

KEYNOTE: LAW PRACTICE IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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**At The OB LULU-BRIGGS FOUNDATION LAW STUDENTS' GRANT WARD CEREMONY
On Monday December 18, 2017 at NBA House Port Harcourt**

I like to quote the extensive statement of Sarah Kellogg¹ that:

“The legal profession is experiencing an era of turbulence and transformation. Some have an aversion to change, others worry about losing ground, and still others are concerned that the headlong rush to remake the profession will cause a shift from the practice of law to the business of law, with the profession losing its moral and cultural footing along the way.

The leading edge of that future is already visible: paper pushing and data management long practiced by lawyers are making way for computers and robots, international boundaries are more legally porous than ever, and economic forces are refashioning law practices. Consumer trends such as do-it-yourself legal services and legal smartphone apps are now ubiquitous. And clients are playing a larger role in managing their legal portfolios.

These changes are significant, even revolutionary, and they will be magnified exponentially in the years to come. The transformation of the profession will be remarkably agnostic when it comes to law firms, experts say, applying equal pressure to solo practitioners as well as to the largest global firms. The responsibility for accommodating all this radical change will fall most heavily on the individual attorney, who must be nimble, savvy, and swift in responding to these fast-moving currents.”

In other places, technology is having a tremendous effect on the legal profession. "The lawyers who are going to be in a good position and will do fine in the future are the lawyers who understand the technology and its limits, and [who] understand where they can add the value that technology cannot provide."²

Law is a business and our Universities, the Nigerian Law School, The Bar and the individual lawyers must clearly have that focus that law is a business with some ethical rules that guide it.

To begin to contemplate our roles in this technology revolution, it is necessary to know and begin to understand what is already in the market in relation to legal practice.

TECH REVOLUTION IN LAW: APPLICATIONS/PLATFORMS FOR LAW PRACTICE

ROSSINTELLIGENCE

- ▶ Computer based application
- ▶ Does research using natural language search
- ▶ Allows you to ask it questions in plain English, as you would a colleague
- ▶ Developed by Jimoh Ovbiagele, whose father is a Nigerian.

¹ “The Uncertain Future: Turbulence and Change in the legal Profession”, *Washington Lawyer*, April 2016, <https://www.dcb.org/bar-resources/publications/washington-lawyer/articles/april-2016-uncertain-future.cfm> , viewed on 15th Dec 2017.

² Tanina Rostain, professor of law and co-director of the Center for the Study of the Legal Profession at Georgetown University Law Center. See Sarah Kellogg, “The Uncertain Future: Turbulence and Change in the legal Profession”, *Washington Lawyer*, April 2016, <https://www.dcb.org/bar-resources/publications/washington-lawyer/articles/april-2016-uncertain-future.cfm> , viewed on 15th Dec 2017.

THOMSON REUTERS' WESTLAW

- ▶ Application with a collation of legal materials
- ▶ Materials include: primary law, exclusive analytical materials, practice area insights, largest online collection of litigation resources, public records, and more.
- ▶ Can be operated on desktop, as an iPad® app, iPhone® app, or Android app for tablets.
- ▶ Can be synchronized with all other devices.
- ▶ Can be used online or downloaded for offline use

THOMSON REUTERS' CLEAR

- ▶ Online investigation software
- ▶ Can be used for background check
- ▶ Corporate due diligence
- ▶ KYC investigations
- ▶ AML program and tracing of assets

LEXIS ADVANCE QUICKLAW

- ▶ Legal research tool
- ▶ Collection of legal information
- ▶ Search engine learns from frequently asked questions and gives customized answers
- ▶ Shows relevant answers
- ▶ Gives access to other materials for further research
- ▶ Shows updates on new laws

NEXIS

- ▶ Expert curated news, business information, legal documents, etc
- ▶ Gives updates on companies, trends, events etc
- ▶ Smart indexing helps concentrate on information regarding particular companies, events and trends.
- ▶ Eliminate irrelevant information during research

FASTCASE

- ▶ It is updated daily
- ▶ Free legal search application with American laws
- ▶ Contains the US Constitution, Regulations, cases, federal statutes and statutes from all 50 states in America
- ▶ It is free for lawyers in Missouri Bar Association
- ▶ Search is done by citation, keywords or through collection
- ▶ You can move to the relevant part of the research

PACER

- ▶ Public Access to Court Electronic Records
- ▶ Used in federal courts in America
- ▶ Users have access to cases and docket information.
- ▶ The user has access to updates on all cases.
- ▶ Some sensitive cases may not be reported.

