AI and Justice: Is Uzbekistan's Judiciary system prepared?

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Abstract: The advancing transformation of legal systems by artificial intelligence (AI) worldwide leads to questions about its possible implementation in developing country judiciaries as there are no international regulations addressing AI by international organizations like the United Nations or International Court of Justice. In this case, every country whether developed or developing is making an effort to deal with this trend according to its own national legislature system. This paper investigates how ready the judicial system of Uzbekistan is to implement AI-based solutions for case handling and legal document retrieval and court decision processes. The research investigates the current legal framework and institutional setup as well as the digital systems and ethical and practical obstacles of AI implementation in courtrooms. The research assesses Uzbekistan's readiness to implement AI technology by analyzing global best practices and regional developments and its ability to protect fairness and transparency and due process. The article provides recommendations for a rights-based and cautious implementation of AI in Uzbekistan's judicial system.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, judiciary system, Uzbekistan, legal technology, Judicial Reform, AI in Law, court automation, digital justice, e-sud, algorithmic decision-making

Introduction

Technology has revolutionized the way we live. In the past, conducting research on a particular theme required searching through hundreds of books to gather relevant information, which was time-consuming. People had to travel long distances to reach their destinations. Fortunately, with the rapid advancement of technology, we can now access the information we need in the blink of an eye. We can travel through various modes of transportation — and this is only the beginning. From education to business, technology has brought about catalytic changes.

As an integral part of human society, the justice sector has also embraced — and continues to embrace — rapid transformation through Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is reshaping public administration landscapes worldwide. AI is now being implemented in judicial systems across the globe for administrative automation, legal research support, and case outcome prediction. EU member states are increasingly adopting AI in healthcare, justice, and public administration.[1] Italy adopted the Italian Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) for 2024-2026, is a comprehensive plan to leverage AI technologies to drive innovation and productivity across different sectors. AI is set to change industries and Italy wants to take advantage of these changes to improve its economic and social development.[2] Estonia has launched major AI-based initiatives to enhance judicial efficiency and access to justice.[3] China, one of the most influential countries in the world, has introduced "smart courts" to promote access to justice.[4]

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[1] A recent EJFRI - e-Justice & Fundamental Rights International - Survey on the digitalization of justice and the use of artificial intelligence in the Judiciary in the EU Member States (2022) confirms what is stated in the text.

[2] Jaime Codagnone, ITALIAN STRATEGY FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 2024-2026, https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/govtechconnect/news/italian-strategy-artificial-intelligence-2024-2026#:~:text=tourism%2C%20and%20finance.-,Training,AI%20technologies%20and%20their%20implications.

[3] https://e-estonia.com/artificial-intelligence-as-the-new-reality-of-e-justice/

[4] Changshin Shi, Tania Sourdin, Bin Li. The Smart Court – A New Pathway to Justice in China? | International Journal for Court Administration
https://iacajournal.org/articles/10.36745/ijca.367

Likewise, in Uzbekistan some actions are being taken to employ technological innovations in its judiciary system. Despite these innovations, Uzbek government must assess whether its current judiciary system can support AI integration as part of its digitalization and judicial reform efforts.

The Global Shift toward AI in the judiciary

AI technologies are being implemented in courts across the globe for purposes such as document analysis, managing caseloads, detecting legal inconsistencies, and issuing decisions in minor cases. Risk Assessment Tools based on AI operate throughout almost all U.S. states while numerous systems implement them before trial proceedings. [5]The criminal justice system employs distinct risk assessment tools for domestic violence cases and juvenile justice as well as general violent criminal recidivism assessment.[6] The civil courts of England and Wales now experience artificial intelligence (AI) as an emerging reality instead of a distant possibility. The civil justice system benefits from the advocacy of Sir Geoffrey Vos and Lord Justice Birss who support both digitalization of justice and AI transformation.

AI has the power to revolutionize the Business and Property Courts (B&PCs) and the civil justice system according to various speeches from these leaders.[7] In response to these advancements, some organizations, such as European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe adopted in December 2018 the first European text on ethical principles for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in judicial systems. Similarly, UNESCO's first-ever global standard on AI ethics – the Recommendation on the

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[5] European ethical Charter on the use of Artificial Intelligence in judicial systems and their environment, p.16

[6] AI in the Criminal Justice System, https://epic.org/issues/ai/ai-in-the-criminal-justice-system/

[7] Duran Ross, Nicola Thompson, The role of AI in the civil courts of England and Wales: a new era of justice https://www.lewissilkin.com/insights/2024/11/07/the-role-of-ai-in-the-civil-courts-of-england-and-wales-a-new-era-of-justice-102jno4

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence was adopted in 2021, and is applicable to all 194 member states of UNESCO.[8]

