



Court Digital Transformation: Using Artificial Intelligence and the proposed Judgment Writing Tool

**25th Annual Judges' Conference
2024**

**Presenter: Hon. Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire,
-Court of Appeal & Constitutional Court of Uganda
-Chair ICT/Law Reporting Committee**

February 2024

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

1. Introduction
2. What is AI (Artificial Intelligence)
3. AI at work
4. Using AI in the Justice Sector
5. Pitfalls of AI
6. Ethical & Regulatory matters in AI
7. A peck view into the up coming judgment writing tool (JWT)
8. Concluding thoughts

The rise of the Machines as Judicial disrupters

In 2016 UCL computer scientists developed an AI “Judge” which was given facts in 584 decided cases at the ECHR



The AI Judge came to same result as the court in 79% of the cases as did the Judges of the Court.

Origins of AI

- AI or Artificial Intelligence, was coined more than **60 years ago** by researchers at Dartmouth University*
- Proposed to determine “how to **make machines use language**, for abstractions, and concepts, **solve the kinds of problems now reserved for humans**, and improve them.”
- AI includes a number of categories converting **routine tasks into automated processes** to solve complex problems or tasks without human intervention.

Drivers of the AI Revolution

- we are entering the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution which will be driven by the processing speeds via internet
- moving from 4G to 5G speeds
- The future is going to be all about Big data and processing speeds.
- E-portals are taking over physical office space

Examples of AI at work



The Game Changer AI & BOTs

- Large Language Model developed by OpenAI
- A chatbot that can generate information in a more conversational style. It can draw information from past answers and learn to produce an answer closer to the style you wish.
- There have been some concerns about ethics (use in exams and other places). If there are gaps in the content which it is searching, there have been instances when it creates a false answer, called hallucination.
- ChatGPT is one example of AI which has the world's attention. The issues with ChatGPT will be resolved, and AI is here to stay.



Types of AI

- Machine Learning
- Robotic Process Automation
- Natural Language Processing
- Cloud Computing
- Deep Learning
- Advanced Interfaces
- Large Language Models

Enter AI into the Justice Sector

The Future has come early Enter the RO-BOT
ROBO -COP (Policing)

The Future has
come early

Enter the RO-BOT

(Are we ready for A
Policing?)



Enter AI into the Justice Sector

- Are we ready for ROB – JUDGE?

The AI JUDGE

Is already here

i.e. ODR

On line Dispute

Resolution

Fast growing world
wide



Enter AI into the Justice Sector

- Will you accept an AI – Advocate especially self represented ones

The Rob-Attorney is already here

World's first Robot Lawyer

“DoNotPay

(Nov 23 won case for not having a PC in Illinois)

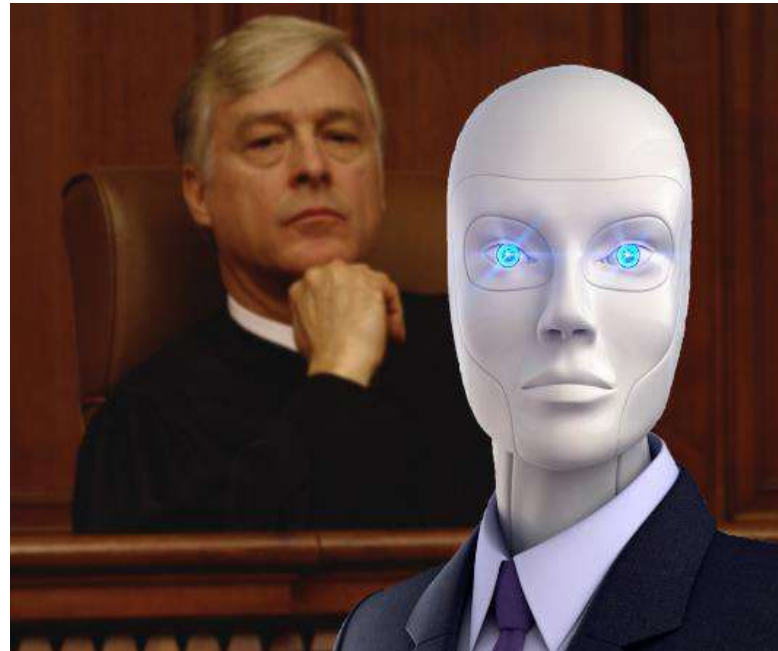
World's first impartial lawyer **“LISA”**