LEGAL ZOOM

- ▶ Application to take instructions on wide ranging issues
- ▶ Takes instructions for statutory compliances
- ▶ Business/company formation
- ▶ Trademark registration
- ▶ Drafting of agreements
- ▶ Drafting will and testament
- ▶ Can direct to a lawyer/law firm for further enquiry

ROCKET LAWYER

- ▶ Used to manage all legal needs online
- ▶ Creates legal documents
- ▶ Used to connect clients to ask legal questions online
- ▶ To take advice and instruction for incorporation of businesses
- ▶ Reservoir of information

NOLO

- ▶ Computer and mobile application
- ▶ Contains free law dictionary
- ▶ Contains legal forms
- ▶ Contains other legal resources
- ▶ Can take instructions for drafting
- ▶ Refers to lawyer for better consultation

LAWDEPOT

- ▶ Used mainly in the United Kingdom
- ▶ Used for online drafting of legal documents, filling forms and drafting contracts
- ▶ Can be used to draft Power of Attorney, Will, financial agreements etc
The draft is downloaded after being customised

CLIO

- ▶ Cloud based law firm management solution
- ▶ Used to manage firm calendar
- ▶ Used for time tracking, note taking, Used for document management
- ▶ Used for bookkeeping and accounting
- ▶ Integrates with Gmail, Dropbox, Outlook, etc

- ▶ Used to plan and take depositions or examination
- ▶ Questions are arranged and rearranged
- ▶ Question templates can be stored for future cases
- ▶ Exhibits can be attached to a question

DOCKET LAW

- ▶ Online application
 - ▶ Used to calculate dates and deadlines for free based on US Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
 - ▶ Calculates dates and deadline for other states for a subscription fee
- Integrates all the rules of courts in the US

AXIOM

- ▶ Online Law firm
- ▶ Provide lawyer placement for companies
- ▶ Deals with traditional law issues
- ▶ Uses registered lawyers to achieve its purpose

LEGAL ONRAMP

- ▶ **A legal social networking site**
- ▶ **Provides content, connectivity, and execution services to legal professionals.**
- ▶ **Builds and develops a community of legal professionals from corporations, companies, law firms, and law schools.**
- ▶ **Uses “Massive Online Legal Analysis” (or “MOLA”)**
- ▶ **“MOLA” systematizes legal tasks to allow limited expert resources to be applied to maximum legal work product.**
- ▶ **Uses precisely defined “data points” being analyzed by a large, distributed team of attorneys working together through a server-based workflow platform.**
- ▶ **MOLA makes data easily and independently verifiable, allowing quality to be monitored and corrected at scale**

EXIGENT

- ▶ Global legal process outsourcing
- ▶ Outsources legal document review, contract management, etc
- ▶ Used in different languages

PANGEA3

- ▶ Global legal process outsourcing
- ▶ Managed Discovery
- ▶ Document Review and Analysis
- ▶ Regulatory Change Management
- ▶ Financial Trade Documentation
- ▶ Contract Management

MERITAS

- ▶ Worldwide online platform
- ▶ Lawyers register as members
- ▶ The platform refer lawyers to clients
- ▶ Publishes materials to train its members

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WIRELAWYER

- ▶ Lawyers interaction platform
- ▶ Lawyers become members by invitation
- ▶ Gets points for every referral
- ▶ Have access to several information
- ▶ Fellow attorneys help each other with work- especially SMLs (small to mid-sized practices).

UPCOUNSEL

- ▶ Platform has profile of several selected lawyers
- ▶ Clients or companies post their legal needs and is shown a list of UPCOUNSEL lawyers.
- ▶ Client selects one for her legal needs

PRIOR LEGAL

- ▶ Online
- ▶ Used to hire and manage top lawyers for business at extremely competitive rates
- ▶ Client posts a project or work and he is attached to a particular lawyer
- ▶ The client will rate the lawyer on the platform

CIVIL RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL of BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCE OF CANADA

- ▶ **Created by Canadian Province of British Colombia**
- ▶ **Online tribunal resolves small claims disputes \$10,000 and under, and strata property (condominium) of any amount**
- ▶ **Use a range of dispute resolution tools including negotiation, facilitation, and adjudication.**
- ▶ **Parties can resolve the disputes online from wherever they are without coming to a court.**

Legal Analytics

- ▶ Designed by two law Professors, a data scientist and consultant
- ▶ Applies machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques to identify patterns in a case
- ▶ Make predictions as to the outcomes of cases before the US Supreme Court
- ▶ Currently has an accuracy rate of 70%.

JUROR RATER MOBILE APP

- ▶ **This app rates the probable bias of prospective jurors by evaluating four factors.**
- ▶ **The results indicate the bias toward Criminal Prosecution or Civil Defense**

SHAKE BY LEGALSHIELD

- ▶ Creates personified agreements drafts
- ▶ The user provides information for the agreement and the application drafts
- ▶ The agreements are signed online
- ▶ The agreements are binding
- ▶ Many types of agreement
- ▶ Clients with questions can contact already available lawyers or law firms.

