

Africa Legal Innovation Week 2022 Report



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Foreword: Message from Lawyers Hub CEO



LINDA BONYO
CEO, LAWYERS HUB

It is unbelievable yet exciting that we have run the Africa Legal Innovation Week for three years in a row. The Legal Innovation week, stemmed from the idea that innovation within the Justice sector and legal industry, could be decentralized, feted, highlighted and celebrated. Each year, we recognise 50 of the top Africa Legal Innovators and convene deliberations that spur innovating thinking towards efficiently changing the manner in which justice as a service is delivered. Last year, our focus was on digital justice; with sessions that clarified new business models for legal businesses and funding options for Legal Tech companies in Africa. We also released our legal-tech reports that track innovation across the continent. This year is no-different except, we get a little more specific on AI as a technology, artificial intelligence has the power to transform the delivery of Justice across Africa.

Africa has certainly witnessed a great technological revolution in the last few years that has significantly transformed operations in almost every industry from financial services, logistics, agricultural value chains, health services, e-commerce and now the legal industry which is a late bloomer in technology adoption. Undoubtedly, the innovative and groundbreaking technologies that are emerging every day including Artificial Intelligence are disrupting normal manual operations by creating efficient and scalable alternatives to tedious tasks and fast-tracking production as well as service delivery. This potential of technology can also be realized in Africa's justice systems and legal industry by leveraging legal technologies and AI to deliver justice services. These technologies, however, are not devoid of any risk so we must be alive to the role of policy for safe adoption of technology. I am greatly delighted by the growing interest in justice and legal-tech evidenced by the attendance of the Legal Innovation Week and I encourage a continuation of this spirit and call for even more collaboration to ensure that the end products benefit as well as protect our people in all facets of their life

Executive Summary

Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence have fundamentally transformed the social, economic and political dynamics in Africa and the justice and legal sectors, while playing catch-up, have not been spared in this paradigm shift. Legal-Tech and AI have slowly but steadily crept into the justice and legal sectors that have previously been associated with conservatism and characterized by rigidity or slow adoption of technology. From virtual courts to e-filing, electronic case management, digitization of court records through Court Records Management System (CRMS), adoption of digital audio-visual recording and transcription of court proceedings; African justice systems have certainly embraced a semblance of e-justice technology. Undoubtedly, this digital technology adoption by most African justice institutions was triggered and accelerated by the corona virus pandemic that challenged the paper-based and physical court appearance methods of delivery of justice. Ultimately, the agile incorporation of innovative digital technologies in the dispensation of justice ensured African citizens had access to justice while observing the health protocols during the pandemic period.

Similarly, the legal industry in Africa has leaned into the legal technology wave to leverage on its benefits of efficiency, albeit gradually and with a lot of reluctance from many legal practitioners. Digital transformation in the judicial and government public services sectors has been a critical driver in the acceleration of technology adoption by legal practitioners. Legal practitioners in Africa are increasingly embracing Legal-Tech and Artificial Intelligence in their practice to take over daily tasks of legal research, document management & e-signature, matter management and calendaring, client communication, team collaboration, time tracking, billing & collection and Client Relationship Management (CRM). 53.1% of law firms in Africa confirmed they would accelerate their digital transformation post-covid pandemic period and 67.9% of in-house counsels wanted their external law firms to invest in tools and technology according to a survey done by Afriwise in 2020. Evidently, Legal-Tech and AI can be instrumental tools to enhance access to justice as well as drive efficiency in legal practice hence the need for Africa to leverage more on these technologies.

