

Digitalization and AI in the Korean Judiciary

Challenges and Prospects in the Modern Legal Era

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| The Structural Change of Justice

Beyond "Technology Projects"

Digitalization is a fundamental shift in how rights are exercised and decisions are produced.

-  **Record Integrity:** Ensuring authenticity and completeness of files.
-  **Confidentiality:** Maintaining absolute security of sensitive data.
-  **Procedural Legitimacy:** Upholding fairness and equality of arms.

Korea's Model

An integrated operational ecosystem involving:

- Electronic Filing & Service
- Digital Record Viewers
- Video Hearings
- AI-based Judicial Support



Korea's Electronic Litigation System

From Paper-Bound Processes to a Integrated Digital Ecosystem



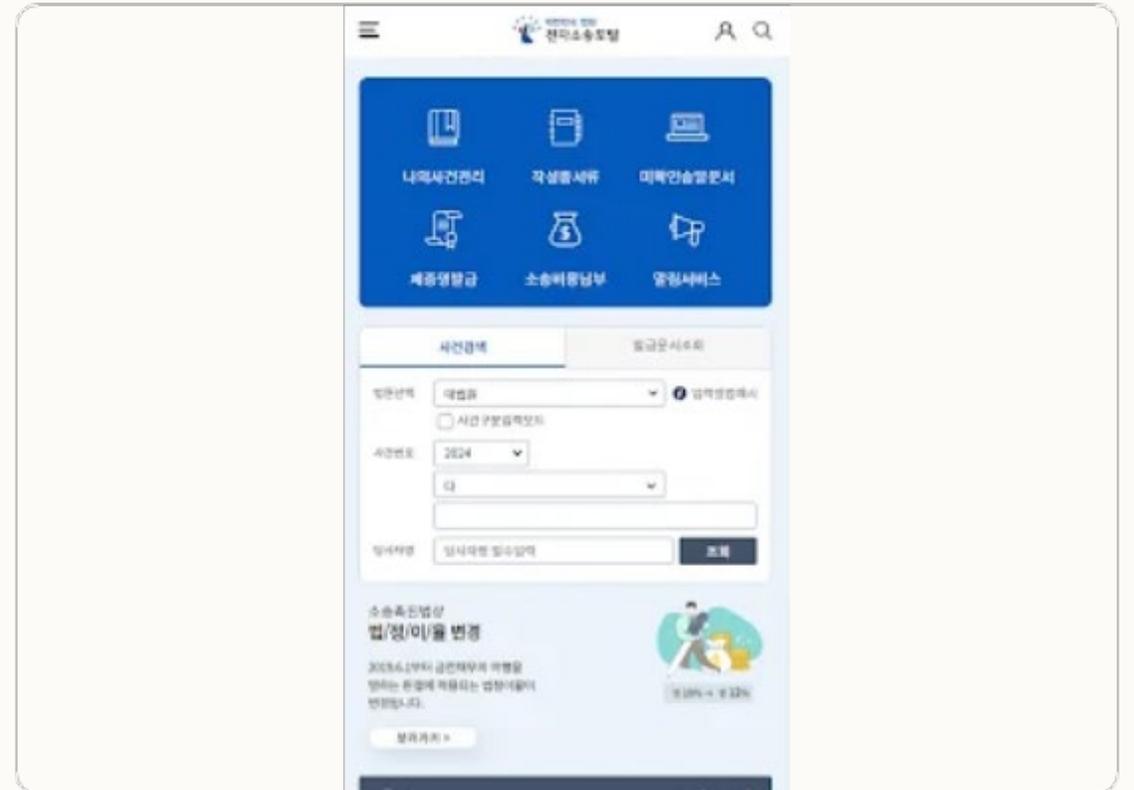
| Staged Expansion Strategy



Korea avoided a "big bang" reform, opting for pilot testing followed by phased nationwide deployment.

Technological Foundations

-  **Legal Basis:** Act on Use of Electronic Documents (2010) recognized digital files as legally effective.
-  **Centralized IT:** Supreme Court IT Centers in Seoul & Sejong manage critical national infrastructure.
-  **Next-Gen Portal:** Launched Feb 2025, consolidating filing, payments, and disclosure.



| Impact of Digital Transformation

99.9%

Civil First-Instance E-Filing

Efficiency

Electronic service saves days or weeks compared to postal delivery.

100%

Administrative E-Filings

Transparency

24/7 public access to anonymized judgments online.

