

# STATE OF LEGAL TECH IN AFRICA REPORT 2022

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## Executive Summary

Technology continues to revolutionize every aspect of our lives. The legal sector, especially in Africa, is no exception. Key stakeholders such as Law Societies, Judiciaries, and Private Law Firms, Legal Departments (public and private sectors), In-house Counsel, Legal Aid Service Providers, Developers of legal products, and the legal system generally, are seeking to leverage technology to deliver on the increased demand for effective legal services. That is why the Lawyers Hub has taken it upon itself to understand how legal technology is revolutionizing the legal sector in Africa. In the maiden State of Legal Tech in Africa Report, the Lawyers Hub identified drivers of technology

adoption in the legal sector, such as access to justice and technology adoption in the legal sector, to ease the delivery of legal services. The Report highlighted the need for specialized incubation by players in the legal sector and judicial systems.

In this State of Legal Tech in Africa 2022-2023 Report, the Lawyers Hub scans the adoption of technology by key stakeholders in the legal sector in Africa. The Report seeks to provide data on trends in the legal sector, in order to shape the legal market industry for players to make decisions based on the emerging needs in the sector. In doing so, this Report provides an overview of the legal-tech prod-

ucts applied, motivations, value, challenges, and opportunities for the future to be explored.

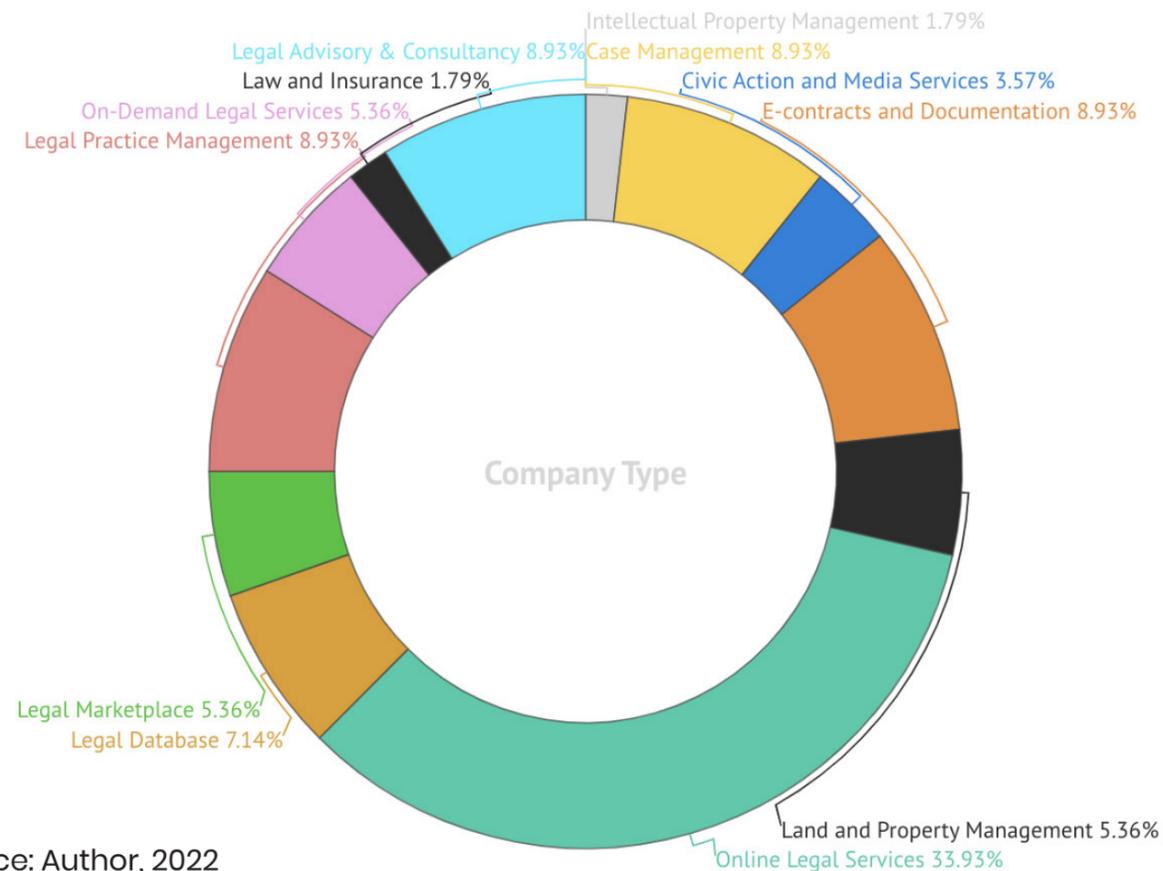
This Report provides insights to enable policy and legislative reforms and interventions around Legal Tech in Africa and to assist key players in providing solutions responsive to the environment's needs. It further highlights the challenges and opportunities for Legal Tech, intending to assess the future outlook in Africa and key drivers of change in the sector. The Report relies on data collected from key informants in the legal-tech sector through interviews and questionnaires prepared and shared for responses.

