TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION

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1 Technological development impacts on all aspects of the way in which courts function. This impact will only increase, and do so in a relatively short time into the future. Online filing and video evidence are already established features of court processes. Legal problems arising from technological innovation across industry, commerce and social communication will be commonplace. Technological innovation will also facilitate increased interaction between jurisdictions, both in relation to the resolution of disputes and in respect of communications amongst the judiciary.

2 In this context, two primary considerations are to be borne in mind. First, there is a need for judicial officers to be technologically competent. Secondly, it is necessary to ensure that the essential foundation of courts as upholders of the rule of law is enhanced and not undermined by technology, including by the use of artificial intelligence in the resolution of legal disputes.