In light of the AI and legaltech developments globally, the Lawyers Hub in partnership with the Africa LawTech Association and Internet Governance Forum (IGF) brought together legal technologists across the African Continent to discuss the role of AI and legal technology in shaping the future of justice and the legal industry at the **Africa Legal Innovation Week 2022**. Themed '**Legal-Tech & AI Shaping the Future of Justice and the Legal Industry**', the 5-day conference ran from the 22nd - 28th November 2022. Featuring the **African Judges Summit**, **The African Legal-Tech Symposium**, **Coding Classes for Lawyers**, **Launch of the AI & Justice Systems in Africa** and **State of LegalTech in Africa Reports**, and the **Africa Legal-Tech & Innovation Awards**, the Conference sought to inform the African justice and legal-tech community about the benefits & risks of leveraging AI and legal-tech in justice delivery as well as rallying for innovative solutions to reimagine delivery of legal services.

Aim of the Legal Innovation Week:



To map out the state of technology adoption in the justice & legal ecosystem in Africa and the impact of Artificial Intelligence and legal technology in the justice and legal sectors.

To connect legal technologists across the continent by bringing them together on one platform to discuss technological advancements in the sector



To showcase and celebrate the leading legal technology and AI legal and policy innovators improving access to justice and legal practice in Africa.

To promote innovation, collaboration and a suitable policy environment for development and adoption of legal-tech solutions.



Key Innovation Week Recommendations



The Africa Legal Innovation Week 2022 yielded great insights from its session discussions that could guide the necessary actions required by stakeholders in the justice and legal industry for safe AI and legaltech adoption to deliver user-friendly justice, fast, affordable and efficient legal services. The recommendations for action include;

For Development Partners & Funders:

- Artificial Intelligence research and innovation is a ripe funding opportunity in the justice sector in Africa as it possesses the potential of delivering fast, affordable and user-friendly justice while dealing with the barriers of case backlogs and limited number of judges to dispense justice that plagues most African countries.
- Capacity building and training of judges and judicial officers on AI and technology application in the judicial systems is a timely opportunity in Africa to accelerate the access to justice through upskilling judges in technology which would in turn facilitate their ability to dispense justice in cases involving use of technology since they will have the requisite competence.
- Stable power supply, internet connectivity and technology systems to develop AI, store and process data are crucial enablers for the successful adoption of AI in the African judicial systems thus constitute important investment areas to be considered in the continent since there is uneven development in these areas across Africa.
- Digital illiteracy is a major impediment to the adoption of technology and ability to fully realize its benefits in Africa which will be the case in the technology-driven justice systems. Therefore, financial support geared towards enhancing digital literacy of the African citizens and moreso court users will go a long way in enhancing access to justice by leveraging on technology in the justice institutions in Africa.

For African Governments & Policymakers:

- For successful AI adoption in the judicial systems in Africa, African states need to provide an enabling environment for AI development through enabling regulatory policies and programs to allow for safe AI use and adoption in the judicial systems.
- Data is a critical element in efficient AI use and adoption especially in the judicial system hence there is a great need for access to local personal data for machine learning and it also poses great risks in data privacy. African governments should provide adequate regulatory frameworks for the protection of data that will be used in the judicial AI systems as well as allow free flow of data between its institutions with appropriate safeguards and redress mechanisms for data breaches.
- African States need to formulate and enforce strict AI technology procurement measures to ensure that the providers of the technologies used in the justice sector are secure, comply with the data protection laws and can be audited locally to ensure transparency and accountability.
- African governments need to develop educational programs to ensure that there is adequate skilled personnel to set up, operate and maintain the AI systems integrated in their judicial systems as well as establish accountability mechanisms for the technical teams to ensure integrity of the systems.
- African states should consider and mitigate the impact that AI would have on the judicial human labor by finding creative ways to deploy the human resources that would be replaced by the AI systems which would take over their tasks.
- It would be imperative for African governments to provide the required infrastructure to enable the development of AI technology that would be adopted in their judicial systems to enhance access to justice. These infrastructure include reliable electricity supply, stable internet connection and tech infrastructure required to store and process the vast amount of data that will be circulating in their judicial systems.