## 2.0 The state of legal tech in Africa

### 2.1 Legal Tech in Africa: The Numbers

The statistical highlights below demonstrate the state of Africa's preparedness to adopt Legal Tech Solutions. As of January 2022, internet use in Africa was reported at 70 percent. In July 2022, the legal tech industry was estimated to occupy 3% of the legal market share. Approximately forty percent (40%) of legal startups offer Online Legal Services. Other services include Legal Documentation (5%), Legal Practice Management (26%), Lawyers' Marketplace platforms (10%), and E-discovery (15%).

Chart illustrating the legal tech startups across Africa by company type.



Source: Author, 2022

As illustrated on the left, the majority of the legal tech solutions being offered across the continent are based on the provision of online legal services (33.9%). Other tech solutions in high demand include Legal Practice Management, Legal Advisory and Consultancy Services, Case Management and E-contracts and documentation (all at 8.93%). What we can learn from this data is that the demand for tech solutions that either support or increase the efficiency of legal services currently provided is quite high. This is in contrast to solutions that either disrupt or provide stiff competition for the existent forms of legal services.

Chart illustrating the regional distribution of Legal Tech Startups in Africa:



Source: Author, 2022

The geographical data based on the distribution of tech startups across the region lines up well with the research done on the proliferation of technology and digital infrastructure across the continent. Regional powerhouses such as Kenya (15), South Africa (12) and Nigeria (10) are responsible for 65% of the legal tech companies present in the continent.

Map illustrating Startup Laws Across in Africa:



Aside from the presence of relatively advanced digital infrastructure, other factors fueling this include readiness of the market to transition to technology in legal practice, enabling policy environments and the presence of digitally skilled workforces. The map above illustrates the distribution of startup laws in the region, which is one of the key factors that determines the emergence of legal tech startups in the region.

Despite the dominance, the overall presence of legal tech startups across the continent paints a positive trend. With some of these companies expected to scale and provide learning opportunities for future startups on how to establish themselves, the legal tech startup scene in Africa is poised for continued and sustained growth.

The overall review of the situation in Africa reveals that there is **increased demand** for technology driven legal services, research

mechanisms, and electronic databases for laws, case management systems, and electronic diaries for legal practitioners, digital files, and client management systems in Africa's legal sector. These aspects of legal tech continue to adopt advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) products such as blockchain, across various jurisdictions.

Furthermore, Post-COVID-19 response and recovery strategies for the legal sector in Africa continue to be characterized by creative and advanced legal-tech solutions. Indeed, the adoption of technology has spurred more effective and efficient service delivery in Africa's legal sector.

The statistics highlighted, set the stage for analysis of technology adoption in Africa's legal sector, the effects, challenges, and opportunities for the future of legal tech. The Report analyzes whether the legal, regulatory, policy, and institutional frame-

**NOTE:**

**Legal-tech startups** in Africa are leading solutions providers in the justice sector, solving problems ranging from investigation strategies, e-discovery, and access to legal services, practice management, research, and documentation.

works in Africa facilitate the adoption of legal tech strategies and an analysis of the trends in the selected African countries. The selected country cases below highlight the trends in Africa relating to legal-tech. Moreover, the selected jurisdictions have progressively adopted legal-tech solutions and advancements, thus providing useful lessons on the challenges and opportunities for the future.

## 2.2 Country Maps on Legal Tech in Africa

The following analysis provides an outlook on the state of Legal Tech in the selected jurisdictions and identifies specific legal tech activities in the countries.