Other engines

LawGeek

Lex Machina

Chat GPT



Enter AI into the Justice Sector – Reality Check

Minimum Requirement – E-Court Environment



- Court Recording
- CCAS
- ECCMS
- Internet

Enter AI into the Justice Sector – Reality Check (complexity Reduction)

- What can AI do short term?
 1. Legal aid / Public Defendant
 2. Custom design routine process i.e. at filing
 3. E-Discovery
 4. enhanced legal research
 5. E-translation
 6. E-transcription
 7. Interlocutories
 8. Judgment writing tool

Enter AI into the Justice Sector – Reality Check (Possibilities for the future)

1. E-Evidence
2. Move from research to predictive analysis
3. AI hearing – hearing BOTs (Beijing Internet Court)
4. Decision making especially where specific data can lead to a predictable outcome – predictive justice
 - Judge Julian Padilia Colombia has used Chat GPT
 - Judge Brantley Starr refused Submissions by Chat GPT

Pitfalls of AI

1. Inadequate data mining
2. Discriminative coding / algorithm
3. Judicial Independence
4. European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in judicial systems and their environment
5. Issues of concerning IP Rights

Ethical and Regulatory matters

- European Ethical Charter on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in judicial systems and their environment
- EU: The AI Act (8th December 2023)

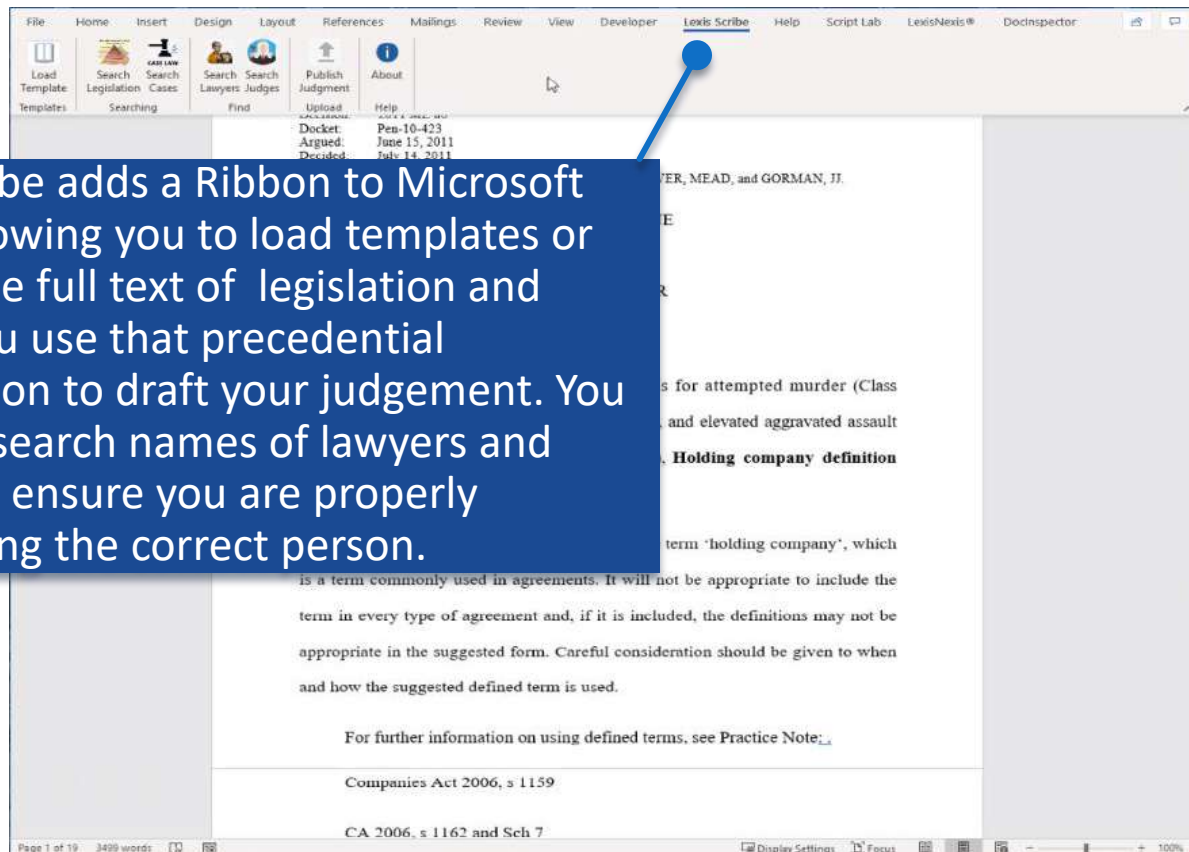
The Judgment Writing Tool: The Goals

Judgment Writing Tool (JWT)