MOBILE JUSTICE: DC

- ▶ Communities across the U.S. continue to suffer from over-policing, racial profiling and excessive use of force. Empowered by the American Civil Liberties Union of the Nation's Capitol, the Mobile Justice DC app is one way you can put a check on law enforcement misconduct wherever, whenever. With this app you can:
 - ▶ Record and submit incidents directly and securely to your local ACLU of the Nation's Capital affiliate using your phone camera.
 - ▶ Get instant location alerts from fellow app users witnessing incidents nearby.
 - ▶ Know your rights when encountering or witnessing an incident with law enforcement, and access the ACLU's full library of "Know Your Rights" materials at the click of a button.

DONOTPAY

- ▶ An artificial-intelligence robotic lawyer “the world’s first robot lawyer”
- ▶ Helps users contest parking tickets in an easy to use chat-like interface.
- ▶ Has contested 250,000 cases and won 160,000(success rate of 64%).
- ▶ Appealing over \$4m worth of parking tickets.
- ▶ Created by a 19-year-old, London-born second-year Stanford University student, Joshua Browder.
- ▶ The program first works out whether an appeal is possible through a series of simple questions.

SMART CONTRACT

- ▶ **A computer protocol intended to facilitate, verify and enforce the negotiation or performance of a contract.**
- ▶ **Contractual clauses may be made partially or fully self-executing, self-enforcing, or both.**
- ▶ **Provides security that is superior to traditional contract law and reduces other transaction costs associated with contracting.**
- ▶ **Smart contracts have been used primarily in association with crypto currencies.**
- ▶ **The currency is automatically paid from the defaulter’s account to the party who suffers the default.**

E-DISCOVERY

- ▶ **Uses predictive coding and complex algorithms**
- ▶ **Can search a case file for relevant documents and information apposite to a law suit.**
- ▶ **Works with little or no supervision.**

CONTRACT REVIEW AUTOMATION

- ▶ Uses artificial intelligence engine to read and analyze incoming contracts, suggesting edits based on a company's pre-defined legal policies.
- ▶ Contracts that meet these policies can be automatically approved within an hour.
- ▶ Contracts that don't align with your policies are escalated for guided editing and approval. Saves 80% time.
- ▶ Increase efficiency between sales, legal, operations and procurement, unblocking contract bottlenecks
- ▶ Support for a wide range of file types, including: doc, docx, pdf, and images

AILIRA

- ▶ Artificial intelligence that uses natural language processing to provide free legal information on a broad range of legal issues, including Business Structuring, Wills and Estate Planning and much more
- ▶ Can instantly generate Australian legal documents for businesses and personal use, much cheaper and faster than a visit to a lawyer would take.

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BACK HOME

Examples of software and Apps shown above are being replicated and developed by few young citizens and young lawyers in Nigeria.

We have seen the use and benefit of online law reporting. The National Judicial Council has initiated a campaign for case management software for our courts and a legal mail for all lawyers who wish to practice in the Supreme Court. We have seen the roll out of the CAC online platform and the shrinking of jobs for lawyers.

SHAMEFUL MANUAL OPERATED COURT SYSTEM

In spite of the progress of technology our courts still operate as full manual courts where judges still record proceedings in long hands.

As **Young lawyer at 7 years at the Bar**, I Presented a Paper at the NBA 1991 Annual Bar Conference Owerri on the topic: **"Executive Lawlessness and Judicial Helplessness in the Administration of Justice: A need to Plug Up the Holes"**. In that Paper in 1991 I suggested among other things the abolishing of "the system of recording in long hand."

Regrettably 27 years later in 2018 our judges still record proceedings in long hand!

YOUNG LAWYERS MUST RECOGNISE THEIR HANDICAPS

In spite of the advanced technology in the World, and the use of advanced technology, our young lawyers largely lack real computer and internet communication skills. These primary skills must be acquired for a young lawyer to be capable of leaping into the technology world and real value based job market.

CHALLENGES

While I agree that most of our young lawyers are victims of poor legal education at the LLB level, the stadium legal training at the Nigerian Law School, and victims of a **disinterested Bar Association**, we must note that every **CHALLENGE IS AN OPPORTUNITY!**

As stated by Sarah Kellogg, “the challenge for the profession, its leaders, and its foot soldiers is to be more creative and visionary in considering what to do next. This won't be a journey for the fainthearted or the nonaligned”³. The challenge of unemployment in today's Nigeria and the “uncertainty in the current business climate may not subside soon, but there will be lawyers taking risks and rolling the dice on the future of the profession.”⁴

The best way to predict the future is to create it. – Peter Drucker.

³ “The Uncertain Future: Turbulence and Change in the legal Profession”, *Washington Lawyer*, April 2016, <https://www.dcbars.org/bar-resources/publications/washington-lawyer/articles/april-2016-uncertain-future.cfm> , viewed on 15th Dec 2017.

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