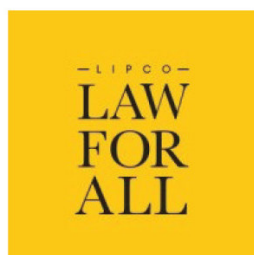
For AI and Legal-Tech Innovators:

- AI & Legal-Tech innovators should ensure inclusivity, accessibility and data protection are achieved when designing, using and deploying AI technology for use in the justice sector.
 - The innovators need to participate in policy formulation relating to the use of AI and Legal-tech in Africa so as to capture any gaps in promoting innovation that will enhance access to justice and consult with governments to mitigate the risks associated with their technologies.
 - There is a crucial need for innovators to ensure the data sets used in their tech systems are accurate and not biased, they comply with data protection regulations, and the data should not be used to discriminate against people so as to develop human-centric and trustworthy AI systems.
 - Big Tech companies should play a role in developing local talent and building the capacity of local tech startups with AI and legaltech solutions to enable them to build solutions that can be adopted in the justice sector and to promote fair competition.
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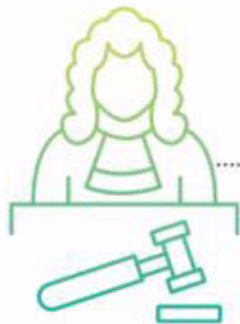
AFRICA LEGAL INNOVATION WEEK 2022

LEGAL-TECH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

Thank You

FOR MAKING DAY ONE OF THE INNOVATION WEEK A SUCCESS

IMPACT NUMBERS



1

Chief Justice



6

Judges

896 Attendees

19 Countries Represented

Eight Hundred and ninety six of you joined from 19 countries around the world including



- Nigeria
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe
- Ghana
- United States
- Rwanda
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Zambia
- South Africa
- Burundi
- Senegal
- France
- South Sudan
- France
- Switzerland
- Botswana
- Malawi
- Tanzania





AFRICA LEGAL INNOVATION WEEK 2022

LEGAL-TECH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF JUSTICE AND THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

Thank You

FOR MAKING THE AFRICA LEGAL INNOVATION WEEK A SUCCESS

IMPACT NUMBERS



3651

Total Registrations



821

Law Student Registrations

19 Countries Represented

Eight Hundred and ninety six of you joined from 19 countries around the world including



- Nigeria
- Kenya
- Uganda
- Zimbabwe
- Ghana
- United States
- Rwanda
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- Zambia
- South Africa
- Burundi
- Senegal
- France
- South Sudan
- France
- Switzerland
- Botswana
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Africa Legal Innovation Week 2022 Highlights:



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Day One: African Judges Summit: - The Future of Judicial Digital Transformation in Africa and Adoption of AI Technology for Automated Judicial Decision Making

The Summit kicked off with Opening remarks from the CEO & Founder of the Lawyers Hub Ms. Linda Bonyo who welcomed all present to the third annual edition of the Africa Legal Innovation Week. She set the pace for the entire week by launching two reports which would be used to build discussions on the developments in the justice sector across Africa and the use of technology. The reports included:

- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Judicial Systems in Africa Report 2022 which highlighted the State of adoption of AI in Judicial systems in Africa, the opportunities for adoption of AI for Judiciaries in Africa, the challenges in adoption of AI for Judicial Systems in Africa and the existing ethical and legal frameworks on AI in the judicial systems.
- The State of Legal Tech in Africa Report 2022 which highlighted the adoption and growth of legal tech solutions across Africa which are based on provision of online legal services, Legal Practice Management, Legal Advisory and Consultancy Services, Case Management and E-contracts and documentation.

The CEO also announced the dates for the Africa Law Tech Festival 2023 was also made, with the next edition of the Festival specified to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on 11th and 12th July 2023. The theme will be on Digital Trade, and this edition will also host pre-events in Cape-town, South Africa in March 2023 and in Paris & Brussels in May 2022 which will then lead up to the major event in Nairobi, Kenya in July.

The Keynote speech for the day was delivered by The Honorable Chief Justice of Rwanda, Dr. Faustin Ntezilyayo who centered his remarks on the judicial digital transformation in Africa and its impact on justice service delivery. He highlighted...

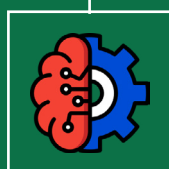
The day culminated in an African Judges panel on the future of judicial digital transformation in Africa and the adoption of Artificial Intelligence technology for automated judicial decision making. The panel consisted of judges from across the continent, with a representative from Kenya, Hon. Lady Justice Lynnette A. Omollo, Rwanda - Hon. Judge Dr. Didace Nshimiyimana, Malawi - Hon. Justice Zione Ntaba, Tanzania - Hon. Judge (Retired) Robert Vincent Makaramba, and South Africa - Hon. Justice Glenn Goosen.

The session was moderated by Prateek Sibal, a programme specialist at UNESCO who guided the panel in addressing emerging issues including the preparedness of the judicial systems in their respective countries to adopt AI in their daily administrative and procedural tasks as well as decision making processes. The panel discussed the current state of affairs in digitization of the judicial systems in their countries, and how to navigate the challenges of the use of AI systems such as ethical issues on bias, accuracy, and data protection. Finally, the panel closed off by proposing manners through which judiciaries in Africa can be able to promote accountability in the use of AI systems in our institutions.

The key outputs for the day included:



Acknowledgement of ICTs being critical for performance in the justice sector and transformation to an equitable, fair and transparent system.



Acknowledgement that AI based tech offers great opportunities if developed in observation of ethics and justice, and further that it can enhance efficiency in case duration predictions among other processes, optimize legacy systems, enhance access to Justice, eliminate potential biases and errors prone in the Justice systems.

Day Two: Legal-Tech Symposium: - State of Legal-Tech in Africa: A Threat or a Golden Opportunity for the African Legal Industry



The Legal Tech Symposium focused on discussions that assess the legal tech developments in Africa and the impact legal technologies and AI will have on the future of justice and legal practice. The Symposium kicked off with conversations from representatives of the Bar associations who discussed the role of Bar Associations in steering legaltech and digitization in the legal practice.