#1

WB Doing Business Ranking

Judicial Ease

Judges report faster case handling using digital record viewers.

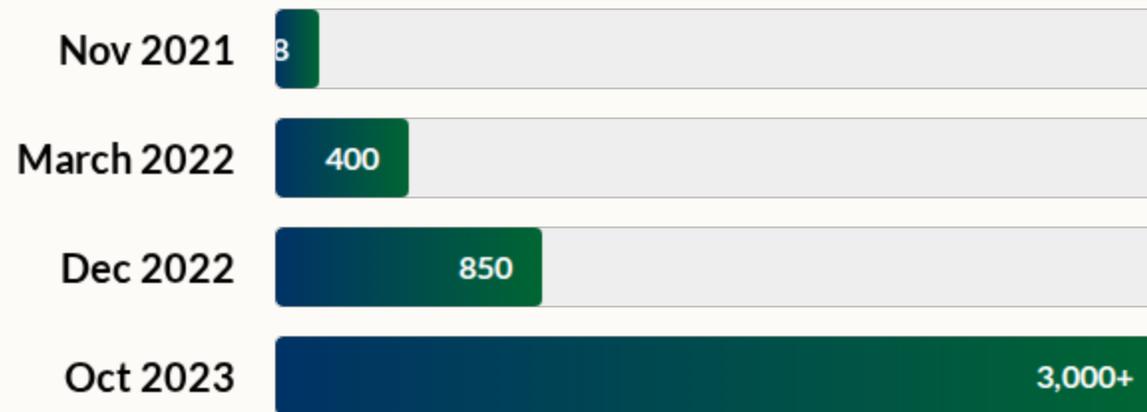


Evolution of Video Trials

Strategy for Remote Proceedings in the Post-COVID Era



Rapid Adoption of Remote Hearings



* Monthly volume of video hearings held nationwide.



Strategic virtualization focuses on procedural arguments and mediation, preserving the physical courtroom for substantive trials.



AI Tools in the Korean Judiciary

Deploying Responsible Intelligence for Judicial Capacity Augmentation



Key AI Initiatives



Big Data Platform

Backbone for analytics. Draws on 3 million past cases for training and reference.



Case Recommender

BERT-based semantic analysis identifies nuanced connections keyword searches miss.



Procedural Chatbot

24/7 bilingual assistant for the public, integrated into the e-litigation portal.



| The "AI Law Clerk"

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Developing a judiciary-specific LLM architecture that connects directly to internal legal databases.

-  **Drafting Support:** Shrinking routine drafting from hours to minutes.
-  **Closed Environment:** Ensures data remains within secure court perimeters.
-  **Human Control:** Strictly conceived as assistive, not a decision-maker.



AI Implementation Roadmap

| Phase | Timeframe | Key Objectives |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| Phase 1 | Jul 2025 – Feb 2026 | Establish core AI platform; Legal document search & retrieval. |
| Phase 2 | Mar – Dec 2026 | Judgment summarization; Automated dispute analysis. |
| Phase 3 | 2027 | Trial prediction; Case-relationship mapping; Trend analysis. |
| Phase 4 | 2028 | Final platform upgrades; Research analytical support. |

Vision: "Justice with Human-Centered AI"

| Governance and Ethics

-  **AI Sandbox:** Controlled test environments where tools are tried by volunteer judges before rollout.
-  **Explainability:** AI recommendations must be verifiable by human decision-makers.
-  **Strict Data Controls:** Ban on uploading litigation records to external AI services.

Core Ethical Pillars

1. Human Decision-Making
2. Transparency & Verification
3. Safety & Security
4. Privacy Protection

Future Outlook

-  **Human-AI Collaboration:** The aim is not to automate judging, but to assist humans who remain decisively in control.
-  **Expanded Access:** Normalizing hybrid proceedings to reduce travel burdens and delays.
-  **Justice First:** Technology is not an end in itself; it must serve to strengthen fairness and the rule of law.

"Digital transformation succeeds when guided by strong leadership, clear ethical principles, and engagement from all stakeholders."

Q&A

Thank you for your attention.

Justice Hyungdu Kim
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Image Sources



https://play-lh.googleusercontent.com/cmGD2XXg2_Is2nndvadTtMxcK0Yi0La3KxDYgyVAp1JboG8QPrqW2tMQOk739f3KA=w526-h296-rw

Source: play.google.com



<https://etgroup.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Justice-Courtroom-Correctional-Facility-Remand-Bail-Video-Visitation.jpg>

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