Comments on Professor Dr. Phillip M. Reuss

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First, I was surprised by the survey results indicating that a relatively high percentage of individuals cited reaching an out-of-court settlement as their reason for not pursuing litigation.I had assumed that in Germany, dispute resolution tends to be less inclined toward negotiation or alternative dispute resolution, favoring court judgments instead. Do you think the presence of debt collection agencies using legal tech, cited as a factor, influenced this background? Or are there other factors that exerted a stronger influence?

Next, I'd like to ask about judges' use of AI. Data analysis suggests judges utilize AI to some extent for information gathering. However, I noticed a tendency to be negative about its use for other tasks, particularly intellectual work unique to judges, such as drafting judgments. Regarding information gathering, I think one reason is that using the internet for this purpose has long been a standard practice. In contrast, the use of generative AI has only recently begun, so I also think judges may feel resistance towards its use. Therefore, do you think that resistance to using AI for drafting judgments will diminish over the next few years? Or do you believe this core judicial function will be defended against AI intrusion until the very end?

Furthermore, I have a question regarding the publication of judgments. In Japan too, recently, not only Supreme Court judgments but also important judgments from district and high courts are being published on court websites. However, these sites only publish the full text of the judgments. While this is fine for us legal professionals, I think it can be somewhat unhelpful as information disclosure for non-legal professionals.Of course, court budget constraints may be a factor. For this reason, I believe using AI to provide information in a format accessible to non-lawyers is extremely valuable for protecting citizens' rights, too. My question is this: as such information disclosure advances, the volume of published judgments is likely to become enormous.In that case, even if AI makes the information more accessible and guidance systems are established, I fear a situation could arise where non-legal professionals seeking information become overwhelmed by the flood of data. Therefore, I believe there will be a need for individuals to assist in gathering this information. In that scenario, do you think the courts should primarily shoulder this role? Or do you believe legal professionals, such as lawyers, should take on this responsibility?

Thank you for your extremely valuable insights.