The Transformation of Uzbekistan's Judiciary System through Technology

A democratic society depends on its judiciary system as one of its essential foundational elements. The judicial system of Uzbekistan underwent substantial changes during the last decade because of modernization efforts that included digital technology implementation. [9]According to the decree of the President of the country "On additional measures to further improve the activities of the courts and increase the efficiency of justice" (dated July 24, 2020, PF-6034), some suggestions were made to integrate technologies into judicial system.[10] These technologicaladvancements have transformed the judiciary system through observations of the pre-implementation and post-implementation phases.[11]

Prior to modernization Uzbekistan maintained a judicial system which depended on hand-written documents and physical courtroom interactions. The judicial process in Uzbekistan operated at a slow pace which created lengthy delays and substantial backlogs. Citizens and non-citizens needed to visit legal institutions in person to obtain information or submit complaints and participate in court hearings. People who lived in rural areas faced specific obstacles because these locations had restricted access to courts and legal support services. The process of conducting legal research required a lot of time because

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[8] Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/recommendation-ethics-artificial-intelligence

[9]Abdulaziz Janturaev, Has Uzbekistan managed to establish a fair judicial system? https://uzembassy.uk/news/1033

[10] Decree of the President of the country "On additional measures to further improve the activities of the courts and increase the efficiency of justice" (dated July 24, 2020, PF-6034)

[11]Kholmumin Yodgorov, Judicial system in Uzbekistan: reforms and outcomes https://regionaldialogue.org/article/judicial-system-uzbekistan-reforms-and-outcomes#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20for%20the%20first,the%20opinions%20of%20Regional%20Dialogue.,

judges and lawyers relied mostly on physical resources. The judiciary experienced high levels of corruption and inefficiency because the systems operated without transparency.[12]

Technology implementation has generated significant positive changes in the system. Through "e-sud" people can now submit complaints and monitor case progress and retrieve legal documents digitally. [13] Through digital platforms, court attendance is no longer required and this change has   made justice more available to distant communities. The implementation of case management systems has increased judicial efficiency by using automation to handle routine procedures which reduces paperwork and enables judges to concentrate on legal decision-making. People now have the ability to apply to courts remotely, attend court proceedings, and get the information and data they need. Specifically, the court system now offers the following interactive services:

- "Claim" (exsud.sud.uz) is a service that allows users to electronically submit claims to courts, track the online case-consideration process, and obtain verdicts in an electronic format;

- One electronic payment system that makes it possible to calculate the amount of court costs and state duty is called the "Electronic payment system" (billing.sud.uz);

- Public.sud.uz's "Collection of judgements" is a database of judicial rulings;

- A database of example claims and applications for civil and economic processes is called "Samples" (templates.sud.uz);

- An electronic calculator called "Calculator" (calculate.sud.uz) is used to determine the amount of money owed to the state for civil and economic lawsuits;

- An online database of cases allocated to courts of first, appeal, and cassation instances is called "Schedule of Meetings" (jadval.sud.uz);

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[12] Abdulaziz Janturaev, Has Uzbekistan managed to establish a fair judicial system? https://uzembassy.uk/news/1033

[13] E-SUD National E-Justice System: User Handbook

- "Electronic reception" (qabul.sud.uz) is an online registration mechanism for in-person encounters with Supreme Court management.

- "Video conferencing" (vka.sud.uz) – a video conferencing system allowing participants to join court hearings online.

- a videoconference communication system was established between courts and penal institutions.[14]

If we have a look at videoconferencing which allows parties to attend court hearings through remote connections, it can be seen that the system has demonstrated its greatest value through its success during the pandemic as well as its benefit for participants located in distant areas. A specific videoconference communication system links courts with penal institutions to enable detainees to join hearings from their current location without movement thus improving operational efficiency and protecting rights for all involved. The report, which was created in cooperation with the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations, states that 26 courtrooms were equipped with videoconferencing systems, 38 open court proceedings, and a real-time videoconferencing program were constructed. Videoconferencing was used to conduct 11,741 trials in which participants took part.[15]

These improvements have demonstrated that Uzbekistan is one the right track transforming its judiciary system for the benefit of its citizens welfare. However, there is a lot to do. "Today, Uzbekistani courts are far from total computerisation," Tashkent attorney Farrukh Saidkhojayev told Caravanserai during the interview. "In most offices, secretaries with typewriters prepare the documents."[16]

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[14] Dilshod Aripov, Judicial reforms of Uzbekistan - a new era, new approaches

[15] REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COURTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN, An electronic copy of the report is available on the website of the Supreme Court Of the Republic of Uzbekistan (www.oliysud.uz) and the United Nations Development Program (www.uz.undp.org).