Country	State of Legal Tech	Highlights/Legal Tech Providers
<p><b>Kenya</b></p>	<p>Increased adoption of technology in the legal sector by the Law Society of Kenya, The Judiciary, Private Law Firms, In-house Counsel, Public and Private Sector Legal Departments, Law Schools etc.</p> <p><b>Leading:</b> Virtual Courts, e-diaries, e-filing system, Virtual Arbitration/Mediation Sessions.</p> <p>Kenya maintains an online law and case database run by a statutory body in liaison with the judiciary. Digital reporting covers cases determined by superior courts.</p> <p>Other aspects of tech adoption include: Case management systems, access to legal aid services, legal practice management, lawyers' marketplace through online platforms, and e-signatures.</p> <p>Legal tech continues to face funding challenges in Kenya, with increased budget cuts for legal services for institutions and people with a focus on cutting costs.</p>	<p>Legal Review, Research, Contracting, Case Studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Legal Tech Kenya:</b> (Innovative Tech Solutions for Legal Service Provision Innovative in Alternative Dispute Resolution).</li> <li>2. Hague Institute for Innovation In Law (HiIL) – startup accelerator for justice innovation in Africa.</li> <li>3. <b>Dreamwrite:</b> (Intellectual Property legal solutions using technology).</li> <li>4. <b>Utatuzi Center</b> (Dispute Resolution using technology).</li> <li>5. <b>Attorn Technologies:</b> (Use of technology for work sharing and collaboration in the legal sector).</li> <li>6. <b>Tenrent Limited:</b> (Technology for access to justice in the tenancy sector).</li> <li>7. <b>My Shamba Digital:</b> (Inhouse legal counsel and access to solutions for real estate transactions)</li> <li>8. <b>Sheria Online:</b> (Technology and access to justice for persons).</li> <li>9. <b>MotiSure:</b> (Legal solutions in insurance technology).</li> <li>10. <b>SheriaSoft</b> (Law practice Management).</li> </ol>

## South Africa

The country has the presidential commission on the fourth industrial revolution, offering insights on how it can position itself on legal tech.

South Africa collaborated with SMART Africa to build the SMART Africa AI blueprint providing a guide to adopting AI in legal tech.

There is a network of legal-tech startups called the South African Legal Technology Network aiming to accelerate their growth by showcasing their innovative solutions.

Technology has facilitated services such as contract management, practice management, legal research, online law and case databases, digital case and evidence management systems, e-courts, access to legal services and e-discovery

However, technology has been slow to establish itself in the legal sector in South Africa.

Contracting, Documentation, Legal services, Legal Practice Management

Case studies:

1. **Creative Contracts** (Visual contracts)
2. **Lenoma Legal** (Online Legal Services and documentation in commercial and labour matters)
3. **JusDraft** (Online legal drafting)
4. **Libryo** (Regulatory compliance for legal professionals)
5. **Custos** (Data protection and cybersecurity in legal practice)
6. **Baobab Connect** (Case tracking and managing teams remotely)
7. **Updraft** (Contract drafting and risk management)
8. **Legal Legends** (Lawyers marketplace and access to legal services)

<p><b>Egypt</b></p>	<p>Technology majorly used for online law and case databases, e-courts, legal practice management, and access to legal services.</p> <p>It has a National Artificial Intelligence Strategy providing a basis for adopting and using Artificial Intelligence in legal tech.</p>	<p>Legal practice management, access to legal services</p> <p>Case studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Opleg</b> (Legal Practice Management)</li> <li>2. <b>Avocato</b> (Access to legal Services)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Nigeria</b></p>	<p>Technology is majorly used to create online law and case databases, e-courts, access to legal services, and legal documentation.</p> <p>The startup law was recently assented to, harmonizing the existing laws on legal startups.</p>	<p>Legal services, Legal documentation</p> <p>Case studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Law Padi</b> (Online Legal services)</li> <li>2. <b>Gavel</b> (Online Legal Services)</li> <li>3. <b>My Law</b> (Online Legal services)</li> <li>4. <b>Law Strive</b> (Online Legal Services)</li> <li>5. <b>DIY Law</b> (Legal Documentation)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Senegal</b></p>	<p>Has a startup law harmonizing the legal and regulatory requirements for legal tech startups.</p> <p>Country faces the challenge of limited legal resources and information.</p> <p>Legal techs are born largely to cure this challenge of limited information.</p>	<p>Access to legal services</p> <p>Case studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sunulex Africa</b> (Offers access to legal and tax documents)</li> </ol>

