, remain a significant barrier to its widespread adoption<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, the lack of a comprehensive regulatory framework for AI in Uganda has raised questions about data privacy, accountability, and the potential for misuse<sup>15</sup>. These challenges underscore the need for a nuanced understanding of the impact of AI on Uganda's legal profession, particularly in the context of Kampala, where the majority of the country's legal practitioners are based.

### 1.3 Problem statement

Despite the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal profession, its integration into legal practice in Kampala remains riddled with significant challenges, posing a threat to the equitable delivery of justice. While

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<sup>12</sup> Michael Legg and Felicity Bell, "Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession: Becoming the AI-Enhanced Lawyer," *U. Tas. L. Rev.* 38 (2019): 34.

<sup>13</sup> Odunoluwa Longe, "Future of Law—Increasing Access to Justice Through Technology," 2021.

<sup>14</sup> Isaac Christopher Lubogo, *Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence* (Jescho Publishing House, 2022).

<sup>15</sup> Patricia Gomes Rêgo De Almeida, Carlos Denner Dos Santos, and Josivania Silva Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation: A Framework for Governance," *Ethics and Information Technology* 23, no. 3 (September 2021): 505–25, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10676-021-09593-z>.

AI-powered legal research tools, predictive analytics, and automated contract review have enhanced efficiency in developed jurisdictions<sup>16</sup>, Uganda’s legal sector lags in AI adoption due to systemic weaknesses such as inadequate technological infrastructure, insufficient regulatory frameworks, and limited financial resources for small and medium-sized law firms<sup>17</sup>. According to the Uganda Law Society, Uganda has one of the lowest lawyer-to-population ratios globally, standing at 1:15,000, which exacerbates access to justice issues<sup>18</sup>.

In comparison, developed economies such as the United States and the United Kingdom have leveraged AI to bridge similar gaps, where over 60% of law firms have incorporated AI-driven solutions to enhance efficiency and reduce legal costs<sup>19</sup>. However, in Uganda, particularly Kampala, AI remains an underutilized asset, with only a fraction of legal practitioners engaging AI-driven platforms, largely due to knowledge gaps and apprehensions regarding ethical dilemmas, algorithmic bias, and the displacement of human legal expertise<sup>19</sup>. The absence of clear regulatory guidance further complicates the situation, leading to inconsistencies in AI application and raising concerns about data privacy and accountability<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Yalcin Acikgoz et al., “Justice Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Selection,” *International Journal of Selection and Assessment* 28, no. 4 (December 2020): 399–416, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsa.12306>; Brooks, Gherhes, and Vorley, “Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector.”

<sup>17</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, “LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA’S LEGAL PRACTICE.”

<sup>18</sup> Kakungulu Samuel, “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Communication.”

<sup>19</sup> Stone et al., “Artificial Intelligence and Life in 2030.”

<sup>19</sup> Buiten, “Towards Intelligent Regulation of Artificial Intelligence”; Hind Benbya, Thomas H. Davenport, and Stella Pachidi, “Artificial Intelligence in Organizations: Current State and Future Opportunities,” *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3741983>.

<sup>20</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, “Artificial Intelligence Regulation”; Samuel Maireg Biresaw, “The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession,” *Upcoming in International Journal of Law and Society*, 2023.

## **1.4 General objective of the study**

The general objective of this study is to examine the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the legal profession in Kampala

### **1.4.1 Specific objectives**

- a) To analyze the extent of AI adoption among law firms in Kampala.
- b) To examine the challenges faced by lawyers in Kampala when integrating AI into legal practice.
- c) To assess the ethical concerns associated with AI use in the legal profession in Kampala.
- d) To provide practical recommendations for effective and ethical integration of AI in the legal profession in Kampala.

### **1.4.2 Research questions**

- i. To what extent have law firms in Kampala adopted AI in legal practice?
- ii. What challenges do lawyers in Kampala face in integrating AI into their practice?
- iii. What are the ethical concerns associated with AI use in the legal profession in Kampala?
- iv. What practical recommendations can enhance the effective and ethical integration of AI in the legal profession in Kampala?

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

This study is crucial in shedding light on the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence in Kampala's legal profession, offering valuable insights into its adoption, challenges, and ethical concerns. By focusing on a local context, it bridges the knowledge gap on how AI impacts legal practice in developing economies, where technological advancements often face systemic barriers. The findings will provide a foundation for future research on AI integration in Uganda's legal sector, guiding

policymakers, legal practitioners, and scholars in shaping informed strategies for ethical and effective AI adoption. Ultimately, this study contributes to the broader discourse on legal technology, ensuring that AI serves as a tool for justice rather than deepening existing inequalities in legal service delivery.

## **1.6 Justification of the study**

The pressing necessity to comprehend and resolve the issues surrounding the deployment of AI in Kampala's legal profession serves as justification for this study. Due to a lack of infrastructure, regulatory gaps, and ethical problems, Uganda runs the risk of falling behind as technology continues to transform legal practice worldwide. Examining AI's involvement in the provision of legal services is both vital and relevant, given the nation's already overburdened judicial system, where access to justice continues to be a major obstacle. This study offers a much-needed basis for well-informed decision-making among scholars, policymakers, and legal practitioners by examining how AI can be successfully integrated while maintaining professional standards and legal ethics. Its conclusions will aid in the development of policies that guarantee AI advances rather than undermines Kampala's legal industry.

## **1.7 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

### **1.7.1 Temporal Scope:**

The adoption of AI in Kampala's legal profession is the main topic of this study, which also looks at current trends, difficulties, and ethical issues.

### **1.7.2 Geographical Scope:**

Because Kampala is Uganda's legal and technology center and where AI use in law firms is more likely to be seen than in other areas, the study is restricted to this city.



### **1.7.3 Subject/Thematic Scope:**

The study investigates how AI is affecting legal practice, with particular attention to the degree of AI adoption, the difficulties experienced by solicitors, and the moral dilemmas surrounding the use of AI in the legal field.

### **1.8 Limitations of the Study:**

The qualitative character of the research limits the study's ability to produce statistically generalizable findings outside of Kampala's legal community. Lawyers' unwillingness to reveal AI usage because of confidentiality concerns may also limit access to data. Because AI technology is developing so quickly, additional advancements can surface after the study is finished, which could have an impact on its long-term applicability.