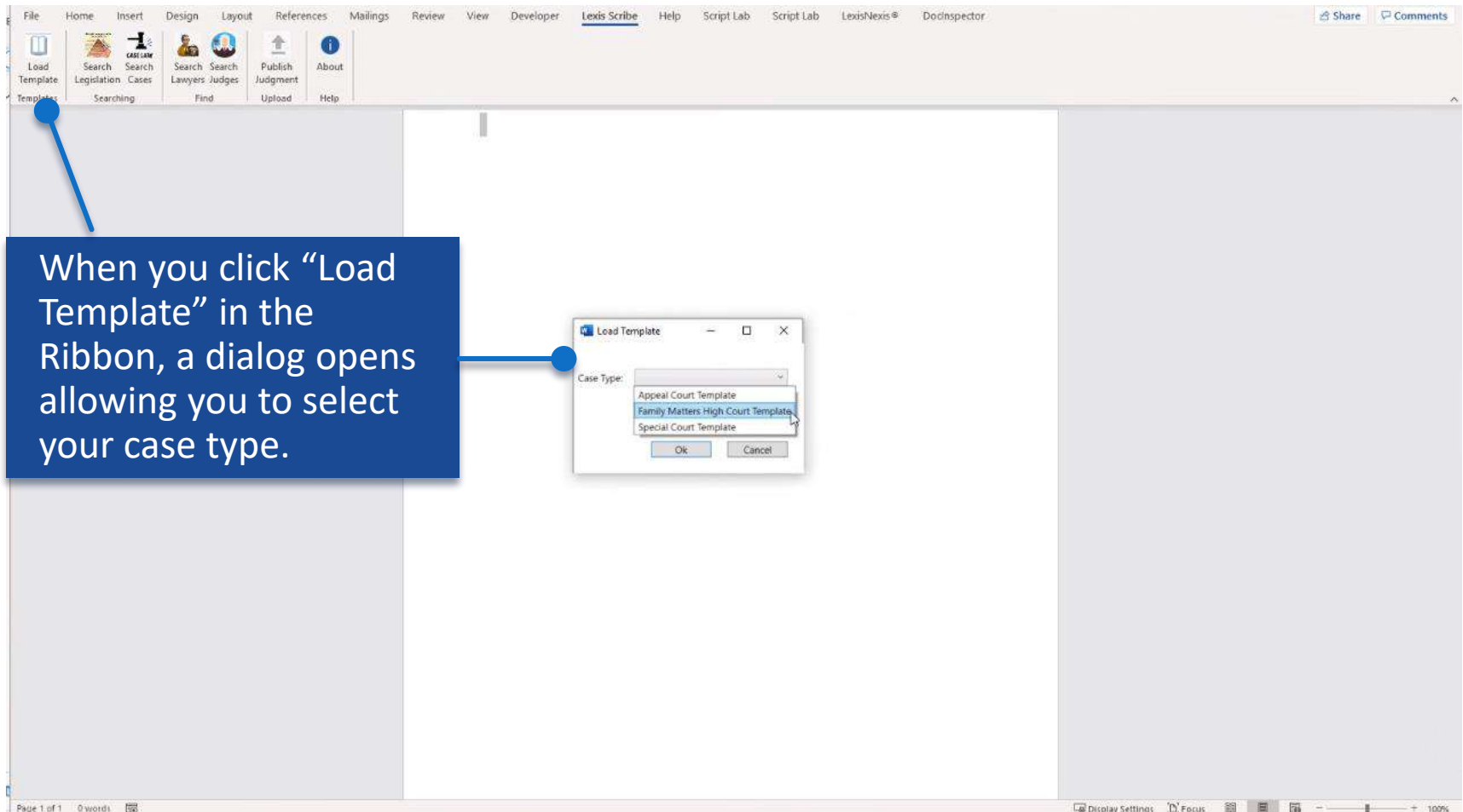
- Integration of electronic tool to enhance timely and accurate judgments in pilot within a court of the Ugandan Judiciary which is ready for expansion to other Ugandan courts.
- The JWT does not have embedded AI but has in the future the potential to have AI as an add on

The Judgment Writing Tool: What to expect.