## 3.0 Regulation of legal tech in Africa

Laws, policies, regulations, and institutions on legal tech are concerned with innovation and the use of data, deployment of technology and digital platforms, use of emerging tech products, and protection of the rights of persons affected by the use of technology. For instance, data governance is important in legal innovation, as developed products are aimed at solving problems upon analyzing or using available data. An example is AI-powered legal technologies, where machines learn by analyzing volumes of data. The maiden State of Legal Tech in Africa Report identified the laws enabling Legal Tech in Africa: Access to Information Acts, Data Protection Acts, Cybercrime Acts, and Startup Acts.

A review of different African countries revealed that most countries are yet to adopt express Legal Tech Regulatory frameworks, e.g., developing technology laws, data protection policies, and cybersecurity regulations. Regulations go hand in hand with the legislative framework. Countries in East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa are in the process of developing regulations on data protection. Countries in Africa currently continue to accelerate efforts at increasing the application of these laws, depending on their unique technology ecosystems, as highlighted below:

### 3.1 Data Protection

This Report highlights as follows:

- There are no discernible examples of umbrella laws that regulate every aspect of data, its use, storage, and processing for legal-tech development.
- Data regulation focuses on five branches of the law: data protection law, competition law, cyber security law, electronic communications, and transactions law, and intellectual property law.

The analysis below provides a situational update on the developments in various aspects of law and regulations in Africa, affecting the state of Legal Tech:

Data Protection	Instrument	Status
<b>Continental Level</b>	African Union Convention on Data Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopted in 2014.</li> <li>● Not yet ratified.</li> </ul>
	Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aims at harmonizing measurable Information and Telecommunication Technology policies, legal and regulatory frameworks.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional</b>	East African Community Framework for Cyber Laws 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harmonize Cyber Laws in the East African region.</li> </ul>
	The 2010 Supplementary Act on Personal Data Protection of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By pushing its members to implement uniform data protection legal frameworks, ECOWAS approved the Act to address the issue of personal data protection.</li> </ul>
	The 2013 Southern African Development Community Model Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harmonizes ICT policies in Sub-Saharan Africa.</li> </ul>
<b>National Level</b>		At least 32 of Africa's 55 countries have enacted or embraced some form of regulation to protect personal data.

### 3.2 Startup Laws

Multiple regulations characterize the startup legal ecosystem in Africa. A few countries, such as Tunisia, Senegal, and Nigeria, have consolidated their startup laws into single acts to solve this problem. Furthermore, Kenya, Mali, Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali have Startup Bills in progress. In total, legislation to promote startup growth has been or is being developed in at least 35 African countries.

### 3.3 Other Laws

Amendments have, and still are being made to existing laws to allow for new forms of evidence. In Kenya, for example, the evidence Act was amended to include sec 106 B and 78 A of the Evidence Act on the admission of electronic evidence. This is an opportunity for legal-tech startups to process evidence for court presentations.

## 4.0 Policy framework for legal tech in Africa

The following is an analysis of the policy interventions relating to Legal Tech in Africa, with different levels of adoption by municipal jurisdictions across Africa:

Data Protection	Instrument	Status
<b>Continental</b>	Agreement Establishing the African Continental Area.	Agreement underpins all subsequent policy documents aimed at establishing a single digital market.
	Data Policy Framework	Adopted in February 2022. An important step towards developing a common approach to data for the continent.
	Africa Digital Transformation Strategy	Adopted by the AU. Aims at creating a harmonized environment to guarantee investment and financing and closing of the digital infrastructure gap. Lays a comprehensive strategy for how countries should manage data in a way that promotes innovation. Addresses contentious issues, such as data sovereignty, data localization, and the unilateral imposition of taxes on digital companies.