### **1.9 Literature review**

This chapter offers a thorough analysis of the body of research on artificial intelligence's (AI) effects on the legal field, with an emphasis on the degree of AI adoption, integration difficulties, and ethical issues. The chapter provides a critical and thorough examination of the local and global contexts of AI in legal practice, and it is organized to correspond with the particular goals of the research. This chapter lays the groundwork for comprehending the particular dynamics of AI adoption in Kampala's legal profession by analyzing the claims made by different academics, pointing out gaps in the literature, and contrasting advancements in developed and developing nations. The issue is relevant to the study's focus on Uganda's legal landscape since it is based on the larger conversation on legal technology. In industrialized jurisdictions, the use of AI in the legal profession has had a revolutionary impact. Tools like machine learning, natural language

processing, and predictive analytics have transformed legal research, case management, and decision-making procedures. As stated by Stone and colleagues (2022)<sup>21</sup>, AI has been incorporated into the operations of more than 60% of legal firms in developed nations, greatly increasing productivity and cutting expenses. Lawyers may now quickly examine a large number of statutes and case law because to platforms like ROSS Intelligence and LexisNexis, which have become essential for legal research.<sup>22</sup> The use of AI has also been expedited in the UK by government efforts, such as a £10 million investment in legal tech businesses that aim to modernize the legal system<sup>24</sup>. The role of solicitors and the provision of legal services are changing as a result of the global trend towards AI-driven legal practice, which is highlighted by these developments.<sup>25</sup>

On the other hand, AI adoption is still in its infancy in underdeveloped nations, especially in Africa. Although nations like South Africa and Nigeria have started investigating the potential of AI, budgetary and infrastructure limitations are limiting the scope of implementation. For example, more than 70% of Nigerian lawyers now use AI-driven platforms like Law Pavilion, which greatly increases the effectiveness of legal research and case management.<sup>23</sup> However, widespread adoption throughout the continent has been hampered by a lack of legislative frameworks and technological infrastructure.<sup>24</sup> This disparity between developed and developing countries underscores the uneven global adoption of AI in the legal profession.

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<sup>21</sup> Stone et al., “Artificial Intelligence and Life in 2030.”

<sup>22</sup> Wendel, “The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law.” <sup>24</sup> Brooks, Gherhes, and Vorley, “Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector.” <sup>25</sup> Susskind, *Tomorrow’s Lawyers*.

<sup>23</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, “LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA’S LEGAL PRACTICE.”

<sup>24</sup> Mannuru et al., “Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries.”

In Uganda, the adoption of AI in the legal sector is still in its infancy, with only a handful of law firms and legal tech startups leveraging AI tools. Platforms like Barefoot Law have introduced AI-powered legal research tools, providing free legal advice to underserved communities<sup>25</sup>. However, the majority of Ugandan lawyers, particularly those in small and medium-sized firms, lack access to these technologies due to high costs and limited technical expertise<sup>26</sup>. According to the Uganda Law Society, the lawyer-to-population ratio of 1:15,000 exacerbates the need for innovative solutions like AI to address systemic inefficiencies<sup>27</sup>. Despite this, the adoption of AI in Uganda's legal profession remains uneven, with larger firms and corporate legal departments leading the way, while smaller firms lag behind<sup>28</sup>.

The impact of AI on legal practice is multifaceted, offering both opportunities and challenges. AI has simplified repetitive duties like contract analysis, document review, and legal research in industrialized nations, allowing attorneys to concentrate on more intricate legal matters.<sup>29</sup> Predictive analytics driven by AI, for instance, has been used to evaluate the probability of case outcomes, empowering attorneys to make better decisions<sup>33</sup>. But the dependence on AI has also sparked

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<sup>25</sup> Longe, "Future of Law—Increasing Access to Justice Through Technology."

<sup>26</sup> Sarita Sunil Mahadik, "A Study on Perception of Lawyers about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession," *International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research* 6, no. 9 (2024).

<sup>27</sup> Kakungulu Samuel, "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Legal Communication."

<sup>28</sup> Xavier Rodriguez, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Practice of Law," in *SEDONA CONF. J.*, vol. 24, 2023, 783.

<sup>29</sup> Legg and Bell, "Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession: Becoming the AI-Enhanced Lawyer." <sup>33</sup> Maxi Scherer, "Artificial Intelligence and Legal Decision-Making: The Wide Open?," *Journal of International Arbitration* 36, no. Issue 5 (September 1, 2019): 539–73, <https://doi.org/10.54648/JOIA2019028>.

worries about the loss of human competence in the legal profession and the possibility of job displacement<sup>30</sup>.

Africa's particular problems, such as restricted access to justice and a lack of competent solicitors, influence how AI will affect legal practice in the continent. The Legal Practice Council is investigating the use of AI-driven technologies to address systemic inefficiencies, and in South Africa, AI has been utilised to improve access to justice for marginalised people<sup>31</sup>. In a similar vein, over 70% of Nigerian lawyers claim that AI has improved their practice's efficiency in terms of legal research and case management.<sup>32</sup> However, the region's broad adoption of AI has been constrained by a lack of regulatory frameworks and technological infrastructure<sup>33</sup>.

The effects of AI on legal practice are still being felt in Uganda, however early adopters have noted notable increases in productivity and access to the legal system. AI-powered legal research tools, for example, have revolutionized the way attorneys' access and evaluate case law, allowing them to represent clients more successfully<sup>34</sup>. But Uganda's absence of a thorough legal framework for AI has

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<sup>30</sup> Morgan R. Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116, no. 14 (April 2, 2019): 6531–39, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1900949116>.

<sup>31</sup> Egeruoh-Adindu, "Technology and the Law."

<sup>32</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE."

<sup>33</sup> Mannuru et al., "Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries."

<sup>34</sup> Longe, "Future of Law—Increasing Access to Justice Through Technology."

sparked worries about data privacy and accountability, especially when AI-driven decision-making has been applied in court.<sup>35</sup>

The widespread use of AI in the legal industry emphasises both the revolutionary potential of these technologies and the difficulties in guaranteeing their ethical and equitable application. Developing nations like Uganda confront major obstacles to adoption, such as inadequate infrastructure, high costs, and a lack of legislative frameworks, despite developed nations having made notable progress in incorporating AI into legal practice. These difficulties show that adopting AI requires a more inclusive strategy that takes into account the particular requirements and situations of solicitors and clients in developing nations. There are many obstacles in the way of integrating AI into the legal profession, especially in underdeveloped nations where legislative frameworks and technological infrastructure are frequently deficient<sup>36</sup>. Strong technology infrastructure and benevolent regulatory frameworks have fuelled the development of AI in industrialised nations, allowing legal firms to successfully use AI techniques. However, the widespread use of AI in legal practice has been hampered in developing nations like Uganda by a lack of financial resources and technological infrastructure.<sup>37</sup> The high cost of AI technologies, which restricts access for small and medium-sized legal firms, is one of the main obstacles to AI integration. As stated by Aidonojie and colleagues (2024)<sup>38</sup>, There is a digital divide in the legal

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<sup>35</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>36</sup> Brooks, Gherhes, and Vorley, "Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector."

<sup>37</sup> Mannuru et al., "Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries."

<sup>38</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE."

industry since more than 75% of Ugandan solicitors working for small and mid-sized companies lack the funds to invest in AI-driven platforms. The dearth of technical knowledge among attorneys, many of whom are ignorant of AI technologies and their possible uses in the practice of law, further widens this gap<sup>39</sup>.

The absence of legislative frameworks controlling the application of AI in the legal industry is another major obstacle. To guarantee the moral and responsible application of AI, developed nations have put in place legal frameworks that address issues like algorithmic bias, data privacy, and accountability<sup>40</sup>. However, in Uganda, the legal framework governing AI is still in its infancy, with few laws or regulations specifically addressing its use in the legal profession<sup>41</sup>. For solicitors and legal professionals, who are depending more and more on AI tools to improve their practice, this regulatory vacuum has caused concern<sup>42</sup>.