[16]Maksim Yeniseyev , Uzbekistani legal system gets technology upgrade with help from US, UN https://central.asia-news.com

Perhaps the most notable AI integration in Uzbek judiciarys system is a platform called "LexAI". The platform features a helper chat-bot to assist with legal questions and document preparation without lawyer involvement through a constructor and expert analysis of legal practice for specific cases while developers continue to implement these services progressively[17]. The national database of legislative information now uses its "LexAI" chat-bot to deliver artificial intelligence-based legal question responses through its online platform. The national database of legislative information contains more than 48,000 documents while active documents exceed 34,000 and total documents reach 28,000 and documents with amendments and additions number more than 5,700. The development of the "LexAI" chat-bot required more than five months of work from law and IT specialists who trained the system with 34,000 active regulatory documents and a knowledge base exceeding 604 million symbols.[18]

Risks and Ethical concerns

As everything comes with a price, using AI in the judiciary also has many risks. One of the biggest issues is the possibility of algorithmic bias, which means that AI systems may perpetuate or even increase the current disparities in the justice system. Furthermore, the employment of "black box" algorithms in legal decision-making may be a threat to the due process and right to a fair trial. Issues related to data privacy, accountability, and human oversight have to be resolved before any AI tools can be integrated.[19] One salient example of this is the case in the U.S *Loomis v Wisconsin* where the Supreme Court of Wisconsin issued a landmark ruling on July 13, 2016, addressing the validity of algorithmic

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[17] O'zbekiston Respublikasi Adliya vazirligi axborot xizmati, https://adliya.uz/posts/lexai-platformasi-taqdimoti-o'tkazildi https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/lexai-platform-to-launch-in-uzbekistan/ [18] O'zbekiston Respublikasi Adliya vazirligi axborot xizmati, https://adliya.uz/posts/lexai-platformasi-taqdimoti-o'tkazildi

[19] JuLIA (101046631) "Justice, fundamentaL rIghts and Artificial intelligence". Co-funded by the European Commission (DG Just – JUST-2021-JTRA)

sentencing for the first time.[20] The decision acknowledged their usage, stating that the defendants' inability to obtain a sufficient explanation of the algorithm did not infringe upon their right to due process. The court backed up this claim by stating that the defendants' rights could be protected by the accuracy of the instruments and the judges' ability to recognize potential flaws in them. [21]

The deployment of AI in the judiciary requires strict adherence to core values which define judicial integrity. The judicial system requires judges to maintain fairness and independence while remaining free from outside influences. The fundamental principles of justice must remain intact even when AI systems are introduced. The value of accountability stands equally important to impartiality in this context. The main issue emerges regarding responsibility assignment when AI-generated recommendations affect judicial decisions. The distribution of responsibility needs clarification when judges use AI systems during deliberations because it could belong to the judge or the AI developers or the implementing institution.

The use of AI in judicial decision-making processes creates multiple ethical and legal issues regarding transparency and. The judiciary needs to maintain public trust by implementing technological tools through strict oversight and by using them to enhance human judgment rather than replace it. The implementation of clear regulatory frameworks and ethical guidelines will protect the fundamental principles of justice by ensuring AI enhances judicial reasoning. Also, when it comes to AI deployment in judiciary, the core values of judiciary should also be taken into consideration. Judges are required to act fairly and without any interference. In addition to impartiality, accountability is also equally

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[20] Iñigo De Miguel Beriain, Does the use of risk assessments in sentences respect the right to due process? A critical analysis of the Wisconsin v. Loomis ruling, Law, Probability and Risk, Volume 17, Issue 1, March 2018, Pages 45–53,

[21] Felicity Bell, Lyria Bennett Moses, Michael Legg, Jake Silove ,Monika Zalnieriute, AI Decision-Making and the Courts pages 22-23

important. In case of AI integration, we have to determine who is accountable if the judge makes decision under the influence of AI?

Is Uzbekistan ready?

The present ability of Uzbekistan to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) in its judicial system remains unclear because the country lacks proper institutional readiness and complete legal guidelines. The current state of the judiciary shows insufficient capability to properly implement AI technologies securely. The national legal system does not contain specific regulations about AI usage which could slow down the establishment of suitable oversight tools for these systems.

Despite these challenges, Uzbekistan has a great chance to skip some phases of judicial modernization by studying global practices and adapting AI implementation to its needs. AI can help in case backlog management, legal research, and decision making consistency. For instance, legal research tools powered by artificial intelligence could assist judges and lawyers in identifying relevant precedents and legislation in a quick manner, while natural language processing can be useful in supporting translation and analysis of legal texts in the various languages spoken in the country. AI can also be useful in the administrative areas such as; court date scheduling, case management, and records digitization which can enhance efficiency but not the judicial decisions.