	Smart Africa Artificial intelligence Blueprint	Published by SMART Africa and South Africa's government. Identifies 5 areas for a successful AI Strategy in African Countries: human capital, design of AI solutions that can attract capital investment, infrastructure, developing AI locally, networking through an expanded ecosystem of private and public bodies and partnerships, and regulations to address opportunities and challenges brought about and by AI technologies and national and sectoral levels.
	AU Digital ID Framework	Adopted by the AU Executive Committee in February 2022.
	AU Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence strategies	In progress.
<b>Nationally</b>	Egypt, Rwanda, and Mauritius have gone a step further as the only African countries with National Artificial Intelligence strategies with a vision to use Artificial Intelligence to achieve their national sustainable development goals.	Very few African countries already have some form of national digital policy or strategy. Many African countries have outlined their digital agendas in their national development plans. Some have their digital policies or strategic plans covering very specific items, for example, digital privacy and e-government

African Heads of State have called for further strategies to operationalize the Digital Transformation Strategy in the Digital Government sector, which provides an opportunity for Legal Tech Innovation.

## 5.0 Institutional framework for legal tech in Africa

There have been efforts to establish structures for the adoption of Legal Tech Solutions in Africa, as illustrated below:

<p><b>Smart Africa</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It was established in 2013 by various heads of African States.</li> <li>● The role is to advance the continent's information and communication technologies and digital development.</li> <li>● Creation is testimony to the continent's commitment to implementing the right policy and regulatory environment to encourage job creation and knowledge sharing.</li> <li>● The Smart Africa Data Protection Working Group aims to produce a mapping of legal frameworks, implementation guidelines for Smart Africa Member States, and recommendations on enhancing harmonization and collaboration mechanisms between Data Protection Authorities (DPAs).</li> <li>● It may be part of the solution as it builds its implementing capacity. Still, for this to work, there should be strong political direction and coordination, including with the private sector, civil society, academia, and others.</li> <li>● Policy implementation by member states tends to be a lot slower than the rate of continental policy formulation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nationally</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Governments in Africa have demonstrated an intention to digitize their countries. Almost all sub-Saharan countries have established ICT ministries responsible for digitizing their economies.</li> <li>● However, the challenge faced by these governments is the absence of comprehensive legislative and regulatory frameworks on technology in the continent.</li> </ul>

## 6.0 Situational analysis

Below is an analysis of the legal-tech ecosystems in Africa based on an overall but more focused approach on South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria, and Senegal.

### 6.1 Legal Tech Start-ups

Legal-tech startups are gaining momentum in Africa. These startups are emerging in response to key areas in Africa's broken justice system, characterized as culturally conservative, slow to change, risk-averse, and protective. These startups include investigation strategies, research, e-discovery, online legal services, lawyer services, legal documentation, and practice management. However, the adoption of legal tech startups varies across the continent. For instance, Senegal and the

larger West African region are characterized by limited access to legal information. Legal texts are recorded with little rigor and, thus, difficult to consult. In Kenya, the electronic Kenya Law Reports, among other law databases, have been developed to facilitate access to legal information.

There is also the challenge of limited access to legal services and educational needs for both lawyers and non-lawyers throughout the continent. In response to facilitating access to legal services, startups are emerging to facilitate remote access to lawyers and certain legal services like contract signing. In response to the educational gap, startups are emerging to empower the legal and non-legal populations on legal-tech issues.

Regarding age, Africa's legal-tech founders are younger than other regions like Asia, New Zealand, and Australia. According to the Global Tech Report 2020, the continent has the youngest legal tech founders, accounting for 53 percent, compared to Asia, New Zealand, and Australia, whose founders are mainly over thirty years old.

The Report identifies from the onset that there is a need for valuation of the Legal Tech Market In Africa to provide useful statistics for the future. For instance, the Report by Adroit Market Research indicated that Global Legal Tech may achieve a valuation of USD 8.2 Billion by 2029. In terms of investment, the global estimates indicate that in 2021, there was an investment of \$223 million cash to drive legal innovation.

## 6.2 Judiciaries and Legal Tech

While Judiciaries in many jurisdictions are embracing technology, the real technological revolution happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, courts noted a quicker completion of matters through virtual sessions during the COVID-19 lockdown compared to similar periods before through physical sessions. Presently, jurisdictions in the five countries highlighted have employed:-

- e-Courts and hybrid court systems
- Virtual Alternative Justice Systems
- e-Filing
- e-Dispute Resolution

## 6.3 Law Societies and Legal Tech

Just as with the courts, the COVID-19 pandemic revolutionized the use of technol-

ogy in law societies. Management and interaction between the advocates and their societies largely moved online. For example, Annual General Meetings were held online for the first time. Law societies also organize development programs for their members, many of which are held online. National bar associations are also increasingly practicing in legal technology conferences, innovation hubs, and hackathons.