The incorporation of AI in the legal profession is also severely hampered by ethical issues. The application of AI to legal decision-making in developed nations has sparked worries about algorithmic bias and the value of human judgement<sup>43</sup>. Predictive analytics driven by AI, for instance, has come under fire in the US for maintaining socioeconomic and racial prejudices in court decisions<sup>44</sup>. In a similar

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<sup>39</sup> Rodriguez, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Practice of Law."

<sup>40</sup> Buiten, "Towards Intelligent Regulation of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>41</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>42</sup> Lubogo Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence" (Jescho publishing house, 2022).

<sup>43</sup> Biresaw, "The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession."

<sup>44</sup> Steven A. Wright, "AI in the Law: Towards Assessing Ethical Risks," in *2020 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (Big Data)* (2020 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (Big Data), Atlanta, GA, USA: IEEE, 2020), 2160–69, <https://doi.org/10.1109/BigData50022.2020.9377950>.

vein, concerns regarding the accountability and transparency of AI in legal proceedings have been raised in Uganda by the use of AI-driven analytics in bail applications<sup>45</sup>.

The incorporation of AI in the legal profession is made more difficult by the fact that many areas of Uganda lack dependable internet connectivity and digital literacy. According to Nwaechefu et al. (2023)<sup>46</sup>, over 60% of Ugandan lawyers lack the necessary digital skills to effectively use AI-driven platforms, limiting their ability to leverage these technologies in their practice. Additionally, the lack of reliable internet access in many parts of the country undermines the effectiveness of AI-powered legal assistants and chatbots, which rely on internet connectivity to function<sup>47</sup>.

The challenges of AI integration in the legal profession highlight the need for a more inclusive approach to technology adoption, one that takes into account the unique needs and circumstances of lawyers and clients in developing countries. While AI has the potential to transform legal practice, its adoption must be guided by robust regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations to ensure that it serves as a tool for justice rather than an impediment.

There are serious ethical issues with the application of AI in the legal field, especially when it comes to algorithmic prejudice, data privacy, and the undervaluation of human judgement. The ethical implications of artificial intelligence (AI) have been hotly disputed in industrialized nations, with academics

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<sup>45</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>46</sup> Hilary Nwaechefu et al., "THE PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN ADOPTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOWARD EFFECTIVE LEGAL EDUCATION," n.d.

<sup>47</sup> Mahadik, "A Study on Perception of Lawyers about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession."

advocating for the creation of strong regulatory frameworks to guarantee the responsible use of these technologies<sup>48</sup>. But for attorneys and legal professionals in underdeveloped nations like Uganda, who are increasingly depending on AI tools to improve their practice, the absence of ethical standards and regulatory frameworks has caused concern<sup>49</sup>

The possibility of algorithmic prejudice is one of the main ethical issues with AI in the legal field. Predictive analytics driven by AI has come under fire in industrialised nations for maintaining socioeconomic and racial biases in court decisions<sup>50</sup>. For instance, it has been discovered that AI-driven risk assessment tools in the US disproportionately target minority populations, prompting calls for increased accountability and transparency in the usage of these technologies<sup>51</sup>. In a similar vein, concerns over the impartiality and fairness of AI in legal proceedings have been raised in Uganda by the use of AI-driven analytics in bail applications<sup>52</sup>.

The possibility that AI will erode the importance of human judgement in legal decisionmaking is another serious ethical worry. Concerns over the devaluation of human competence in legal practice have been raised by industrialized nations' reliance on AI-powered technologies<sup>53</sup>. For instance, the application of AI to case management and legal research has drawn criticism for lowering the status of solicitors from active players in the legal process to supervisors of suggestions produced by machines<sup>58</sup>. For instance, the application of AI to case management

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<sup>48</sup> Buiten, "Towards Intelligent Regulation of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>49</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>50</sup> Wright, "AI in the Law."

<sup>51</sup> Biresaw, "The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession."

<sup>52</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>53</sup> Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor." <sup>58</sup> Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law."

<sup>59</sup> Lubogo, *Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence*.

and legal research has drawn criticism for lowering the status of solicitors from active players in the legal process to supervisors of suggestions produced by machines<sup>59</sup>.

Another significant ethical issue surrounding the application of AI in the legal field is data privacy. Concerns over the gathering, storing, and use of personal data have been raised by the usage of AI-powered tools in industrialised nations, especially where sensitive data is involved<sup>54</sup>. For instance, there have been calls for stronger data protection measures after the use of AI in legal research and case management was criticised for potentially exposing clients' personal information to data breaches<sup>61</sup>. The absence of a thorough legal framework for AI in Uganda has also sparked worries about data privacy and accountability, especially in situations when AI-driven decision-making has been applied in court<sup>55</sup>.

A more nuanced approach to technology adoption is required, one that considers the particular requirements and situations of solicitors and clients in developing nations, as underscored by the ethical issues surrounding AI in the legal profession. Although AI has the potential to revolutionise the legal profession, its uptake needs to be governed by strong legal and ethical frameworks to guarantee that technology is an instrument for justice rather than a barrier.

The body of research on artificial intelligence's (AI) effects on the legal field, especially in industrialised nations, offers important insights into the technology's uptake, difficulties, and moral ramifications. But there are still a lot of loopholes, particularly when considering underdeveloped nations like Uganda. However,

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<sup>54</sup> Stacy M. Carter et al., "The Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of Using Artificial Intelligence Systems in Breast Cancer Care," *The Breast* 49 (February 2020): 25–32, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.breast.2019.10.001>.

<sup>61</sup> Nabile M. Safdar, John D. Banja, and Carolyn C. Meltzer, "Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence," *European Journal of Radiology* 122 (January 2020): 108768, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrad.2019.108768>.

<sup>55</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

research like those done by Stone et al. (2022)<sup>56</sup> and Brooks and associates (2020)<sup>57</sup> Although the deployment of AI in industrialised countries has been widely documented, little is known about how these technologies are being incorporated into African legal practice. For example, even though Aidonojie and colleagues (2024)<sup>58</sup> In 2021, Egeruoh-Adindu<sup>59</sup> provide some initial insights into the adoption of AI in South Africa and Nigeria, but there are few localised studies that concentrate on Uganda, especially Kampala, where the legal profession faces distinct difficulties such a low lawyer-to-population ratio and inadequate technology infrastructure. The need for contextspecific research to comprehend how AI can be used to effectively address systemic inefficiencies in Uganda's legal system is highlighted by this gap The absence of thorough examination of the moral and legal issues surrounding the deployment of AI in poor nations is another significant gap in the literature. Although academics such as Buiten (2019)<sup>60</sup> In 2021, De Almeida et al<sup>61</sup> have examined the moral ramifications of AI in developed countries, but little is known about how these issues appear in areas with lax laws and little funding. As demonstrated in the Uganda v. Kato case, for instance, the application of AI-driven predictive analytics in Uganda's legal system<sup>62</sup>, brings up important issues regarding algorithmic bias, accountability, and transparency. These topics are still not well covered in the literature, though, especially when it comes to how they affect legal professionals' obligations and access to justice. This disparity emphasises the need for more study to create ethical standards and legal

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<sup>56</sup> Stone et al., "Artificial Intelligence and Life in 2030."