The introduction of "LexAI" represents the main initiative taken so far to develop a state-backed legal AI platform despite existing limitations. The AI platform LexAI demonstrates multiple weaknesses which restrict its availability and operational effectiveness. The price of LexAI exceeds similar international AI platforms including Claude AI and DeepSeek. The monthly subscription fee for LexAI costs 600,000 Uzbekistani soms (approximately $46.10 USD) which creates a financial barrier for most

users. The legal chatbot service of LexAI operates with restrictions that allow users to ask only one free question.[22]

Nevertheless, there is a notable potential that the government's digital reform efforts together with international partnerships and capacity-building investments will create a basis for cautious yet progressive development. The successful integration of AI into judicial systems requires sustained time commitment and financial investment alongside technological progress and strategic partnerships with nations that have successfully implemented AI in their courts.

Becoming AI-ready in the judiciary: A roadmap for Uzbekistan

The current AI revolution in worldwide public institutions places Uzbekistan at an important crossroads to modernize its judicial system. The adoption of AI systems in judicial environments holds the promise to enhance both judicial efficiency and judicial transparency and access to justice. The necessary implementation of a deliberate methodology will guarantee that this transition upholds democratic standards and fundamental human rights. The following steps can help Uzbekistan become AI-ready in the judiciary.

Establishing a legal framework. AI readiness for judicial practice requires a complete legal framework to govern AI applications in court operations. This framework should stress key principles including accountability and transparency along with human oversight. Clear laws must define the responsibilities of all stakeholders when using AI technologies especially during decision-making procedures. The system must include safeguards to maintain human judges as the last word in all court decisions while upholding both legal system independence and integrity. Having considered that there is no

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[22] https://ai.lex.uz/tariffs

law regarding with the use of AI in courts, it is essential to propose a law initiative on AI implementation.

Investing in infrastructure and capacity building. The successful deployment of AI solutions demands substantial digital infrastructure development together with staff training. The courts need contemporary technology along with protected data infrastructure which supports AI software applications. The essential development requires judges and lawyers along with court staff members to acquire the necessary knowledge. The training curriculum must emphasize digital competency and data moralities and the correct and improper applications of AI technology in court procedures. The development of AI tool interaction competencies among legal professionals will establish an innovative environment which supports well-informed judicial decision-making.

Developing ethical standards. AI judicial operations require ethical guidelines that respect both legal standards and individual rights. The implementation of AI in judicial settings needs ethical standards that specify deployment practices while emphasizing fairness and non-discrimination along with the right to a fair hearing. The established standards need to prevent AI systems from perpetuating current biases and damaging public faith in the legal system. Independent oversight bodies should actively track organizations' compliance with ethical standards.

Implementing pilot projects. AI adoption requires a step-by-step approach through initial implementation in less important court administration functions. AI systems can first process court administration tasks as well as generate hearing appointments and process regular documents. Testing and evaluation of fundamental systems should occur before the implementation of sophisticated applications including AI-assisted legal research and sentencing recommendations. A step-by-step strategy enables the detection of possible threats which enables their prevention at an early stage before extensive implementation.

Ensuring inclusive and collaborative development. AI implementation within the judiciary needs to follow an inclusive approach during its design and deployment process. Every stage of the process requires participation from legal professionals as well as civil society organizations and both academic institutions and international experts. AI system quality along with their legitimacy improves through public consultation while transparency in decision-making processes enhances public trust. Uzbekistan will gain valuable advantages through international cooperation because this relationship provides access to the best global practices and technical support along with cross-border learning.

Conclusion

The implementation of technology has brought substantial changes to the judiciary by converting its former slow operations and restricted access and minimal transparency into an efficient and responsive system. The country continues to deal with significant obstacles which include insufficient technical knowledge and public skepticism toward digital platforms and inadequate data infrastructure. The Uzbekistan government supports digital economy strategies but does not have established legal or ethical guidelines for artificial intelligence use in court proceedings which restricts complete judicial integration especially in rural areas with limited digital infrastructure and literacy.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to revolutionize the justice system of Uzbekistan, increase efficiency and improve the access to justice. AI-readiness in the judiciary requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal reform alongside institutional reform and ethical considerations and technological upgrades. Through the establishment of a solid legal structure combined with capacity building investment ethical standards promotion pilot projects implementation and stakeholder engagement Uzbekistan can leverage AI benefits while protecting both justice and human rights. Finally, a cautious and progressive strategy, guided by legal guarantees, ethical considerations and social

acceptance is necessary in order to guarantee that AI serves the purpose of justice and does not compromise it.

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