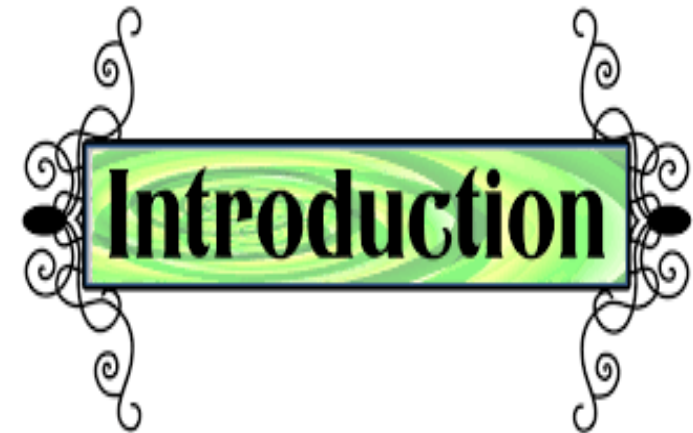


# **TECHNOLOGY AND LAW PRACTICE IN NIGERIA**

**BEING A PAPER DELIVERED BY YUSUF ALI  
SAN AT THE NIGERIAN WEEKLY LAW  
REPORTS (NWLR) WEBINAR ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY,  
2020**

# INTRODUCTION

- The practice of law started at a time when technology was non-existent.
- Today however, legal technology has become the order of the day.
- Definition of legal technology: Legal technology refers to the application of technology and software to help individual lawyers, law firms, medium and large scale businesses with practice management, document storage, billing, accounting and electronic discovery.



# THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY IN LAW PRACTICE

- typewriter and carbon paper
- dictating machine
- UBIQ “terminal” (research tool)
- fax machines
- World Wide Web
- Google Suite or Microsoft Office for email, calendar, and documents
- Paperless office tools such as a remote backup and external hard drive
- Law practice management software (this may also include Timekeeping and billing services for the office)



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# THE GROWTH OF TECHNOLOGY IN LAW PRACTICE (CONT'D)

- Accounting software (if it is not part of your practice management software)
- Legal research tools (e.g. law pavilion, legalpeadia, compulaw, law digest etc)
- Cloud computing
- Cybersecurity
- Video conferencing
- Home computers
- (Virtual Private Networks) VPNs
- VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol)



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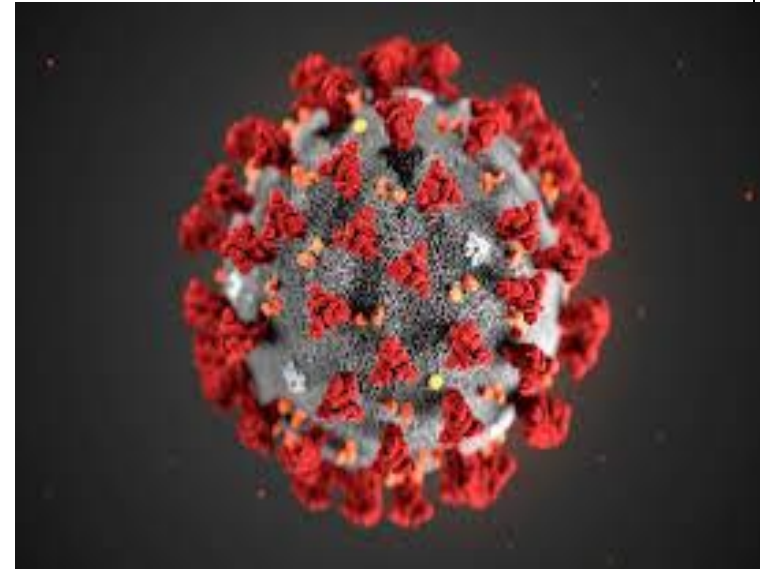
# NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY FOR LAWYERS

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Twitter



# THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF LAW

- No business concern, law offices inclusive, is insulated from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- the impact felt by the legal profession can be loosely categorized as financial, operational, technological and human resources.
- The harsh effect of the pandemic notwithstanding, law firms who are on the feet and who hit the ground running after things return to normalcy, find that briefs will still be plenty of work for the industry overall.
- Most importantly however, the take away from the whole COVID-19 experience is that, any lawyer who wants to stay relevant in the league must become technologically suave.



# CAN TECHNOLOGY ERADICATE THE NEED FOR LAWYERS

- There have been fears in some quarters that technology may eradicate the need for a lawyer for most legal services.
- Technology startups now exist that disrupt the practice of law by giving people access to online software that reduces or in some cases eliminates the need to consult a lawyer.
- The emergence of new legal technologies does not mean that lawyers will become irrelevant.
- Instead, the roles of legal professionals will shift, rather than disappear, and become more interactive with technological applications in their given field.
- Lawyers' roles shift to become more rooted in collaboration rather than independent problem solving.
- However, the fact still remains that this collaboration requires that lawyers have a more sophisticated and nuanced skills



# CONCLUSION

- While we maintain our place in the league of conservative profession, we need to forge ahead with the demands of the moment.
- Tools of technology and networking platforms will aid the lawyer in the new climate of practice.
- We must flow with the tide, else we will be crushed by it.