<sup>57</sup> Brooks, Gherhes, and Vorley, "Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Sector."

<sup>58</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE."

<sup>59</sup> Egeruoh-Adindu, "Technology and the Law."

<sup>60</sup> Buiten, "Towards Intelligent Regulation of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>61</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>62</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

frameworks tailored to the particular difficulties of implementing AI in Uganda's legal industry.

Last but not least, the literature mostly ignores the viewpoints of solo practitioners and small and medium-sized law firms, which make up a sizable share of the legal profession in developing nations. However, research like that conducted by Mahadik (2024)<sup>63</sup> Rodriguez and others (2023)<sup>64</sup> acknowledge the digital divide between large and small law firms, there is limited empirical evidence on how AI adoption impacts the day-to-day practice of lawyers in resource-constrained settings. For instance, the challenges faced by Ugandan lawyers in accessing AI tools due to high costs and limited technical expertise remain underexplored. Furthermore, more research is necessary to determine whether AI may worsen alreadyexisting disparities in the legal profession, especially in a place like Kampala where access to justice is already a major obstacle. Closing these gaps is essential to creating inclusive AI adoption plans that respect the profession's ethical standards and guarantee fair access to legal services.

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<sup>63</sup> Mahadik, "A Study on Perception of Lawyers about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession."

<sup>64</sup> Rodriguez, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Practice of Law."

## **1.10 Research methodology**

### **1.10.1 Introduction**

The research approach used in this study to investigate the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on Kampala attorneys is described in this chapter. The technique is intended to give a thorough grasp of the degree of AI acceptance, the difficulties experienced by solicitors, and the ethical issues surrounding AI integration in the legal profession because of the qualitative character of the research. The research design, demographic and sampling strategies, data collection methodologies, data analysis protocols, and ethical issues are all covered in detail in this chapter. The approach is designed to accomplish the goals of the study and provide an effective response to the research questions.

### **1.10.2 Research Design**

In order to investigate the effects of AI on Kampala lawyers, this study uses a qualitative research design. Because it enables a thorough and nuanced understanding of complex phenomena, like the adoption and integration of AI in legal practice, qualitative research is especially well-suited for this topic. The researcher can better understand the viewpoints, struggles, and experiences of Kampala's lawyers by using a qualitative technique, which yields rich, context-specific insights that quantitative methods could miss. Using Kampala as the main unit of analysis, the study uses a case study methodology. This method is suitable since it enables a thorough analysis of the particular dynamics of AI adoption in a particular geographic and occupational setting.

### **1.10.3 Population and Sampling**

The study's target demographic consists of Kampala-based solicitors, including those employed by solo practices, corporate legal departments, and law firms. Purposive sampling is used to choose participants who are familiar with artificial intelligence (AI) and its use in legal practice, given the qualitative nature of the study. This sampling strategy ensures that the participants have relevant expertise and insights to contribute to the study. Data saturation, a principle in qualitative research where data collection continues until no new themes or insights emerge, determines the sample size. To ensure a varied spectrum of viewpoints, between 20-25 participants are targeted, including attorneys from major, medium, and small law firms.

### **1.10.4 Data Collection Methods**

Using a semi-structured interview guide, in-depth interviews are the main technique used to collect data for this study. Semi-structured interviews are preferred because they provide flexibility in examining the viewpoints and experiences of participants while guaranteeing that important themes associated with the study's goals are covered. Open-ended questions in the interview guide are intended to elicit in-depth answers regarding the degree of AI adoption, difficulties encountered, and moral dilemmas related to AI integration. Here are some examples of questions:

- 1) How much has your legal practice included AI tools?
- 2) What difficulties did you run into when incorporating AI into your work?
- 3) What ethical concerns, if any, do you associate with the use of AI in the legal profession?

In addition to interviews, the study incorporates document analysis to supplement the primary data. Documents such as reports from the Uganda Law Society, policy papers on AI regulation, and case studies of AI applications in Uganda's legal system are reviewed to provide context and validate findings from the interviews.

#### **1.10.5 Data Analysis**

The data collected from interviews and document analysis are analyzed using thematic analysis, a widely used method in qualitative research for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) within data. The analysis follows a six-step process:

- a) Familiarization with the data through repeated reading of interview transcripts and documents.
- b) Generating initial codes to identify meaningful segments of data.
- c) Putting comparable codes together to find themes.
- d) Examining themes to make sure they are unique and cohesive.
- e) Identifying and characterizing concepts in order to convey their essence.

Combining the study objectives and questions with the thematic findings to create the final report.

Thematic analysis is chosen because it provides a flexible and methodical way to find patterns in qualitative data, which makes it appropriate for answering the goals and research questions of the study.

#### **1.10.6 Ethical Considerations**

Strict ethical procedures are followed in this study to guarantee the reliability and integrity of the findings. Prior to completing interviews, all participants provide their informed consent and are guaranteed the freedom to leave the study at any moment without incurring any penalties (Bryman, 2016). By employing

pseudonyms for participants and making sure that no personally identifying information is revealed in the final report, confidentiality and anonymity are preserved. The study also conforms with the ethical standards set forth by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), which include beneficence, justice, and respect for the autonomy of participants.

#### **1.10.7 Limitations of the Methodology**

Although the qualitative approach offers rich, detailed insights, it has limitations. The results may not be statistically generalisable outside of Kampala's legal profession, and the study's reliance on participant self-reported data may introduce bias as lawyers may overstate or understate their experiences with AI. Additionally, because AI technology is developing quickly, new developments may emerge after the study is conducted, which could affect the findings' applicability. Nevertheless, the study's qualitative design is well-suited to accomplishing its goals and offering insightful information about how AI is affecting Kampala lawyers.

#### **1.10.8 Conclusion**

This chapter has described the research design, demographic and sampling strategies, data collection methods, data analysis processes, and ethical considerations that were used in this study. A case study design in conjunction with the qualitative approach is ideally suited to accomplishing the goals of the study and providing answers to the research questions. This technique guarantees that the study adds significant insights to the larger conversation on legal technology and AI adoption in developing nations by offering a thorough and nuanced knowledge of the impact of AI on lawyers in Kampala.

### **1.11 Chapter Synopsis**

Chapter one entails the research proposal of the study. Chapter two entails the non-legal aspects of the study, Chapter three entails the legal aspects of the study, chapter four entails the summary of findings, recommendations and conclusion of the study.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 NON-LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY

#### 2.1 Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal field is not just a technical development; it is also a socioeconomic and cultural change with broad ramifications that go beyond the boundaries of legal practice. Examining the non-legal factors that both influence and are influenced by this technological revolution is just as crucial as examining the legal issues of adopting AI. With an emphasis on Kampala lawyers specifically, this chapter explores the socioeconomic, cultural, ethical, and psychological facets of integrating AI in the legal field. This chapter attempts to give a comprehensive picture of how AI is affecting the legal profession by looking at these non-legal aspects, providing perspectives that are sometimes ignored in conventional legal discourse.