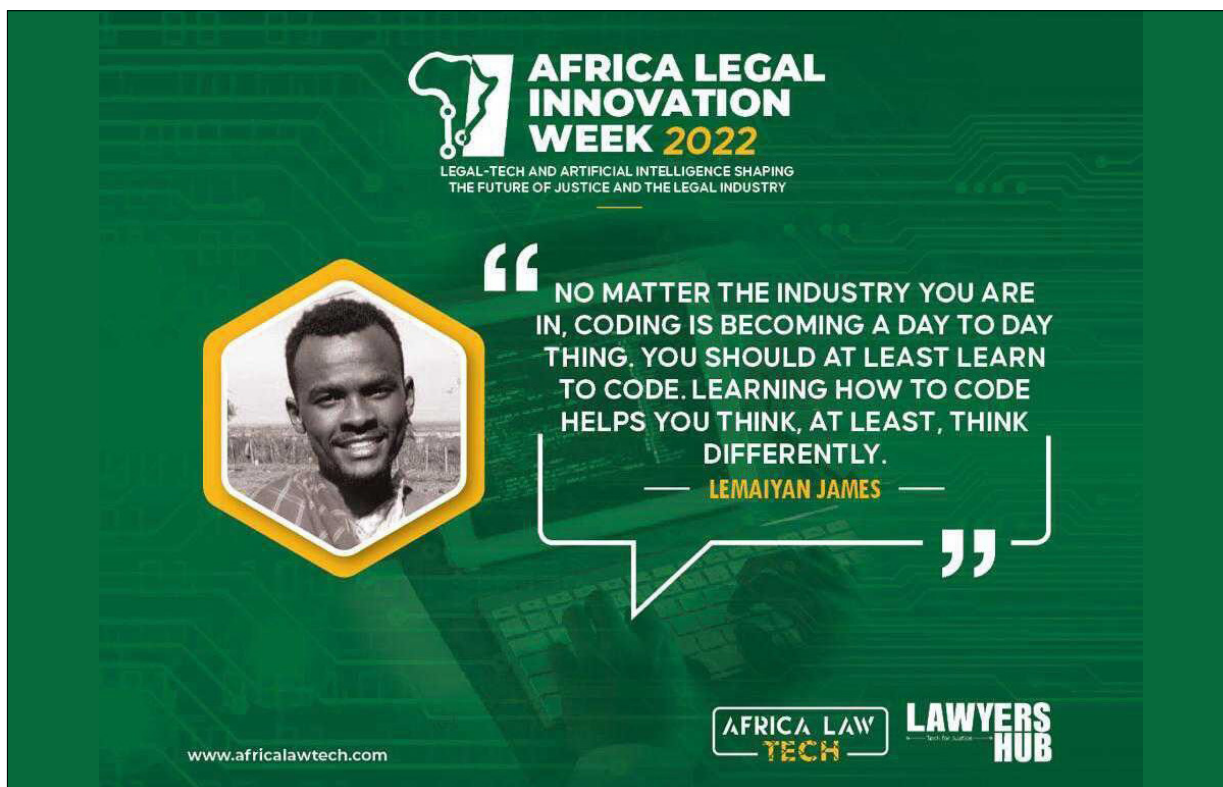
Law For All, through their Founder Ms. Jackie Nagtegaal, made a presentation on Digitizing Legal Practice and Enhancing Justice Delivery Through Legal-Tech Solutions. The day also had insightful product pitches from startups namely Legal StandPoint, Legal Ascend, Legal Chain and Life File who displayed their work and presented areas of collaboration and partnership.

To wrap up, there were two panels hosted - an Anglophone & Francophone Africa panel which discussed the State of LegalTech in Africa.

The Anglophone panel featured Tayla Pinto from iNtaka Centre for Law and Technology who moderated the panel as well as Yusha Davidson (Briefco SA), Nelson Nkari (Legal Point Services), Leah Molatseli (Legal Interact) and Kelechi Achinonu (HiiL Innovation Hub West Africa). The session unpacked how legal tech solutions have challenged traditional legal practice and impacted legal industry stakeholders in Africa. It highlighted the regulatory and policy environments for legal tech across the represented countries including the relationship between legal tech startups and legal bar associations in the wake of the disruptive nature of legal technologies across the continent.

The Francophone panel featured similar discussions an purposed to highlight the challenges being faced in francophone communities as the advance legal tech products and solutions, the advancements that have been made in these jurisdictions, the unique opportunities availed within their context and how the two, anglophone and francophone, can collaborate and partner to advance healthy legal tech solutions and services that benefit our communities. Steering the conversation was Kannelle Hughes from Sciences Po East Africa Regional Office, and she was joined by a team of expertise in the legal tech space: Claver Nigarura of Rubeya & Co. Advocates, David Faye of Teranga Lex and Leone Patrice from chez LPS L@w.

Day Three & Four: Coding Class For Lawyers:



The Coding Class for Lawyers was a 2-day virtual training hosted on the 24th & 25th November 2022 for lawyers, policymakers and law students that sought to train them on the basics of coding and computer programming. Delivered by industry experts, the training endeavored to help the participants to:

- Understanding the importance of coding for lawyers.
- Learn the basics of programming languages and how to code.
- Understand the basics of back-end and front-end programming.
- Understand Cybersecurity

Day 1 of the Coding Class focused on The Coding Fundamentals. The day opened with Remarks from Mr. Ben Roberts who highlighted the importance of coding and basic knowledge in programming in light of the changing and revolutionary digital landscape lawyers now operate in.

