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ANALYSIS OF THE ADVANTAGES AND THREATS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW

Abstract: Digitalization has a significant impact on the professional activities of lawyers, increasing efficiency, access to legal information and improving interaction with clients. However, despite the obvious advantages, the use of ICT comes with risks in the field of cybersecurity, dependence on technology and compliance with legal and ethical standards. For successful law practice, it is important to balance the use of digital tools with traditional methods of work, ensuring the protection of clients' data and interests.

Keywords: Information and communication technologies, law practice, cybersecurity, confidentiality, digitalization, legal information, ethical standards, data protection.

In the modern world, information and communication technologies (ICT) play a key role in the professional activities of lawyers, providing them with new tools for working with legal information, document management and clients. Digital technologies are transforming the legal field, increasing efficiency and effectiveness, which allows lawyers to perform their duties more efficiently. However, along with the obvious advantages, the use of ICT entails serious security risks, especially in matters of protecting confidential data.

The introduction of new technologies, such as information portals, online consultations, electronic documentation and other means, contributes to improving the effectiveness of advocacy and provides wider coverage to citizens in need of legal assistance.

One of the main advantages of ICT for the practice of law is a significant simplification of access to legal information. Modern databases and electronic resources allow lawyers to instantly find relevant regulations, court decisions and scientific articles¹. This contributes to a more accurate and rapid analysis of legal issues, as well as improves preparation for trials. In addition, automation of legal processes, such as drafting contracts and analyzing legal risks, frees lawyers from routine work, which increases their productivity.

ICT also opens up new opportunities for communication and interaction with customers. Video conferencing systems and secure communication channels allow lawyers to advise their clients, regardless of their geographical location². This is especially important in the context of globalization, where legal assistance may be required in various countries and jurisdictions. Digital technologies also simplify the process of filing documents to the courts, registration of legal entities and other procedures, which reduces time costs and improves access to justice.

Having analyzed the digitalization of advocacy, the following advantages can be identified:

- **Reducing the time burden of lawyers:** Digital technologies significantly reduce the time spent on routine tasks such as document preparation and case management. Automating these processes allows lawyers to focus on more complex and strategically important aspects of their work, increasing their productivity and efficiency.

¹ Voronov A.A. Information security of the lawyer's activity / A.A. Voronov // Modern problems of combating crime ("Protection-3"): collection of materials of the 3rd All-Russian scientific and practical conference. - Voronezh, 2003

² Advocacy as a subject of digitalization of justice //The Lawyer's newspaper. No. 10 (315) May 16-31, 2020 // URL: <http://www.advgazeta.ru> (date of reference: 06/12/2020).

- **Simplified procedures for filing attorney’s requests and court documentation:** The introduction of electronic filing systems facilitates interaction with judicial authorities and other government agencies. Electronic forms and data exchange systems allow you to reduce the time for processing documents, speeding up the process of reviewing cases and reducing administrative barriers.
- **Solving the problem of “pocket” lawyers:** Digitalization helps to increase transparency and accountability in advocacy. Electronic databases and registries of lawyers allow for better control of their activities, preventing unethical behavior and abuse³. It also helps to increase customer confidence in legal services.
- **Providing official information about lawyers and law firms:** Creating a single database on the site e-advokat.uz provides access to verified information about lawyers and law firms. Users can easily find the right specialist, find out his contact details and office address, which reduces the risk of fraud and increases customer awareness. This measure is especially important to combat fraudulent websites offering fictitious legal services.
- **Reduction of financial costs for both the lawyer and the client:** The use of online consultations and other digital services can significantly reduce office rental costs, transportation costs and other operating expenses. For clients, this means more affordable legal services, and for lawyers, the opportunity to optimize their resources and reduce costs.

However, despite all the advantages, the use of ICT in law practice is associated with certain risks. One of the most serious threats is cybersecurity. Lawyers work with confidential information on a daily basis, and any data leak can cause significant damage to both clients and the lawyer's reputation. Cyber attacks and unauthorized access to databases pose a real threat to the safety of information. In the face of increasing cyber threats, lawyers need to pay special attention to data protection and implement reliable security systems⁴.

An equally important problem is the dependence on technology. Relying solely on ICT in decision-making can be dangerous, as it reduces the level of critical analysis and intuition of a lawyer. In addition, technology failures can lead to loss of access to information at the most inopportune moment, which will negatively affect the protection of the client's interests⁵. Thus, it is important to maintain a balance between the use of technology and traditional methods of advocacy.

Moreover, ethical challenges arise with the use of ICT in law practice. Lawyers are bound by strict codes of conduct, and the integration of advanced technologies like AI raises questions about the ethical implications of delegating certain decision-making processes to machines. The principle of client confidentiality, a cornerstone of legal ethics, can be jeopardized if automated systems are not properly secured⁶. Lawyers must navigate the balance between technological efficiency and their ethical duty to maintain the highest standards of client care and professional responsibility.

An important aspect is also the compliance of the use of ICT with legal and ethical standards. The use of digital technologies in legal practice should be strictly regulated by law in order to avoid violating the rights and interests of clients. Lawyers are required to adhere to high standards of confidentiality and

³ Karakhanyan S.G. Formation and improvement of the information component of advocacy. Abstract of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Law / S.G. Karakhanyan.

⁴ Talapina E. V. Law and digitalization: new challenges and prospects // Journal of Russian Law. – 2018. – №. 2 (254). – Pp. 5-17.

⁵ Nurumov D. Improving the provision of legal assistance by lawyers to business entities - Review of the legislation of Uzbekistan, 2020

⁶ Gusyatnikov P.P., Information security of the lawyer's activity and attorney-client privilege // Eurasian Advocacy. 2016. pp. 158-162

data security, which requires constant updating of knowledge and improvement of skills in the field of ICT.

Therefore, information and communication technologies significantly empower lawyers, making their work more efficient and accessible. However, the successful use of these technologies requires taking into account all the risks associated with cybersecurity, system dependency and legal aspects. Only a comprehensive and informed approach to the use of ICT will enable lawyers not only to maximize the benefits but also to ensure that their clients' interests are protected at a high level.

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