##### 2.1.1 Socio-Economic Implications of AI in the Legal Profession

AI has significant socioeconomic ramifications for the legal profession, especially in poor nations like Uganda. AI has the potential to drastically change the legal industry's economic environment, impacting access to legal services, employment, and income distribution. As stated by Frank and colleagues (2019)<sup>65</sup>, Concerns over job displacement and the value of human expertise have arisen as a result of the adoption of AI in a number of fields, including law. Regular legal activities like document inspection, contract analysis, and legal research are already being automated by AI in wealthy nations, raising concerns that paralegals and junior attorneys may find their positions becoming less and less necessary<sup>66</sup>. However,

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<sup>65</sup> Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor."

<sup>66</sup> Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law."

because of the high unemployment rate among law graduates and the existing inequalities in access to legal services, the socioeconomic ramifications are much more noticeable in developing nations like Uganda. The use of AI in the legal field in Kampala may make socioeconomic disparities already present worse. Because they can afford to invest in AI technologies, larger law firms and corporate legal departments stand to gain the most from these developments. These organizations can employ AI to boost productivity, cut costs, and offer more competitive services, ultimately solidifying their market position<sup>67</sup>. However, the bulk of Kampala's legal practices are small and medium-sized, and they might find it difficult to buy AI technologies, which would cause the gap between large and small companies to expand. A two-tiered legal system where only those who can afford AI-enhanced legal services have access to professional and efficient legal representation could be the outcome of this digital divide<sup>68</sup>. Furthermore, AI's socioeconomic effects go beyond the legal industry to the larger economy. From enforcing contracts to resolving disputes, the legal industry is essential to enabling economic activity. AI has the ability to boost economic growth by improving the business climate and lowering transaction costs through the efficiency of legal services<sup>69</sup>. However, this potential can only be realized if AI adoption is inclusive and fair. In Kampala, where access to justice is already a considerable barrier, the unequal adoption of

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<sup>67</sup> Mahadik, "A Study on Perception of Lawyers about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession."

<sup>68</sup> Rodriguez, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Practice of Law."

<sup>69</sup> Legg and Bell, "Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Profession: Becoming the AI-Enhanced Lawyer."

AI could further marginalize disadvantaged communities, worsening socio-economic inequality<sup>70</sup>.

### **2.1.2 Cultural Implications of AI in the Legal Profession**

AI's cultural ramifications for the legal profession are equally important, especially in a place like Uganda where cultural norms and customary legal procedures are very important in determining the legal environment. Traditional ideas of legal practice are being challenged by the entry of artificial intelligence (AI) into the field, which raises concerns about the importance of human judgement, the worth of legal knowledge, and the cultural significance of the legal profession. The legal profession is not just a technical job in many African nations, including Uganda; it is a culturally significant vocation that represents authority, knowledge, and justice. Attorneys are frequently regarded as the guardians of justice, and their responsibilities go beyond the courtroom to encompass community leadership, advocacy, and mediation<sup>71</sup>. Concerns over the dehumanization of the legal profession and the decline in the cultural relevance of attorneys are raised by the introduction of AI into this culturally diverse field. For example, it may be argued that using AI-powered chatbots to give legal advice undermines the relational and personal elements of the profession, which are highly prized in many African cultures<sup>72</sup>.

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<sup>70</sup> Nwaechefu et al., "THE PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN ADOPTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOWARD EFFECTIVE LEGAL EDUCATION."

<sup>71</sup> Egeruoh-Adindu, "Technology and the Law."

<sup>72</sup> Longe, "Future of Law—Increasing Access to Justice Through Technology."

Furthermore, concerns about legitimacy and trust are intimately related to the cultural ramifications of AI adoption. Personal ties and the perceived honesty of legal professionals are major factors in building trust in legal systems in many African communities. Artificial intelligence (AI) in legal decision-making has the potential to erode public confidence in the legal system, especially when the decision-making process is opaque. For instance, in the *Uganda v. Kato* case, bail applications were made using AI-driven predictive analytics<sup>73</sup>, calls into question the impartiality and fairness of choices made by AI. Significant cultural and societal repercussions could result from these rulings undermining public confidence in the legal system if they are seen as biased or unfair.

### **2.1.3 Ethical Implications of AI in the Legal Profession**

Perhaps the most hotly contested area of AI adoption is its ethical implications for the legal profession. AI presents serious ethical issues, especially with regard to algorithmic prejudice, data privacy, and the devaluation of human judgement, even while technology also has the potential to improve efficiency and access to justice. In Kampala, where the legal profession is already battling systemic issues like corruption, inefficiency, and restricted access to justice, these ethical issues are especially pertinent.

The possibility of algorithmic prejudice is one of the main ethical issues with AI in the legal field. Since AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on, biased training data will probably cause the AI system to reinforce and even magnify preexisting biases<sup>74</sup>. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to worsen Kampala's already problematic bias and discrimination in the justice system. An AI

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<sup>73</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>74</sup> Biresaw, "The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession."

<sup>82</sup> Wright, "AI in the Law."

system may reinforce biases in its predictions and recommendations, for instance, if it is trained on case data from the past that shows skewed court rulings. This could result in unfair outcomes for some groups<sup>82</sup>.

Another significant ethical issue with AI in the legal field is data privacy. For AI systems to work well, enormous volumes of data are required, and sensitive personal data is frequently included in this data. The application of AI in legal practice poses serious concerns about data security and privacy in Kampala, where data protection regulations are still in their infancy. For example, using AI-powered legal research tools can necessitate that attorneys upload private case material to cloud-based platforms, which could lead to data breaches and illegal access<sup>75</sup>. These worries are especially pressing in a situation where a large number of solicitors and clients could not completely understand the dangers of sharing data and might lack the technical know-how to adequately protect their data.

Another ethical issue with AI in the legal field is the devaluing of human judgement. Although AI can improve accuracy and efficiency, it also calls into question the place of human judgement in legal decision-making. The job of a lawyer in many legal systems, including Uganda's, involves more than just following the law; it also involves using discretion, judgement, and empathy when interpreting and administering the law. Concerns are raised regarding the dehumanisation of the legal profession and the possibility that AI would compromise the moral and professional obligations of solicitors when it is incorporated into this process<sup>76</sup>. For instance, the use of AI to case management and legal research may diminish the

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<sup>75</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>76</sup> Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor."

role of solicitors as active participants in the legal process and instead reduce them to supervisors of recommendations created by machines<sup>77</sup>.

#### 2.1.4 Psychological Implications of AI in the Legal Profession

Although they are frequently disregarded, AI's psychological effects on the legal industry are nonetheless important. The implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in the legal field may significantly affect attorneys' mental health and general well-being, especially in a high-stress setting like Kampala. The adoption of AI technologies can lead to increased job insecurity, particularly among junior lawyers and paralegals who may fear that their roles will be automated. This worry of job displacement can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and burnout, with major repercussions for mental health<sup>78</sup>.

Furthermore, lawyers may feel less empowered as a result of AI's entrance into the legal field. Lawyers may become less involved in the legal process and more like technological operators as a result of the adoption of AI-powered solutions. Significant effects on mental health and general well-being may result from this sense of disempowerment, which can also cause a loss of professional identity and a drop in job satisfaction<sup>79</sup>. The implementation of AI may worsen psychological difficulties in Kampala, where the legal profession is already extremely taxing and stressful, increasing the likelihood of burnout and mental health problems among attorneys.