## 6.4 Virtual Legal Tech Education

Institutions of Higher Learning in South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, Senegal, and Nigeria have embraced online and hybrid learning. Virtual exams have also been embraced. While these forms existed before, they rapidly increased during the

COVID-19 lockdown. There is also an increase in schools offering technological knowledge in the continent and the five countries. At the continental level, the African Leadership Group offers technology programs without cost through a partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

## 6.5 Private Practice and Legal Tech

Legal practitioners in Africa have engaged service providers. In particular, they engage developers of legal-tech software to facilitate the automation of legal documents, registries, review of contracts, and legal research aid. Furthermore, adopting working from home models has seen investment in cloud storage systems to enable remote working for practitioners in the legal sector.

## 7.0 Future outlook

Legal tech continues to experience shocks as time goes by, requiring attention in predicting areas that can be streamlined to achieve desired benefits. The following subheads represent what the Report identifies as the future of Legal Tech in Africa:

### 7.1 Legal Tech Service Provision

It is anticipated that the client service landscape is changing, with a focus on using tools that prioritize clients' convenience. Legal Tech players are looking at creating a culture of convenience that improves how people work and exceeds client expectations.

### 7.2 Cooperation

Legal Tech solutions are set to improve workplace cooperation by providing access to crucial business data for individuals across firms, such as contracts. This facilitates ease of doing business and assists in achieving a high level of convenience and a cooperative ecosystem. Legal Tech has been the missing link in creating collaborative spaces, thus preventing innovation.

### 7.3 Enhanced client relationships

Automating low-value tasks and creating self-serve offerings for clients enhances their experience and saves on the expense involved in delivering services and products. This way, services are delivered in less time and barriers between the legal professional and client are reduced. This in turn, creates time and convenience for the delivery of extra tasks and serving larger volumes of customers, leading to optimal profits.

## 8.0 Challenges/barriers in legal tech

Uniform challenges identified in Africa range from insufficient or no legal frameworks to regulatory challenges and knowledge gaps, amongst others. These identified challenges and barriers can be summarized as follows:

### 8.1 Data Privacy/Information Security Concerns

Technological systems supporting legal-tech processes such as e-filing and emails may be subject to cyberattacks such as hacking, amongst other challenges relating to data and the privacy of data subjects across the legal tech sectors.

### 8.2 Challenges in the adoption of Legal Tech

The fast pace of the technological revolution could result in the legal profession lagging in keeping up with changes. This can be seen through old technologies in some law firms, such as old versions of desktops and hard drives used for data storage at the expense of modern technologies such as laptops and cloud-based storage systems. In addition, the ability of judicial officers and lawyers to effectively use legal technology is also a challenge. There have been cases of judicial officers and lawyers having challenges in joining virtual court sessions or

using the e-filing platform. The success of legal technology thus lies with judicial officers and lawyers possessing the requisite skills and keeping up with the technological revolution to enhance efficiency.

### 8.3 Risk of Technological Failure

Since processes such as virtual court sessions rely on internet connectivity, affordable and secure internet connectivity is crucial for the success of the process. These processes are faced with challenges such as the failure of video links or poor internet connectivity that hinders the success of the process. What exacerbates these challenges is

when participants may be in different locations, making resolving them more difficult. The success of legal technology is thus predicated upon the ability to maintain the efficient working of such a system.

#### **8.4 Credibility Concerns**

The use of poorly understood technology creates the challenge of credibility. For instance, in the virtual examination of witnesses, the court's ability to assess the evidence's credibility and strength, especially during cross examination, may be impaired. One of the advantages of in-person court hearings is that a court can discern the credibility of a witness by observing his/her body language, facial expressions, and tone. Assessment of such non-verbal cues is essential in determining the credibility of a witness.

#### **8.5 Costs**

The use of legal technology relies on devices such as computers, laptops, smartphones, and internet connectivity that may be out of reach for poor citizens. The mobile penetration statistics in Africa indicate a limitation, including internet and device access. Africa does not manufacture devices crucial in the roll-out of Legal Tech solutions, and the supply chain depends on the global north for solutions. The cost involved is massive, thus creating a challenge that can only be resolved by mobilizing resources to bridge the gap in Africa.