Lexis Scribe adds a Ribbon to Microsoft Word allowing you to load templates or search the full text of legislation and cases. You use that precedential information to draft your judgement. You can also search names of lawyers and judges to ensure you are properly referencing the correct person.



Loading Decision Templates



The screenshot displays the Lexis Scribe application interface. The top ribbon includes tabs for File, Home, Insert, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, Developer, Lexis Scribe, Help, Script Lab, LexisNexis®, and Dodinspector. The Home tab is active, showing icons for Load Template, Search Legislation, Search Cases, Search Lawyers Judges, Publish Judgment, and About. A blue callout box points to the 'Load Template' icon. A 'Load Template' dialog box is open, showing a 'Case Type' dropdown menu with the following options: Appeal Court Template, Family Matters High Court Templates (highlighted), and Special Court Template. The dialog also features 'Ok' and 'Cancel' buttons. A status bar at the bottom indicates 'Page 1 of 1', '0 words', and a 100% zoom level.

When you click “Load Template” in the Ribbon, a dialog opens allowing you to select your case type.

Access to legislation

The screenshot shows the Lexis Scribe software interface. The main window is titled "Judgement Writer" and contains a "Search Legislation" panel. The search filter is set to "finance". A list of search results is displayed, including various acts such as "The Audit Service Act, 2014.pdf", "The Borrowers and Lenders Act, 2014.pdf", "The Extractive Industries Revenue Act, 2016.pdf", "The Finance (Amendment) Act, 2018 (No. 12 of 2018).pdf", "The Finance Act, 2015.pdf", "The Finance Act, 2016.pdf", "The Finance Act, 2017 (Part 1 of 2017).pdf", "The Fiscal Management and Control Act, 2017.pdf", "The Guma Valley Water Company Act, 2017.pdf", "The Insurance Act, 2016.pdf", "The National Civil Registration Act, 2016.pdf", "The National Medical Supplies Agency Act, 2017.pdf", "The National Youth Service Act, 2016.pdf", "The Natural Water Resources Management Agency Act, 2017.pdf", "The Petroleum Regulatory Act, 2014.pdf", "The Public Financial Management Act, 2016.pdf", "The Public Private Partnership Act, 2014.pdf", "The Public Procurement Act, 2016.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Correctional Service Act, 2014.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Council for Postgraduate Colleges of Health Specialties Act, 2016.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act, 2016.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency Act, 2017.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Peace Keeping and Law Enforcement Academy Act, 2017.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency Act, 2016.pdf", "The Sierra Leone Water Company Act, 2017.pdf", "The Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2014.pdf", "The Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2018.pdf", and "The Teaching Hospitals Complex Administration Act, 2016.pdf".

A blue callout box with white text says: "Click on the name of the Act to view the full text." A blue arrow points from the callout box to the first search result, "The Audit Service Act, 2014.pdf".

The main document area shows a form with the following fields:

- IN THE MATTER OF:** [enter applicable legislation e.g. Children and Young Persons Act, Cap 44]
- APPLICANT:** [enter applicant's full name]
- RESPONDENT:** [enter respondent's full name]
- CASE NUMBER:** #####
- CASE NUMBER:** [2018] SLCA ## (## #### 2018);
- BENCH:** [enter all judges in rank order]
- APPEARANCES:**
 - Applicant: [counsel name]
 - Instructed by: [attorneys]
 - Respondent: [counsel name]
 - Instructed by: [attorneys]

The status bar at the bottom shows "Page 1 of 3", "127 words", and "100%" zoom.

Opening legislation in same window

The screenshot shows a PDF viewer window with two pages of legislation. The left page is page 18, titled 'No. 4 The Audit Service Act 2014'. It contains a paragraph: '(3) Any enactment in force immediately before the commencement of this Act to extent that its provisions are not in conflict with this Act shall have effect and continue in force subject to such modifications as may be necessary to give effect to this Act.' Below this is the text: 'Passed in Parliament this 4th day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen.' and the signature 'IBRAHIM S. SESAY'. The right page is the title page of the 'ACT Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXLV, No. 46 dated 28th August, 2014'. It is titled 'THE AUDIT SERVICE ACT, 2014' and 'ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS'. It lists sections: 1. Interpretation, PART II - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIT SERVICE (2-10), PART III - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE AUDIT SERVICE (11-12), and PART IV - AUDITOR-GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF OF AUDIT SERVICE (13-20). A blue callout box with a pointer to the right page contains the text: 'The full text document opens allowing you to read or copy information to assist you with the judgement you are writing or reviewing.'