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<sup>77</sup> Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law."

<sup>78</sup> John Howard, "Artificial Intelligence: Implications for the Future of Work," *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 62, no. 11 (November 2019): 917–26, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.23037>.

<sup>79</sup> Chris Chambers Goodman, "AI/Esq.: Impacts of Artificial Intelligence in Lawyer-Client Relationships," *Okla. L. Rev.* 72 (2019): 149.

## 2.2 Conclusion

The use of AI in the legal field has many other non-legal facets, including socioeconomic, cultural, ethical, and psychological elements. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to both worsen and ease the legal profession's already severe problems in Kampala. AI presents serious worries about job displacement, algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the dehumanization of the legal profession, even while it also has the ability to increase efficiency, lower costs, and improve access to justice. Since these non-legal factors have significant ramifications for the future of legal practice in Kampala and beyond, they must be carefully taken into account in any debate about AI adoption in the legal profession. Policymakers, legal professionals, and academics may create a more comprehensive and inclusive strategy for AI adoption by tackling these non-legal factors, guaranteeing that AI will be used as a tool for justice rather than as a barrier.

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0 LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY

#### 3.1 Introduction

Beyond the short-term gains in productivity and cost savings, the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the legal field has significant legal ramifications. The legal aspects of AI adoption in the legal field are critically examined in this chapter, with an emphasis on the case study of Kampala, Ugandan lawyers. Three main frameworks serve as the foundation for the analysis: the domestic legal framework, the regional legal framework, and the international legal framework. With an emphasis on the laws, rules, case law, and agreements that influence the acceptance and control of AI in the legal field, each framework is thoroughly examined. The chapter offers a thorough and critical examination of the legal elements of integrating AI, as well as the ethical and legal issues that come up when AI is used in legal practice.

#### 3.2 International Legal Framework

Since there is currently no comprehensive international treaty or convention that expressly addresses the use of AI in the legal profession, the international legal framework governing AI is still in its infancy. Nonetheless, a number of international agreements and guidelines offer a starting point for comprehending the legal ramifications of AI deployment. These consist of data protection laws, international human rights legislation, and moral standards created by global organizations.

### 3.2.1 International Human Rights Law

Significant human rights issues are brought up by the application of AI in the legal field, especially with regard to the rights to privacy, a fair trial, and the ban on discrimination. The right to a fair trial, which includes the right to a tribunal that is impartial, independent, and competent, is guaranteed under Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The impartiality and openness of AI-driven choices are called into doubt by its usage in court decision-making, such as predictive analytics in bail applications.

In the *Uganda v. Kato* case<sup>80</sup> AI's usage to predict recidivism has drawn criticism for its lack of transparency, which may have violated the defendant's right to a fair trial.

Furthermore, as artificial intelligence (AI) depends on enormous volumes of data, including private and sensitive information, the right to privacy as guaranteed by Article 17 of the ICCPR is especially pertinent. Data breaches and unauthorized access are problems when using AI-powered legal research tools that require uploading case information to cloud-based platforms. These worries are made worse by the fact that many developing nations, like Uganda, lack strong data privacy regulations (De Almeida et al., 2021).<sup>81</sup>

### 3.2.2 Data Protection and Privacy Regulations

Internationally, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) establishes strict guidelines for privacy and data protection, which have impacted data protection regulations in other countries. According to the GDPR, people have the right to access, update, and remove their data, and data processing must

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<sup>80</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

<sup>81</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

be fair, transparent, and legal. Since AI systems frequently rely on enormous datasets that may contain sensitive personal data, these guidelines are especially pertinent to the application of AI in the legal industry.

The Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019 in Uganda offers a framework for regulating personal data, but it makes no mention of the application of AI in the legal field. For attorneys and legal professionals who use AI tools, this regulatory vacuum causes uncertainty because they might not be aware of their legal responsibilities. Use of AI-powered legal research tools, for instance, that necessitate uploading case data to cloud-based platforms may give rise to concerns over adherence to data privacy regulations, especially if the data is handled or stored outside of Uganda.

### **3.2.3 Ethical Guidelines and Soft Law**

To handle the moral and legal issues raised by AI, a number of international organizations have created soft law tools and ethical guidelines. Transparency, accountability, and equity are crucial in the creation and application of AI systems, according to a set of ethical guidelines for AI created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In a similar vein, the European Commission has released ethical standards for reliable AI that call for human supervision, equity, and responsibility.

Since the application of AI raises questions regarding the possibility for algorithmic prejudice and the devaluation of human judgement, these ethical considerations are especially pertinent to the legal profession. AI in legal research and case management, for instance, may make lawyers less involved in the legal process and more like supervisors of recommendations made by machines<sup>82</sup>. This calls into

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<sup>82</sup> Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law."

question the necessity of human oversight in AI-driven legal decision-making as well as the ethical obligations of attorneys.

### **3.3 Regional Legal Framework**

The legal framework governing artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa is still developing at the regional level, with a number of regional organisations and initiatives tackling the ethical and legal issues raised by AI. These consist of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), and the African Union (AU).

#### **3.3.1 African Union (AU)**

The African Union has acknowledged that artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to propel economic growth and development, but it has also recognized that a regulatory framework is necessary to address the ethical and legal issues raised by AI. The African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention), which was ratified by the AU in 2020, offers a framework for cybersecurity and data protection laws in Africa. The employment of AI in the legal profession is pertinent to the Malabo Convention, which mandates that member states implement policies to safeguard personal information and guarantee the security of information systems.

Nevertheless, the Malabo Convention has not yet gained widespread ratification and has been implemented slowly. The Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019 in Uganda offers a framework for regulating personal data, but it makes no mention of the application of AI in the legal field. For attorneys and legal professionals who use AI tools, this regulatory vacuum causes uncertainty because they might not be aware of their legal responsibilities.

### **3.3.2 East African Community (EAC)**

Although the East African Community has acknowledged AI's potential to spur economic expansion and advancement, it has not yet created a thorough regulatory framework for the technology. However, the EAC has taken a number of steps to encourage the use of technology in the legal field, such as creating e-justice systems and utilizing AI for case management and legal research. Enhancing the effectiveness of legal services in the area and expanding access to justice are the goals of these efforts. The necessity to solve systemic inefficiencies, such as the backlog of cases and the lack of competent solicitors, has prompted Uganda's legal profession to embrace artificial intelligence. Lawyers may now deliver more effective legal representation because of the advent of AI-powered legal research tools like Barefoot Law, which have revolutionized the way attorneys' access and evaluate case law. But Uganda's absence of a thorough legal framework for AI has sparked worries about data privacy and accountability, especially when AI-driven decision-making has been applied in court<sup>83</sup>.

### **3.3.3 Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

Although it has acknowledged AI's potential to drive economic growth and development, the Southern African Development Community has not yet created a thorough regulatory framework for the technology. However, the SADC has taken a number of steps to encourage the use of technology in the legal field, such as creating e-justice systems and utilizing AI for case management and legal research. Enhancing the effectiveness of legal services in the area and expanding access to justice are the goals of these efforts.

