
The Use Of Information Technology In South African Courts

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Abstract: South African courts do not employ the method of using information technology akin to other first world countries such as the United States of America, Russia and Singapore, which are paperless courts, and could potentially be the near future for South African courts. Currently South Africa needs to play catch up to these countries by launching pilot projects in the courts of electronic filing and electronic courts. It is apparent that for South African courts to employ information technology techniques, which will change the face of justice and the court system, and have a domino effect on all aspects of the courts in South Africa. The advancements of social media and technology are overtaking the outdated court systems in South Africa. Since the technology of social media overtakes the courts lack of technology in South Africa, this means that the voice of the courts do not reach as many people as it possibly could with the advancements of information technology. The current use of information technology is minimal and the current dependence is on the paper based system and filing in person. The lack of potentially tapping into resources that could enhance the court system is an injustice, which withholds the South African courts from progression to world renowned status of first world countries across the world. Digital signature could have the potential to change drafting and exchange of pleadings in South Africa. This paper will discuss the various innovative methods of information technology in foreign states, which could influence South Africa.

Keywords: information technology, courts, advancements, digital signature