The first session of the day was administered by Mr. Lemaiyan James who discussed programming languages, including HTML, Java Script, CSS, C++, Python and SQL. He looked at the history behind these languages, the development to date and the manner in which they have evolved. He also addressed questions on the suitability of each language for different activities, how to progressively learn these languages and the challenges to expect.

The day ended with an in-depth learning focused on one of the sessions by Mr. Kevin Tambo which taught participants how to build their law firm's website landing pages using HTML. The session introduced tools that can be used to build these landing pages, and followed a step-by-step process of how to integrate words, images, headings and titles on the pages, for both windows and IOS users. Participants had a field day learning the ins of these creations and seeing their work come to the fore

Day 2 of the Coding Class for Lawyers kicked off with a vibrant discussion on the Opportunities and careers available for Lawyers in the legal tech ecosystem. The discussion featured Mr. George Njoroge and Mr. Gerald Kiti and was moderated by Ms. Susan Otieno. They unpacked why the move towards law and technology, including their transition to the legal tech space, the practice areas and clients one interacts with, the challenges experienced and how to navigate as well as the opportunities for lawyers in the tech ecosystem.

The second and last session of the day was a workshop conducted by Ms. Raashi Saxena which delved into Web Accessibility, its importance and how to promote it within the legal industry. It interrogated the digital right to accessibility and the importance for content to be available to everyone as well as promoting functionality that can be operated by anyone including those using assistive technology. The session looked at laws that are in place in different jurisdictions in this regard as well as the featured lawsuits, the challenges faced in implementation and the tools that can be used to make our websites more accessible.



Day Five: Africa LegalTech & Innovation Awards Gala Dinner:

The Africa Legal Tech & Innovation Awards Gala Dinner was held on 28th November 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Gala Dinner commenced at 7pm at The Radisson Blu Hotel.

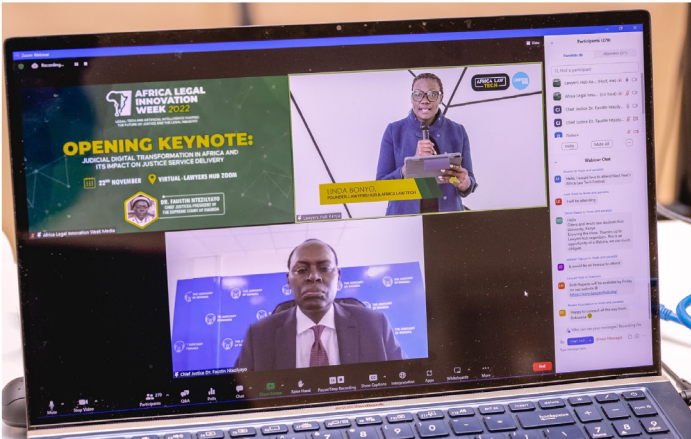
These Awards sought to acknowledge exceptional achievements and ground-breaking strides in the world of law and technology in Africa, by recognizing individuals in Africa who are enabling and creating ethical technology and justice policy solutions by building inclusive societies and improving access to justice in Africa.



The Gala Dinner was also an apt opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the Lawyers Hub partners who have continued support in our work and joint projects. These esteemed partners include Mozilla, Omidyar Network, UN, AFD (French Development Agency, The Commonwealth, Open Society Foundation, ICANN and Luminate. It was also a great opportunity to invite more stakeholders in the ecosystem to form partnerships that will ensure the growth and positive development of Africa's digital ecosystem.

The Gala Dinner also celebrated the Lawyers Hub Fellows who had successfully completed the one-year long Lawyers Hub Fellowship program 2022. The Fellowship offers an exciting opportunity for young, up-coming legal professionals interested in the intersection of law and technology and the issues arising due to the fast growing and dynamic digital economy. This inaugural cohort of 15 incredible fellows went through a rigorous training on tech policy development and were engaged in practical research and writing projects on various tech policy issues emerging in the continent with our partners.

Social Media & Pictorials





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