## 9.0 Key report observations

The Report makes the following key observations:

### 9.1 Legal-Tech Adoption in Remote Working

Organizations are now prioritizing a lean but productive workforce. The Legal Sector in Africa is embracing work from home models. Indeed, there is an increased use of technology, e.g., online platforms (Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, etc.). This has impacted working arrangements, including workplaces' intellectual property concerns and contractual arrangements.

### 9.2 Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Tools

Using contract review and automation tools is a growing trend in Africa, with stakeholders opting for ways to make bulk contract reviews fast and time-saving. The use of algorithms such as Contract-PodAi is assisting companies incorporate legal tech solutions in their operational activities, thus reducing costs.

### 9.3 Data Protection

Data protection and cybersecurity concerns are great challenges to the adoption of Legal Tech. Countries are developing laws to respond to challenges related to data protection in Africa, and the legal sector is leading these efforts.

### 9.4 Tech Advocacy

There is a growing advocacy movement from various stakeholders for lawmakers and regulators to innovate and implement more progressive laws and policies impacting Legal Tech in Africa.

### 9.5 Digitization of Practice Environment

The regular day to day use of technology in legal offices is increasing, as sector players respond to the changing times, and seek to benefit from the growing digital economy. The practice environment in the legal sector is experiencing disruptions aimed at digitizing processes and service delivery to the users of the existing institutions.

## 10.0 Key report findings

After analysis of the state of Legal Tech in Africa, the following findings are key in the interpretation of the data sampled:

<b>Demand</b>	Technology has not been fully embraced by the key players in the legal industry—for example, law firms, the judiciary and government bodies.
<b>Market share percentage</b>	Legal-tech sector occupies over 3 percent of the legal market share in Africa.
<b>Use</b>	At least 20 percent of lawyers use document management tools and cloud services.
<b>Growth</b>	Legal techs in Africa are increasingly growing. Growth is expected to continue.
<b>Comparison</b>	<p>Although Africa’s startup ecosystem is vibrant, legal techs are not recording as successful partnerships as other sectors such as fintech, logistics, and energy.</p> <p>Africa’s legal-tech founders are relatively younger than legal tech founders in Australia and Asia. In those countries, a majority of the legal tech founders are over thirty, while those in Africa are younger.</p>

## 11.0 Recommendations

The potential gains of Legal Tech largely remain untapped in Africa, considering the conservative nature of the practice environment. However, tech tools have increased adoption to make service provision faster, more efficient, affordable, and accessible. The following recommendations can be incorporated into existing mechanisms:

<b>Data Protection</b>	Players looking to venture into legal tech will need to prioritize data protection and privacy, given the sensitive nature of law practice.
<b>Specialized incubation of legal-tech</b>	As the current startup ecosystem is very high risk for legal tech due to low demand from high value consumers and low investor attractiveness, there is a need for specialized incubation by the traditional stakeholders in the legal industry, such as the firms and the courts.
<b>Funding</b>	As technology is very expensive, there is a need to seek opportunities for seed-funding to drive growth of legal-tech startups.
<b>Regulation</b>	There is a need for harmonization of all laws, regulations, policies and institutions relating to legal tech in the continent.
<b>Education/awareness needs</b>	There is an urgent need for accelerated efforts to cover the education needs for stakeholders to appreciate the opportunities and possibilities tech presents in the legal industry.

## 12.0 Conclusion

The Report has evaluated the state of Legal Tech in Africa and concludes that there is a general leaning towards adopting the use of technology in the legal ecosystem for products, services and ease of business. However, there is an opportunity to accelerate the efforts in order to achieve optimal results in Legal Tech adoption, investment, valuation and monitoring. There is limited data on the value and investment into Legal Tech in Africa compared with other sectors, such as digital finance and fintech.

The Report concludes that opportunities in Legal Tech are set to confer transformative benefits, including structuring services in the sector, delivery of services, product development, and the implementation of programs in legal tech. The future of Legal Tech in Africa promises increasingly automated products, services and perspectives, driven by digital technologies, big data and artificial intelligence products in machine learning, natural language processing, blockchain and related smart tech innovations.



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