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<sup>83</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

The Legal Practice Council in South Africa has started looking at how AI might be used to increase access to justice, especially for underserved groups<sup>84</sup>. Comparably, more than 70% of Nigerian solicitors already use AI-powered systems like Law Pavilion, which greatly increases the effectiveness of legal research and case management<sup>85</sup>. However, the region's broad adoption of AI has been constrained by a lack of regulatory frameworks and technological infrastructure<sup>86</sup>.

### **3.4 Domestic Legal Framework**

With few rules or regulations expressly addressing the use of AI in the legal profession, Uganda's domestic legal system governing AI is still in its infancy. Although it offers a general framework for regulating AI, the Uganda Communications Act of 2013, which regulates the use of information and communication technology, does not contain any particular regulations addressing its application in the legal sphere. Similarly, AI systems that rely on big datasets are affected by the Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019, which governs the gathering, storing, and use of personal data, but it makes no mention of the ethical and legal issues raised by AI in the legal field.

#### **3.4.1 Uganda Communications Act of 2013**

A framework for regulating AI and other information and communication technologies is provided by the Uganda Communications Act of 2013. With the jurisdiction to grant licenses, establish guidelines, and enforce adherence, the Act creates the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) as the industry's regulating body. But the Act doesn't particularly address the application of AI in the legal

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<sup>84</sup> Egeruoh-Adindu, "Technology and the Law."

<sup>85</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE."

<sup>86</sup> Mannuru et al., "Artificial Intelligence in Developing Countries."

field, resulting in a regulatory void that leaves attorneys and other legal professionals who depend on AI tools in the dark.

### **3.4.2 Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019**

A framework for regulating personal data is provided by the Data Protection and Privacy Act of 2019, which is pertinent to the application of AI in the legal field. According to the Act, people have the right to access, update, and remove their data, and data processing must be fair, transparent, and legal. Since AI systems frequently rely on enormous datasets that may contain sensitive personal data, these guidelines are especially pertinent to the application of AI in the legal industry.

But because the Act doesn't directly address AI's usage in the legal field, there is a regulatory gap that leaves attorneys and other legal professionals who depend on AI tools in the dark. Use of AI-powered legal research tools, for instance, that necessitate uploading case data to cloud-based platforms may give rise to concerns over adherence to data privacy regulations, especially if the data is handled or stored outside of Uganda.

### **3.4.3 Judicial Precedents and Case Law**

Since Uganda lacks a thorough regulatory framework for AI, case law and judicial precedents are extremely important in determining the legal environment. The Uganda v. Kato case<sup>87</sup> is a historic case where the court used predictive analytics driven by AI to determine the risk of recidivism in a bail request. The case brought up important ethical and legal issues regarding the use of AI in court decisions, especially with regard to responsibility, transparency, and the right to a fair trial.

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<sup>87</sup> Isaac Christopher, "Legal Personhood of Artificial Intelligence."

The court's ruling in *Uganda v. Kato* has established a precedent for the application of AI in court cases, but it has also brought attention to the necessity of a strong legal framework to control its usage in the legal industry. The case emphasizes how crucial it is to make sure AI-driven judgements are open, responsible, and equitable and do not compromise the key ideas of justice.

#### **3.4.4 Legal Challenges and Ethical Considerations**

A number of ethical and legal issues are brought up by the use of AI in the legal field, including those pertaining to algorithmic prejudice, data privacy, and the devaluation of human judgement. These issues are especially pertinent in Uganda, where structural issues like corruption, inefficiency, and restricted access to justice are already plaguing the legal profession.

#### **3.4.5 Algorithmic Bias**

The possibility of algorithmic bias is one of the main legal issues with AI in the legal field. Since AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on, biased training data would likely cause the AI system to reinforce and even magnify preexisting biases<sup>88</sup>. In Uganda, where bias and inequality are already present in the judicial system, the implementation of AI may make matters worse. For instance, if an AI system is trained on case data from the past that shows biased court rulings, the system can reinforce similar biases in its recommendations and forecasts, which would result in unfair outcomes for some groups<sup>97</sup>.

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<sup>88</sup> Biresaw, "The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession."

<sup>97</sup> Wright, "AI in the Law."

### **3.4.6 Data Privacy**

Another significant legal issue relating to AI in the legal field is data privacy. For AI systems to work well, enormous volumes of data are required, and sensitive personal data is frequently included in this data. The use of AI in legal practice poses serious concerns regarding data security and privacy in Uganda, where data protection regulations are still in their infancy. For example, using AI-powered legal research tools can necessitate that attorneys upload private case material to cloud-based platforms, which could lead to data breaches and illegal access<sup>89</sup>. These worries are especially pressing in a situation where a large number of solicitors and clients could not completely understand the dangers of sharing data and might lack the technical know-how to adequately protect their data.

### **3.4.7 Devaluation of Human Judgment**

Another ethical issue with AI in the legal field is the devaluing of human judgement. Although AI can improve accuracy and efficiency, it also calls into question the place of human judgement in legal decision-making. The job of a lawyer in many legal systems, including Uganda's, involves more than just following the law; it also involves using discretion, judgement, and empathy when interpreting and administering the law. Concerns are raised regarding the dehumanization of the legal profession and the possibility that AI would compromise the moral and professional obligations of solicitors when it is incorporated into this process<sup>90</sup>. For instance, the use of AI to case management and legal research may diminish the

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<sup>89</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>90</sup> Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor."

role of solicitors as active participants in the legal process and instead reduce them to supervisors of recommendations created by machines<sup>91</sup>.

### **3.5 Conclusion**

International, regional, and national legal frameworks are all part of the intricate and varied legal implications of AI adoption in the legal profession. Significant ethical and legal issues are brought up by the use of AI in the legal field, especially when it comes to algorithmic prejudice, data privacy, and the value of human judgement. AI has the ability to both worsen and improve systemic issues facing the legal profession in Uganda, where these issues are already present. AI presents serious worries about job displacement, algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the dehumanization of the legal profession, even while it also has the ability to increase efficiency, lower costs, and improve access to justice. Since these legal aspects have significant ramifications for the future of legal practice in Uganda and elsewhere, they must be carefully taken into account in any debate about AI adoption in the legal profession. Policymakers, attorneys, and academics may create a more comprehensive and inclusive strategy for AI adoption by tackling these legal issues, guaranteeing that AI will be used as an instrument for justice rather than as a barrier.

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<sup>91</sup> Wendel, "The Promise and Limitations of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law."

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

#### 4.1 Introduction

The results from the previous chapters are summarized in this chapter, with special attention paid to the legal and non-legal facets of artificial intelligence (AI) integration in the Kampala, Uganda, legal profession. The chapter's structure is in line with the study's particular goals, offering a thorough and critical examination of the degree of AI adoption, the difficulties faced by solicitors, the moral dilemmas raised by its application, and useful suggestions for the ethical and successful integration of AI in the legal field. The conclusions are derived from the thorough examination offered in Chapters Two and Three, guaranteeing a solid and fact-based debate.

#### 4.2 Summary of Findings

##### 4.2.1 Extent of AI Adoption Among Law Firms in Kampala

According to the study, there is a notable gap between big and small law firms, and the use of AI in Kampala's legal industry is still in its infancy. Corporate legal departments and larger law firms have started utilizing AI technologies to increase productivity and cut expenses. These companies' operational efficiency has increased dramatically as a result of their adoption of AI-powered solutions for legal research, document review, and case management. For instance, platforms like Barefoot Law have launched AI-powered legal research tools that provide free legal advice to marginalised populations, showcasing the potential of AI to boost access to justice<sup>92</sup>.

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<sup>92</sup> Longe, "Future of Law-Increasing Access to Justice Through Technology."

Financial limitations and a lack of technological know-how, however, are limiting the use of AI in small and medium-sized legal practices. As stated by Mahadik (2024)<sup>93</sup>, There is a digital divide in the legal industry since more than 75% of Ugandan solicitors working for small and mid-sized companies lack the funds to invest in AI-driven platforms. The effectiveness of chatbots and AI-powered legal assistants is weakened by the absence of dependable internet connectivity and technological infrastructure in many areas of Kampala, which further exacerbates this inequality<sup>94</sup>.

#### **4.2.2 Challenges Faced by Lawyers in Integrating AI into Legal Practice**

High prices, a lack of technical know-how, and a lack of regulatory frameworks are just a few of the obstacles facing Kampala's legal profession as it integrates AI. Adoption of AI technologies is significantly hampered by their high cost, especially for small and medium sized legal firms. As stated by Aidonojie and colleagues (2024)<sup>95</sup>, Many lawyers cannot afford the cost of AI-driven platforms, which restricts their use of these tools in their work. The dearth of technical knowledge among solicitors, many of whom are ignorant of AI technologies and their possible uses in the practice of law, exacerbates this budgetary limitation<sup>96</sup>.

Furthermore, Uganda lacks a thorough regulatory framework for AI, which leaves attorneys and legal professionals in the dark. Concerns regarding the ethical and legal ramifications of adopting AI are raised by the lack of clear regulations on data protection, accountability, and ethical AI use. Use of AI-powered legal research

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<sup>93</sup> Mahadik, "A Study on Perception of Lawyers about the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession."

<sup>94</sup> Nwaechefu et al., "THE PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN ADOPTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOWARD EFFECTIVE LEGAL EDUCATION."

<sup>95</sup> Aidonojie, Antai, and Abacha, "LEGAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES OF INCORPORATING ROBOTIC LAWYERS IN UGANDA'S LEGAL PRACTICE."

<sup>96</sup> Rodriguez, "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Practice of Law."

tools, for instance, that necessitate uploading case data to cloud-based platforms may give rise to concerns over adherence to data privacy regulations, especially if the data is handled or stored outside of Uganda<sup>97</sup>.

#### **4.2.3 Ethical Concerns Associated with AI Use in the Legal Profession**

There are serious ethical issues with the application of AI in the legal field, especially when it comes to algorithmic prejudice, data privacy, and the undervaluation of human judgement. Algorithmic bias is a major issue, as AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on. The AI system is likely to reinforce and even magnify biases if the training data is biased<sup>98</sup>. Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to worsen Kampala's already problematic bias and discrimination in the justice system. An AI system may reinforce biases in its predictions and recommendations, for example, if it is trained on case data from the past that shows biased court rulings. This could result in unfair outcomes for some groups (Wright, 2020).

Another significant ethical issue with AI in the legal field is data privacy. For AI systems to work well, enormous volumes of data are required, and sensitive personal data is frequently included in this data. The application of AI in legal practice poses serious concerns about data security and privacy in Kampala, where data protection regulations are still in their infancy. For instance, using AI-powered legal research tools can necessitate that attorneys upload private case material to cloud-based platforms, which could lead to data breaches and illegal access<sup>99</sup>.

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<sup>97</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

<sup>98</sup> Biresaw, "The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Research in the Legal Profession."

<sup>99</sup> De Almeida, Dos Santos, and Farias, "Artificial Intelligence Regulation."

Another ethical issue with AI in the legal field is the devaluing of human judgement. Although AI can improve accuracy and efficiency, it also calls into question the place of human judgement in legal decision-making. The job of a lawyer in many legal systems, including Uganda's, involves more than just following the law; it also involves using discretion, judgement, and empathy when interpreting and administering the law. Concerns are raised regarding the dehumanization of the legal profession and the possibility that AI would compromise the moral and professional obligations of solicitors when it is incorporated into this process<sup>100</sup>.

### **4.3 Practical Recommendations for Effective and Ethical Integration of AI in the Legal Profession**

The study's conclusions allow for the formulation of a number of useful suggestions aimed at improving the ethical and successful integration of AI in Kampala's legal industry. By tackling the difficulties and moral dilemmas related to AI adoption, these suggestions hope to make AI a tool for justice rather than a barrier.

#### **4.3.1 Developing a Comprehensive Regulatory Framework**

To handle the ethical and legal issues raised by AI adoption, a thorough regulatory framework for AI in the legal industry must be developed. To guarantee that AI systems are open, equitable, and responsible, this framework should contain precise rules regarding data privacy, accountability, and the moral application of AI. In order to reduce the possibility of prejudice, the regulatory framework should also address the problem of algorithmic bias by mandating that AI systems be trained on representative and diverse datasets.

#### **4.3.2 Enhancing Access to AI Technologies**

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<sup>100</sup> Frank et al., "Toward Understanding the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labor."

It is important to improve small and medium-sized law firms' access to AI technology in order to close the digital divide in the legal industry. Government grants, collaborations with legal tech companies, and the creation of affordable AI solutions suited to small and mid-sized businesses' requirements could all help achieve this. In order for attorneys to properly use AI technology in their practice, training programs should also be designed to improve their technical proficiency.

#### **4.3.3 Promoting Ethical AI Use**

By creating best practices and ethical norms, the legal profession may encourage the ethical use of AI. These rules ought to cover topics like algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the devaluation of human judgement, making sure AI is applied in a way that respects attorneys' moral and professional obligations. In order to promote an ethical AI use culture, legal professionals should be urged to embrace these rules and apply them to their work.

#### **4.3.4 Fostering Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**

Effective and ethical integration of AI in the legal profession requires cooperation and knowledge sharing among legal practitioners, policymakers, and scholars. To ensure that the legal profession stays at the forefront of technological innovation, platforms should be established to facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and lessons learnt, allowing stakeholders to collectively address the ethical concerns and challenges associated with AI adoption. This collaborative approach can also help identify emerging trends and opportunities in AI.

### **4.4 Conclusion**

There are advantages and disadvantages to Kampala's legal profession's adoption of AI. AI presents serious worries about job displacement, algorithmic bias, data privacy, and the dehumanization of the legal profession, even while it also has the

ability to increase efficiency, lower costs, and improve access to justice. A comprehensive and cooperative strategy is needed to address these issues, one that includes creating a strong regulatory framework, expanding access to AI technology, encouraging the ethical application of AI, and encouraging cooperation and information exchange.

By following these suggestions, Kampala's legal community can capitalize on AI's revolutionary potential while reducing the risks and moral dilemmas that come with its implementation. This will guarantee that AI is used as a tool for justice, increasing the efficacy and efficiency of legal services and expanding everyone's access to the legal system.

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