18 No. 4 *The Audit Service Act* 2014

(3) Any enactment in force immediately before the commencement of this Act to extent that its provisions are not in conflict with this Act shall have effect and continue in force subject to such modifications as may be necessary to give effect to this Act.

Passed in Parliament this 4th day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen.

IBRAHIM S. SESAY

ACT
Supplement to the Sierra Leone Gazette Vol. CXLV, No. 46
dated 28th August, 2014

THE AUDIT SERVICE ACT, 2014
ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section.

PART I-PRELIMINARY

1. Interpretation.

PART II-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUDIT SERVICE

2. Continuance of Audit Service
3. The Audit Board.
4. Composition of Board.
5. Board Secretary
6. Tenure of Board
7. Remuneration of members
8. Meetings of Board.
9. Disclosure of interest
10. Committees of Board

PART III-FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE AUDIT SERVICE

11. Functions of Audit
12. Powers of Audit Service

PART IV-AUDITOR-GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF OF AUDIT SERVICE

13. Appointment of Auditor-General
14. Oath of office by Auditor-General
15. Independence of the Auditor-General
16. Delegation of the functions and Powers of Auditor General
17. Functions of Auditor-General.
18. Other staff
19. Exception from Public Service Commission
20. Terms and conditions of service.

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GAZETTE No. 46 OF 28TH AUGUST, 2014.

Search and download cases

The screenshot displays the Lexis Scribe software interface. The ribbon at the top includes tabs for File, Home, Insert, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, Developer, Lexis Scribe, Help, Script Lab, LexisNexis®, and DocInspector. The Lexis Scribe ribbon contains icons for Load Template, Search Legislation, Search Cases, Search Lawyers, Search Judges, Publish Judgment, and About. A blue callout box points to the 'Search Cases' icon. The main window is titled 'IN THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE'. On the right, a 'Judgement Writer' pane is open, showing a 'Search Cases' section with a filter input field containing 'act' and a 'Search' button. Below the search results, several case names are listed, including 'DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE v. MEC.pdf', 'Dunn v. ROAD ACCIDENT FUND.pdf', 'Enslin v. LONMIN .pdf', 'Nederburg v. NERO.pdf', and 'Pacific v. BURCHELL .pdf'. The main document area contains a form for entering case details, including fields for 'IN THE MATTER OF:', 'APPLICANT:', 'RESPONDENT:', 'CASE NUMBER:', 'BENCH:', and 'APPEARANCES:'.

When you click “Search Cases” in the Ribbon, an interactive right-hand pane opens allowing you to search and filter accordingly.

Render and Publish Judgment

The screenshot displays the Lexis Scribe software interface. The main window shows a document template for a judgment in the High Court of Sierra Leone. A blue callout box highlights the 'Publish Judgement' button in the top ribbon, with a blue arrow pointing to it. Another blue arrow points from the callout box to the 'Find Lawyers' sidebar on the right. The sidebar shows a list of lawyers with 'Felicia Miller-Watson' selected. The main document area contains the following text:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SIERRA LEONE
FAMILY AND PROBATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF: [enter applicable legislation e.g
Children and Young Persons Act, Cap 44.]

APPLICANT: [Felicia Miller-Watson]

V

RESPONDENT: [enter respondent's full name]

CASE NUMBER: #####

CASE NUMBER: [2018] SLCA ### (## ##### 2018);

BENCH: [enter all judges in rank order]

APPEARANCES:
Applicant: [counsel name]
Instructed by: [attorneys]
Respondent: [counsel name]
Instructed by: [attorneys]

The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Page 1 of 3', '125 words', and '100%' zoom.

Concluding Thoughts

- The 4th Industrial Revolution is a real game changer and not science fiction
- Technology is changing very fast and will impact on our work processes
- AI should be embraced and safely be adapted into the judicial processes
- Continuous training

The End



Thank your kind attention
Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire